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THANK YOU Dallas Voice readers for choosing the attorney who’s not crooked or straight!

— Rebecca Covell

Republican judge throws out GOP lawsuit against Democratic candidate

Visiting Republican Judge Christi Kennedy from Smith County on Monday, March 19, threw out a lawsuit by the Dallas County Republican Party and GOP judicial candidate Michael Lee that sought to knock incumbent Democratic Judge Staci Williams off the ballot as a result of alleged deficiencies in Williams’ nominating papers.

The case is related to one filed by the GOP attempting to knock 128 candidates off the Democratic primary ballot. That case had not been heard yet, but could be heard as early as next week.

A visiting judge was assigned the case because some of the candidates named in the suit were judges in the courts where the case could have been assigned.

Should the GOP prevail, some Democratic primary winners could be knocked off the November ballot.

The case revolved around the signature of Dallas County Democratic Party Chair Carol Donovan being missing from the 128 candidate applications. Texas election code does not require the signature.

On the original lawsuit, however, Dallas County Republican Party Chair Missy Shorey did forget to sign, and a valid signature is required on a lawsuit.

Meanwhile, state Rep. Eric Johnson has filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. He is among the candidates the GOP is seeking to remove from the ballot.

“This lawsuit is part of a disturbing pattern of the GOP finding problems where they do not exist, which have the effect, if not the intent, of keeping minority voters from electing the candidates of their choice,” Johnson said.

— David Taffet

Gay man named Navy Spouse of the Year by insurance agency, magazine

Brian Alvarado, husband of U.S. Navy service-member Matthew Alvarado, has been named Armed Forces Insurance’s “Navy Spouse of the Year,” the first same-sex spouse named as a branch winner in the program’s 11-year history.

The Alvarados are stationed at Naval Base Point Loma in San Diego.

Armed Forces Insurance’s “Spouse of the Year” program is intended to honor “the dedication and sacrifices of our nation’s more than 1.1 million military spouses.” Military Spouse magazine partners with Armed Forces Insurance to recognize military spouses from all six branches of the Armed Forces who are “making a difference in their communities.”

According to a press release from Armed Forces Insurance and Military Spouse magazine, “As a same-sex military spouse in a same-sex, inter racial marriage, Alvarado’s recognition illustrates to the world that our military community is a strong, supportive, diverse and resilient community.

— Tammye Nash

Austin bomber left anti-gay writings

Austin terrorist Mark Conditt, who blew himself up in his car on the side of the road on Wednesday, March 21, as police were moving in on him, left writings about his political views.

Although the investigation in Conditt’s background and his motive for the bombings continued, investigators have unearthed several blogs he wrote while at Austin Community College in 2012, including this one expressing his views on gays and lesbians.

“The government shouldn’t tell them whom they can and cannot marry, but we shouldn’t even have this problem! Homosexuality is not natural. Just look at the male and female bodies. They are obviously designed to couple. The natural design is apparent. It is not natural to couple male with female with female. It would be like trying to fit two screws together and to [sic] nuts together and then say, “See, it’s natural for them to go together.”

In addition, political protection of a sexual practice is ludicrous. I do not believe it is proper to pass laws stating that homosexuals have ‘rights.’ What about pedophilia or bestiality? There are sexual practices. Should they also be protected by law? If homosexuality is protected by law, why not those as well?”

— David Taffet

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MARCH

- March 24: March for Our Lives Fort Worth
In support of students who have organized a protest for sensible gun control at 10 a.m. at Tarrant County Courthouse, 100 W. Weatherford St., Fort Worth.

- March 24: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)
New Members Open Scramble is the inaugural event of the 2018 season, starting at 10 a.m. at Cedar Crest Golf Course, 1800 Southler Ave. $55.00 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org for information.

- March 28: Town Hall on Racial Healing
United Black Ellument and Resource Center continue their LGBTQ Town Hall series on the topic of Racial Healing from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Abounding Prosperity Community Center, 1705 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Tickets are available online at Eventbrite.com. The event will include a panel discussion featuring Resource Center CEO Cece Cox and Abounding Prosperity CEO Kirk Myers and focusing on healing the communities and planning for lasting change.

- March 31: TAG Game Night
Tyler Area Gays host Game Night from 6-9 p.m. at the offices of the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway Ave., Ste. 100. Food, drinks and games are provided. For information visit TylerAreaGays.com.

APRIL

- April 3: Grief support group
LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 6:45-8 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

- April 5: The Dallas Way
Fox’s Steve Noviello hosts Dr. Wesley Phelps of Sam Houston State University, community activist Betty Neal and organ & tissue recipient and enthusiast Gary Garcia at 7 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

- April 5: Black Tie Kickoff
From 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Hall on Dragon, 1500 Dragon St.

- April 7: Different Strokes Golf Association
DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 9 a.m. at Bear Creek East, 3500 Bear Creek Court. $60 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org.

- April 7: No Tie Dinner: A Night to Remember
Presented by Purple Foundation, and benefits AIDS Services Dallas from 7-11 p.m. at The Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. $75-150. Tickets available online at NoTieDinner.org.

- April 7-8: Texas Tradition Rodeo
Texas Gay Rodeo Association hosts its 35th annual Texas Tradition Rodeo Saturday and Sunday at the Mesquite Arena, 1818 Rodeo Drive in Mesquite.
April 7: Scarborough Faire
The annual Renaissance Faire opens and runs through May 28.

April 8: Turtle Creek Association Tour of Homes

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It’s nice to be chosen!

Thank you to the Dallas Voice readers for selecting the SPCA of Texas as the best place to adopt a pet.
Sophie Conde was in 6th grade in December 2012 when a 20-year-old man walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Conn., and gunned down 20 children and six adult faculty and staff members. She remembers that day vividly.

“I remember sitting in front of the TV, being scared out of my mind, afraid that it would happen at my school,” Conde said this week. “That was more than five years ago, and things like that have been happening consistently ever since. And then last month, it happened again.”

Conde, a 17-year-old junior at Centennial High School in Frisco, said that she likes to dress up for all the holidays, and Valentine’s Day this year was no exception.

“When she got home, she sat down to read the news about the shooting that day at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. “When I saw that 17 people were killed, I was just shocked,” Conde said. “It was just supposed to be another normal school day. People weren’t supposed to die.

“I am the same age as those kids who were killed that day. It’s so …,” she hesitated, “so disheartening. Parkland was voted a safest community, and it happened there. Who’s to say it can’t happen in my community, at my school?”

The next day, Conde said, the Parkland shooting was “all anybody at my school could talk about. We had been scheduled to have a routine safety drill that day, but the principal chose not to do it. He said that given what had just happened in Parkland, he didn’t want to raise any fears.”

But, she added, “lockdown” drills, where students and faculty practice what to do in the event of an “active shooter” situation at the school, are “regularly practiced” at her school.

“The principal will come on the loudspeaker and say, “We’re going into lockdown.’ We turn off the lights and lock the door, then we all get into the corner of the room where someone standing at the door looking in couldn’t see us. We huddle up, and we have to be dead silent. And we wait.

“Like sitting ducks.”

Conde said that over the years there have been a few incidences when the lockdown wasn’t just a drill. Once, when she was in middle school, someone who lived near the school “was shooting a BB gun at a squirrel in his yard at lunchtime, and they didn’t know what was going on so we went into lockdown. People were crying and afraid because we didn’t know what was happening. We didn’t know whether someone was in our school with a gun,” she said.

And this year, a week after the Parkland...
Victory Fund endorses Valdez

The LGBTQ Victory Fund this week endorsed former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez in her runoff election for the Democratic nomination for Texas governor.

Victory Fund spokesman Sean Meloy called her candidacy “historic,” noting that while there will be an LGBT candidate in four or five gubernatorial races around the country, only in the Texas race is there a chance for a lesbian of color to win.

He explained Victory Fund doesn’t endorse every candidate that applies; the organization looks at the candidate’s viability and plan to win.

“Folks are excited in Texas this year,” Meloy said. “We’re going to build off the successes of the last year.”

But he was realistic about Valdez’s chances in the general election, saying she has a tough race ahead and a big fight to win.

“I am honored to have the Victory Fund’s support,” Valdez said in a press release. “With attacks on LGBTQ Texans coming from Tea Partiers in Austin, we know it’s critical that we continue to push for equality and stand with members of the LGBTQ community. Our campaign is grateful for the endorsements of the Victory Fund and Stonewall Democrat chapters in Houston, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio and Denton.”

Valdez is one of nine Texas candidates Victory Fund has endorsed so far for the November election. Victory Fund awarded Valdez “Game Changer” status — a designation given to high-profile federal or statewide races that can have an outsized impact on equality.

U.S. House candidate Gina Jones from San Antonio was also given “Game Changer” status.

Others endorsed are challenger Julie Johnson and incumbent Mary Gonzalez in races for the Texas House, Steven Kirkland for Texas Supreme Court, Fran Watson for a Texas state Senate seat from Houston and several judicial candidates.

“We have an unprecedented number of LGBTQ people running for office this cycle — some running races to become historic firsts and others running to take out anti-LGBTQ incumbents and be champions for all their constituents,” said Annise Parker, president and CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund.

Also endorsed in this week’s announcement was David Ermold, who will face anti-LGBT county clerk Kim Davis of Rowan County, Ky. Davis received international attention when she refused to provide same-sex couples with marriage licenses in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s marriage equality decision.

“We’re taking the fight to the bigot,” Meloy said. “David was personally affected by her miscarriage of duties.”

Ermold was one of the people denied a marriage license by Davis.
Turtle Creek Chorale gives first Peacemaker Awards during ‘Anthems’ concert

David Taffet | Senior Staff Writer
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Turtle Creek Chorale Executive Director Bruce Jaster calls the Peacekeepers song cycle that will be presented at this weekend’s Anthems concert “one of the most significant things this organization has ever presented.”

During the Peacekeepers portion of the concert, a Peacemaker Award will be presented to three people who have made a difference locally. On Friday evening, the award will be presented to WFAA sports caster Dale Hanson. Saturday’s recipient is Matrice Ellis Kirk, and on Sunday, Mayor Mike Rawlings will be honored.

“We set out to identify people who bring different people with different opinions together, said Artistic Director Sean Baugh.

Jaster said Hanson was chosen “because he is outspoken when things need to be spoken about.” When football player Michael Sam was drafted in the last round, Hanson did a commentary that went viral. At the time, he said he expected other sportscasters to comment on how Sam was being treated because of his sexual orientation, but none did.

Matrice Ellis-Kirk, wife of former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, has chaired the board of ATTPAC since it was known as the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. Her work has put the city on the map as a mecca for the arts. She has also served as a member of the World Economic Forum’s Global Council advancing women’s rights.

During Mayor Mike Rawlings’ term, he elevated the LGBT Task Force to a mayor’s task force and updated city ordinances where needed to treat the LGBT community equally, Jaster said. But, he added, the Peacemaker Award is being presented to Rawlings for his work in the arts community during his two terms in office.

“The mayor has been a huge champion for the arts,” Baugh said, “And he’s come a long way on gay rights.”

Rawlings created Dallas Arts Week in April that has grown into Dallas Arts Month. Jaster also cited the mayor’s new Dallas Cultural Plan 2018 created through the Office of Cultural Affairs. Earlier this year, Rawlings was honored by Americans for the Arts and The United States Conference of Mayors with the 2018 National Award for Local Arts Leadership for cities with a population of 100,000 or more.

Jaster said Peacemakers is a four-song music cycle commissioned by the chorale and is about “what we have in common, the bonds that connect us rather than issues that divide us.” The libretto is by Anthony Silvestri, who also wrote one of the songs and whose music, Baugh said, he admires. Music for the other three was each written by a different musician.

But the concert is called Anthems, and Jaster described it as the songs that accompanied the social movements — civil rights, LGBT rights, Vietnam, women’s rights.
“If I tried to single out every movement, we’d have an eight-hour concert,” Baugh said.

Instead, they narrowed it down to some of the major movements like civil rights and feminist movements and chose songs and texts that were broadly applicable.

“We believe music and social movements go hand-in-hand,” Jaster said. “Music has accompanied every social movement.”

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” is a traditional gospel song first recorded in 1928 but originally attributed to the era of slavery.

From the civil rights movement, “I Wish I Knew How It Feels to be Free” has been recorded by everyone from Nina Simone to John Denver.

“Ohio” is a protest song by Neil Young commemorating the killings at Kent State by National Guard troops that caused riots on college campuses across the country.

From the LGBT equality movement are “Why We Sing,” which is specifically from the gay chorale movement, and “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” which Baugh called the gay national anthem.

Jaster was passionate about and anxious to see audience reaction to Peacekeepers, which he called the most important piece of music the chorale has commissioned since its Emmy-Award winning When We No Longer Touch. He said the music would anchor this summer’s Friendship Tour.

Anthems will be performed at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. on March 23-25 at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets available at TurtleCreekChorale.com.
Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas raises funds for important community projects and raises awareness as a vital community partner

DAVID TAFFET  | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas has made some of that charitable giving more visible. Organizers hope to continue that tradition and expect that Green Tie for Green Haus, on March 24, will raise more than $100,000 for the East Dallas project that addresses homelessness.

The LGBT community has always been generous to charitable organizations throughout North Texas. But the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas has made some of that charitable giving more visible. Organizers hope to continue that tradition and expect that Green Tie for Green Haus, on March 24, will raise more than $100,000 for the East Dallas project that addresses homelessness.

The next program is a group residence that offers crisis intervention, education and employment assistance, budgeting and financial management classes, social and recreational programming, counseling and other services like daycare or after-school programming. Not only does it provide a place to live, it also addresses the underlying causes of homelessness.

Finally, Green Haus is a new transitional and semi-permanent housing option for homeless or near-homeless individuals and families now under construction in East Dallas. Residents will have a shared community building that will include a computer lab and a common garden and playground area that the GLFD event will
Like other GLFD projects, the funded area will be named for the group with signage indicating it was donated by the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas.

Board President Sharon Fancher said when GLFD was founded, beneficiaries weren’t excited about having an affiliation with the organization. But as the organization proved how much money it could bundle, the list of organizations applying has steadily grown.

In the former Women’s Museum in Fair Park, GLFD donated money to build the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas Orientation Theater. Despite the fact that an overwhelming number of the displays throughout the museum were about lesbians, including the largest single exhibit housed in the museum’s collection — photos by lesbian photographer Annie Leibovitz — the sign on the orientation theater was the only time the word lesbian was used in the museum.

GLFD funded the lounge outside the dean’s office in the School of Education at Southern Methodist University. At the time the lounge opened, SMU was regularly included in the Princeton Review’s list of 20 most homophobic campuses in the country.

The most recent project funded a medical emergency van for the SPCA. Two dogs and a cat are prominently painted on the sides of the truck but a large GLFD logo on each side is also prominently featured. The van can be seen traveling throughout the DFW area.

In addition to event-driven projects, GLFD bundles money for arts organizations like Dallas Theater Center, AT&T Performing Arts Center and Dallas Museum of Art. Any savvy arts organization knows it has LGBT supporters, but the fund helped raise awareness of just how much.

And wondering how well you or your partner will be treated in the emergency room? GLFD was a major donor to Parkland Hospital, and a plaque hangs in the consultation room in the emergency department.

Green Tie for Green Haus from 7-11 p.m. on March 24 at Seven for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. Tickets at GLFD.org/greentie.
Dallas resident Christopher Edwards filed the lawsuit that led to same-sex marriage in Bermuda; he and his husband left the islands when that right was revoked years later that legalized same-sex marriage in Bermuda.

But unlike the Obergefell decision, which remains law in the U.S., the decision in Edwards’ case has now been overturned, and marriage equality has been repealed in Bermuda. It is proof, Edwards warned, that rights are very precious, and we should never be complacent about the rights we’ve earned.

Edwards was born and reared in Bermuda, a small group of islands in the Atlantic Ocean, about 650 miles off the coast of North Carolina, with a population of about 65,000 people. His family has lived on the islands for six generations on one side of his family and seven or eight on the other, he said.

Bermuda is officially a British Overseas Territory, whose governor is appointed by the queen of England. But the governor has no constitutional power.

The premier is elected, and the parliament mimics the British system: The upper house is appointed and the lower house is elected.

Most residents of the islands speak with a British accent. Edwards’ speech is unaccented, he said, because he attended school in Canada. He described life in Bermuda, best known among tourists for its pink sand beaches, as very pleasant but conservative.

“Bermuda has always been a very conservative island,” Edwards said. “Guns are completely illegal.” And while he was growing up, so was being gay.

“I knew someone deported to the U.K for engaging in homosexual acts,” he said. “If he was Bermudian, he would have been put in jail.”

In the mid-1990s, a member of the Bermuda Parliament, whose son was gay, introduced legislation that changed the law. Until then, gay life in Bermuda wasn’t completely underground, but there were no officially gay bars, Edwards said, although there were two bars where the gay community met.

Edwards said the fear was if the bill to legalize homosexuality passed, gays would be out in the streets kissing and wearing boas. But, he stressed, Bermuda is conservative, and after decriminalization passed, life went on. Nothing changed.

When Edwards was growing up in the 1970s, Bermuda’s main industry was tourism. In the 1990s, the financial industry...
began to take over and the islands became even more conservative. But tourism remained an important industry on the islands.

After college in Canada, Edwards returned home and went to work for the Bermuda Tourism Authority as a marketing manager. From 2000 to 2005, he transferred to Dallas to promote travel to the islands.

While in Dallas, he met Shelby Williams and they got engaged. In 2005, Edwards left his job at BTA and returned to Bermuda alone. He and Williams maintained a long distance relationship.

After he returned to Bermuda, Edwards’ sister got engaged to a non-Bermudian. Her fiance received a “spousal letter” that granted him all rights and access as a citizen of Bermuda, including the right to own property and work. After 10 years of marriage, he would be able to apply for citizenship.

Edwards and Williams discussed the possibility of Williams moving to Bermuda, but unlike his sister, Edwards couldn’t get his fiance a spousal letter. Shelby had to apply for a work permit.

Williams moved to Bermuda in 2009 on a two-year work permit, and the couple started a successful dog grooming business. After two years, Williams was given a one-year visa renewal and then a final, non-renewable three-year extension.

The couple had a choice — either leave the islands or change the law.

The U.K. legalized same-sex marriage in 2014, but that law wasn’t applicable to British territories.

Along with five other couples, all with foreign spouses, Edwards and Williams
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Gay men discuss their fathers

New book explores how men come out to their dads and the challenges of their relationships

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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One Texas man interviewed for Tim Clausen’s new book, *Not the Son He Expected*, always knew he was gay. But having grown up in a religious family, he did what was expected of him: He got married and had kids.

Eventually though, he couldn’t continue living that lie. So he divorced his wife. But when his mother began bad-mouthing his ex-wife in church, he had to come out to his parents and explain that the divorce was not her fault.

As a result, his father told him to leave the house, but he continues some contact with his mother.

He’s now married to a man and has left open the possibility of some relationship with his father. As a nurse, he’s even suggested that if his father eventually needed care, he’d provide it.

In another story, a police officer from Alabama expected to be rejected, but when he told his father he was gay, his dad hugged him.

Clausen’s book is a follow up to *Love Together*, a compilation of interviews with couples in long-term relationships that included stories of two local couples — Jack Evans and George Harris, and Steve Habgood and Mark Sadlek.

*Not the Son He Expected* explores the relationship between gay sons and their dads and is drawn from interviews with more than 80 men. The book includes an interview with a Dallas man who didn’t want his real name used and used the alias Jay Larson.

Larson was born in Sepulpa, Okla. His parents divorced before he was three, and his dad moved to Dallas. His mother remarried, and his stepfather embraced his new son and adopted him.

When he came out to his family, his mom didn’t react well, so Larson left home. But his adoptive dad searched for him and reunited the family.

Larson hasn’t seen his biological dad in 20 years, even though they both live in Dallas. The hurt in that relationship has nothing to do with his being gay; it’s about what his father did to his mother years ago.

The book includes a wide variety of stories that contradict the stereotype of the relationships gay men have with their fathers. While some do have strained relationships, others have great relationships. Larson, for example, has a close relationship with the father who raised him and gives a number of examples of ways his father has told him...
Sometimes, the littlest of details can make a big impact. Take, for instance, those pink plastic, rhinestone-studded glasses that Randy Rainbow often dons in his videos — most of which parody the Trump administration — when he is “reading” notes before he “reads” a politician.

He was working a video one day when, he said, “I thought, ‘What can I do here that would be just ridiculous?’ And looking around I saw those glasses, and I thought, ‘Yeah. Those will work.’” And they did. Rainbow said he was surprised that something he intended as a throw-away sight gag so effectively caught people’s attention. But when he realized the glasses were so popular with people, they became a kind of trademark in his work.

“I noticed people were showing up for shows wearing the pink glasses,” he said, adding that he would have official Randy Rainbow pink plastic glasses for sale before long.

Rainbow — and yes, that is his real name; “My parents are Gwen and Gerry Rainbow” — grew up in Florida in what he calls a theatrical family. His father was a musician and a booking agent for performers, and Rainbow started

Viral sensation Randy Rainbow performs Saturday at Dallas’ House of Blues

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The debate about Confederate monuments is about to heat up in Dallas again as the city council considers the fate of public symbols of the Civil War. The solution should be obvious to all at this point, but like all things political it probably will not be.

On the agenda is the final disposition of the Robert E. Lee statue removed last fall from Oak Lawn Park (formerly known as Lee Park), the fate of a Confederate memorial in downtown Dallas near City Hall, and whether to rename streets memorializing Confederate elite such as Lee.

As always there are strong emotions on both sides of the issue, and some good — as well as bad — intentions in the debate.

Many proponents maintain that the memorials are simply an accurate reflection of Texas history, and that they do not promote injustice or glorify the practice of slavery. Opponents disagree, saying that the memorials remind African-Americans of the injustice and the cruelty their ancestors endured. Some proponents, unfortunately, are simply racists, and they resent any efforts to appease the descendants of slaves.

As a native Texan, I grew up with these symbols, and I never thought much about what they meant to others. The Lee statue represented nothing more to me than a couple of soldiers on horses, naïve as that might be. I initially resisted the removal of public art that had existed from before my birth — until August 2017, when I saw television news coverage of the riot in Charlottesville.

Afterwards, I decided that I couldn’t support any position favored by white supremacists, especially when it could lead to violence.

My resolve against the memorials deepened when I asked a 61-year-old African-American lesbian and LGBT activist I know if the sight of these memorials upset her. She said that in fact, the sight of the monument in Lee Park offended her deeply, to the point of intimidation.

“Over the years when I’ve gone to events there and back in the day when I spoke at a couple of Pride rallies there, I always made sure to enter and stand on the side away from the statue,” she told me. “It gave me the creeps and made me feel sick to see it.

“I’m an old chick. One of my most vivid memories is being in the car in Alabama with my family and all of a sudden five huge horses with Ku Klux Klansmen surrounded us to escort us out of town,” she recalled. “So frightening — it was the first time I ever saw my parents scared. So remnants and reminders glorifying those who thought slavery was a good thing and that black people were less than human have never left me with a warm fuzzy feeling.”

She ended by pointing out that it was an easy answer of yes for her. It should have been easy for me, too. But sometimes I need to be hit on the head to see the light.

How ironic that LGBT and AIDS activism would be rooted in a park dedicated to the memory of a defender of slavery in the South.

Dallas city staff and the members of the Confederate Monuments Task Force appointed to study the issue agree that the Lee statue, erected in 1936 and now valued at $1 million, should be moved from where it is stored at the Naval Air Station in Grand Prairie to the Texas Civil War Museum in White Settlement, with the addition of language to clarify its historical significance.

The other proposals are more problematic. City staff recommends keeping the downtown memorial but adding language to it, as well, to point out its historical significance. But the task force wants to move it to a museum.

Moving it would be expensive, but I doubt anything less will put the controversy to rest. Leaving it in place in any form will likely perpetuate conflict in a city already beset by distrust between the races.

Renaming the streets will also be expen-
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Lori Franchina worked as a rescue worker for Providence, R.I., and for four years, everything was fine. Then one day, she was paired up with a male worker notorious for sexually harassing female colleagues.

The male worker immediately began harassing Franchina, constantly offering to have sex with her and openly taunting her as a lesbian in front of other fire personnel, hospital workers and members of the public.

Franchina told a superior officer about the incidents, and the superior officer compelled her to report them, triggering a disciplinary hearing against the male co-worker.

But soon after that, other male firefighters began harassing Franchina. One put something in her food on several occasions that made her severely ill; others deliberately sabotaged her rescue equipment and disobeyed orders she gave them in ways that put lives of the public in jeopardy. One firefighter, who was wearing latex gloves soiled by blood and brain matter from a suicide victim, put his hands in front of Franchina’s face and snapped them off in a way that caused the victim’s body fluids to fly into her eyes and mouth.

After that incident, Franchina was diagnosed with severe post-traumatic stress, but she fought back, filing a complaint and, eventually, a lawsuit, charging the fire department had violated Title VII’s prohibitions against sex discrimination and against retaliation for complaining of sex discrimination.

One judge described Franchina’s story as a particularly “horrific” one, but there are many more like hers. Some are known because the victims of discrimination filed lawsuits. All of them, including Franchina, tried to seek protection under Title VII by arguing that the discrimination they suffered because of their sexual orientation is prohibited discrimination based on “sex.”

Most of the lawsuits have been from lesbians, but some have been from gay men. There was the lesbian school probationary officer in Texas whose male supervisor told her she “looked gay” and was “not as feminine as other women” employees (Carr v. Humble). There was the gay man in North Carolina whose employer fired him after he...
brought his same-sex partner to a company lunch (Snyder v. Ohio Electronics).

There was the lesbian employee of an assisted living facility whose male supervisor repeatedly made lewd and sexually offensive remarks to her about her being gay (Stevens v. University Village). There was the lesbian teacher, Jira Churchill, in a Maryland public high school who found the slur “FAG” written on her chalkboard, had students refer to her as Mister Churchill, and was removed from her teaching job because she was deemed “aggressive” (Churchill v. Prince George’s).

And there is the lesbian shift manager at a McDonald’s fast food restaurant in Alabama whose male supervisor repeatedly told her, even in front of customers, that she walked like a man and needed to look more feminine (Whitt v. Berckman’s).

Franchina and these others all tried to get relief by filing lawsuits in federal court, arguing that Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits the kind of adverse treatment they suffered because they are gay or perceived to be gay.

Title VII is a section of the Civil Rights Act that prohibits employers from taking adverse action against an employee or potential employee “because of such individual’s race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.”

Since the 1970s, lawsuits for LGBT people have tried to convince the courts that the language “because of … sex” should be read to include “because of … sexual orientation.”

Heterosexuals, too, have filed lawsuits using this argument.

In 1996, in Charlotte, N.C., a 16-year-old heterosexual male, newly employed by Pizza Hut, filed a Title VII claim that his gay male co-workers sexually harassed him and made repeated sexual advances and vulgar remarks intended to humiliate him. In Alabama, a heterosexual female teacher said she suffered retaliation at Talladega College after she complained about a “Teaching Tolerance” program that she said actively promoted the “gay agenda.” And in Georgia, a newly hired motel clerk lost his job because his supervisor perceived him to be gay.

None of these lawsuits succeeded on the grounds that “sexual orientation” discrimination is a type of “sex” discrimination. Most were dismissed and haven’t been appealed.

In Franchina’s case, a jury agreed she had suffered discrimination under Title VII, but the city appealed. Providence argued that, for Franchina’s sex discrimination complaint to stick under Title VII, the court would have to determine whether a gay male firefighter would have been treated differently than a gay female firefighter. Otherwise, the city argued, the discrimination Franchina faced was not because of “sex” but because of “sexual orientation.” And sexual orientation, argued the city, is not covered under Title VII.

Long fight, slow change

“Initially, the courts, which reflected the widespread homophobia in society at the time, rejected [Title VII sexual orientation lawsuits] out of hand without really giving them serious thought or consideration,” said Christopher Stoll, senior staff attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

“So for a long time, we were stuck with bad precedents in most places and had no real chance of persuading the courts to reconsider them.”

Some courts, recalled Jenny Pizer, law and policy director for Lambda Legal, “said Congress couldn’t possibly have meant to protect homosexuals and transsexuals when they passed the CRA in 1964…”

Both Pizer and Stoll said things really began to change in 1989, when the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins. The case did not involve a lesbian but a female employee at the accounting giant Price Waterhouse, Ann Hopkins, who was rejected for partnership because some the top officials at the firm considered her too masculine and advised her she needed to “walk more femininely, talk more femininely, dress more femininely, wear make-up, have her hair styled, and wear jewelry.”

The Supreme Court majority said Price Waterhouse’s refusal to promote Hopkins was based on her sex and “motivated by stereotypical notions about women’s proper deportment.”

“Plaintiffs then began to make the same arguments about sexual orientation,” said Stoll. “After all, the idea that men should only be attracted to women and vice versa is about as clear a gender stereotype as there is.”

Then, in 1998, the Supreme Court made another important ruling, saying Title VII’s prohibition against sex discrimination, including through sexual harassment, could be used to protect an employee from sexual harassment by an employee of the same sex (Oncale v. Sundowner).

“The Oncale decision in 1998 also seemed like an important analytical tool in a changing landscape that ought to help us,” said Pizer.

But it wasn’t until April 2017 that any federal appeals court agreed that Price Waterhouse and Oncale logically meant that Title VII’s language on sex discrimination should include sexual orientation discrimination. “Price Waterhouse held that the practice of
High-performing Maple Lawn teachers won’t be guaranteed a job at their school next term.

David Taffet | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Teachers at Maple Lawn Elementary School, on Inwood Road at Cedar Springs, have been told that their school is likely merging with Hernández Elementary, just a few blocks away on Inwood at Maple Avenue, and that they are not guaranteed to have a job for the next academic year.

At a meeting on Wednesday evening, March 21, at Maple Lawn, school officials explained to parents that plunging enrollment in the area was affecting Maple Lawn and Hernandez, as well as Medrano Elementary on Lucas Street and Sam Houston Elementary on Throckmorton Street, a block from Sue Ellen’s.

In the early 2000s, Maple Lawn was expanded with additional classrooms so that the school can now accommodate 1,078 students. But only 446 are now enrolled this year. Hernandez was built at about that time with a capacity of 943 children. Only 301 attend that school this year.

Sam Houston, which at one time had about 800 students, now has fewer than 200.

The proposal, which is not final, is to combine the students at Hernandez with those at Maple Lawn. While class size won’t exceed the 22 students per class limit, combining the schools may result in fewer classes per grade, meaning fewer teachers will be needed.

Parents attending the meeting weren’t happy with the idea because Maple Lawn students are excelling, with double-digit gains in testing over the past few years. Hernandez scores, however, are much lower.

Because Hernandez is a tougher school to staff, its teachers were given three-year contracts, while the faculty at Maple Lawn, which has a large number of LGBT teachers and is easier to staff, have only one-year contracts.

In Oak Cliff, neighborhood groups blame charter schools, which have exploded across that area of the city, for decreasing enrollment in DISD schools. Because of the high price of land and skyrocketing rental rates in Oak Lawn, however, charter schools haven’t caught on in Oak Lawn.

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gender stereotyping falls within Title VII’s prohibition against sex discrimination, and Oncale clarified that it makes no difference if the sex of the harasser is (or is not) the same as the sex of the victim,” said the 8-to-3 majority decision in Hively v. Ivy Tech from the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. Because the lower court had dismissed the case, the appeals decision sent it back for deliberation on the merits of the lesbian employee, Kimberly Hively’s discrimination complaint.

That Hively decision came just one month after a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit ruled, in a similar case (Evans v. Georgia Regional) that Price Waterhouse and Oncale were not “clearly on point,” and that it had to abide by an earlier decision in that circuit that said, “Discharge for homosexuality is not prohibited by Title VII.”

Thus, there came into being a conflict between two federal appeals courts. LGBT legal activists were hopeful that this difference of opinion might compel the Supreme Court to settle the matter.

“Because one cannot fully define a person’s sexual orientation without identifying his or her sex, sexual orientation is a function of sex,” wrote the court. “… Logically, because sexual orientation is a function of sex and sex is a protected characteristic under Title VII, it follows that sexual orientation is also protected.”

With those rulings from the 2nd and 7th circuits, LGBT people in the states covered by those rulings, can seek relief from Title VII. The states are New York, Connecticut, and Vermont (in the 2nd); Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin (in the 7th).

Claims in other circuits are advancing. Just this month, Lambda Legal took another Title VII-sexual orientation case (Horton v. Midwest Geriatric) to the 8th Circuit (covering Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and North and South Dakota).

And though Providence rescue worker Lori Franchina’s Title VII-sexual orientation claim did not succeed in the 1st Circuit courts, she still won her trial and the appeal on her sex discrimination and retaliation claims. In a footnote that caught many LGBT legal activists’ attention, the panel suggested the “tide may be turning when it comes to Title VII’s” protection against sexual orientation discrimination.

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So school officials blame Oak Lawn’s construction boom on the plummeting enrollment at all four neighborhood schools. Affordable apartments have been replaced with luxury properties. And any families with children that have moved into the area aren’t sending their kids to public school.

Keeping two smaller schools open that are just three blocks apart is difficult because of budget constraints and state cutbacks, DISD officials said. Because of low enrollment, combining Hernandez and Maple Lawn makes sense.

But here’s what wasn’t clear from the meeting: All four schools will remain open. Maple Lawn will be the large neighborhood school. Rather than close Hernandez, the district will turn it into a Montessori school. Houston will become a “personalized K-2 innovation school.” And something similarly innovative will be done with Medrano.

Students assigned to Maple Lawn would have the option to attend the other schools should a program be available at their grade level. If Maple Lawn is counting on the influx from Hernandez to fill its classrooms, school officials didn’t explain where the students that will fill the other three schools would come from.

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his own career as a performer at age 6 when he began taking ballet lessons.

Throughout his childhood and his high school years, Rainbow said, he was involved in theater — primarily musical theater. He took all the classes, went to theater camp and performed with regional theater companies. That continued into his college years, right up until he dropped out, worked a short stint as a cruise ship performer then moved to New York.

“Like everyone else” that moves to New York City looking to hit the big time, Rainbow said he worked a variety of jobs to make ends meet. Most of those jobs, he said, were connected in some way to the entertainment industry. For example, for awhile he worked as a receptionist for a talent booking agency.

Meanwhile, around 2010, Rainbow started making videos in his own apartment, setting up a green-screen and editing himself into interviews with celebrities among other things. Some of his most popular early videos were of him making phone calls to various “boyfriends,” like anti-gay bigots Mel Gibson and Kirk Cameron among others.

In 2012, when Chik-Fil-A came under fire from LGBT rights advocates for the anti-equality stance of the company’s owner, Rainbow created the Randy Rainbow Works at Chik-Fil-A video, in which he serves chicken to a line-up of right-wingers, including Sarah Palin, on Chicken Pride Day. It ends with Rainbow and another “employee” dancing to Lady Gaga’s “Born This Way.”

In 2015, after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its historic ruling making marriage equality the law of the land, Rainbow grabbed attention and raked in the laughs with “The Kim Davis Cell Block Tango,” skewering Kentucky’s queen of homophobia, the county clerk who chose to defy the Supreme Court ruling and refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Then came 2016 and the rise of Donald Trump. It was a disaster for the country, but it was a comedy gold mine for Rainbow’s musical brand of political satire. His “interviews” with Trump and his spokespeople (especially Kellyann Conway and Sarah Huckabee Sanders) and cabinet members (most recently Betsy DeVos), along with musical parodies (“How Do You Solve a Problem Like Korea” and “Desperate Cheeto,” among many others) all began going viral. And suddenly, Rainbow was an “internet sensation.”

Even with his increased fame, Rainbow said he still does all the videos himself in his own New York City apartment. But he said, there have been a few changes.

“When I started, I lived in a little studio apartment, and I had the green screen and everything set up there in the living room area. Basically, the whole apartment was the studio,” he said. “But I recently moved into a larger, two-bedroom place, so I have a whole room that is just the recording studio and I having a living room, too!”

Neither his talent nor his success is limited to the internet. His current live tour brings him to Dallas on Saturday, March 24, to the House of Blues and then on to eight more stops in the U.S. before winding up April 29 in Vancouver.

While some people might wonder how a man who became famous with cleverly-edited videos will turn that into a stage show, Rainbow promises there’s nothing to worry about. He will be singing all your favorites of his songs, and there will be Q&A time with the audience, too.

Randy Rainbow Live comes to House of Blues Dallas, 2200 N. Lamar St., on Saturday, March 15. Doors open at 6 p.m. at the show starts at 7 p.m. The only remaining tickets, as of Thursday, March 24, were standing-room only general admission tickets for $27 available through TicketMaster.com.
formed the Bermuda Bred Company, which sued Bermuda’s attorney general and minister of home affairs claiming “discrimination on the grounds of marital status or sexual orientation.”

In November 2013, six months after the Obergefell ruling in the U.S., the Bermuda Supreme Court ruled that people from abroad in relationships with Bermudians had the right to live in Bermuda and work.

Meanwhile, a referendum on same-sex marriage had been scheduled for 2016. After his ruling, the chief justice of Bermuda’s Supreme Court ruled that it could go ahead as planned. That referendum did take place, and Bermudians voted overwhelmingly against same-sex marriage.

But a May 2017 Supreme Court ruling legalized same-sex marriage anyway. Not only was marriage equality the new law in Bermuda, but Preserve Marriage, the islands’ dominant anti-equality organization, was declared no longer a charity, the equivalent of an American group losing its non-profit status.

In light of the Supreme Court’s ruling, the Charity Commission declared Preserve Marriage’s purpose unlawful and since its purpose appeared to be singling out and victimizing a group, that purpose was ruled purely political.

But over the next six months, things changed. The opposition was elected to office. New legislation was drawn up called the Domestic Partnership Law. This legislation would outlaw same-sex marriage and replace it with civil unions while guaranteeing “equivalent” protections. And Preserve Marriage’s charity status was restored.

In December 2017, the law passed and was sent to the governor to sign. He sent it back to Bermuda’s Parliament. Parliament passed it again and returned it to the governor to sign. Instead, the governor sent it to the British Foreign Office in England to deal with.

In February, the Foreign Office returned it to the governor who had to give the new law royal assent. The repeal and new domestic partnerships go into effect in June.

Meanwhile, Edwards and Williams had returned to the U.S. as the Bermuda Bred case wound its way through the courts. Shelby’s visa was going to expire and there was no guarantee when a ruling would be handed down or where it would fall, so they had to decide what to do. They had already married in Massachusetts so Edwards when asked his husband what he wanted to do, Shelby said since they were married in the States, and since his parents were in their 80s, they should return to Dallas.

Before leaving the islands, they shut down the Edwards family jewelry company that had been in business since 1929.

In Dallas, Edwards most recently was Jeffrey Payne’s campaign manager in his bid to become governor of Texas. Edwards noted that the Bermuda Tourism Authority had just started a new campaign to snare some of the lucrative LGBT travel market. Cunard registers its ships in Bermuda, a flag of convenience that allows it to skip some of the stricter regulations of the U.K. That registration, however, allowed Cunard to attract same-sex couples to cruise on its ships and marry at sea after marriage equality became law in Bermuda. But since the revocation of marriage equality there, Cunard reports having lost marriage-related tourist business.

Ellen Degeneres responded to Bermuda’s repeal of its marriage laws by canceling her own trip to the islands and encouraging others to do the same. But some LGBT Bermudians are against any boycott, concerned that any economic repercussions would be blamed on them, making them a target for local reprisals.

Edwards urges LGBT people in the U.S. to learn a lesson from the Bermuda experience: As hard as we’ve fought for civil rights in the U.S. and as far as we’ve come, those rights can also be suddenly taken away. We have to be vigilant, he warned.
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he loves him over the years.

Clausen includes his own story about telling his father by letter that he is gay.

He begins by explaining, “I was extremely fortunate to be able to experience the type of close and loving friendship with my father late in life that I would have liked to have had all along, though that relationship did not happen by chance.”

Clausen said many of his interview subjects were afraid of rejection and were surprised by the support they received. Some dads were initially quiet and became more accepting with time.

“Many just needed time to process,” Clausen said.

Clausen prepared 28 questions that he asked each of the men he interviewed. Some are quite blunt and could open wounds: “Did you feel you were a disappointment to him?”

Others reveal how the relationship has changed: “How has your relationship evolved over time?”

And while everyone believes they’ll never be like their parents and will do anything they can to be different, Clausen asked: “In what ways are you like him?”

Many of the subjects of the book are also fathers themselves, like Clausen. One of his questions he asks is: “Are you a better dad to your kids than your dad was to you?”

Clausen said he favored those stories where the son took the opportunity to formally come out to his fathers, whether it was in person, by phone, in an email or by a letter.

Those Clausen interviewed were interesting on a number of levels. One was a gay porn director whom he said he met through a mutual friend.

The director grew up in an Italian family with old-fashioned parents. They never really understood exactly what he did and thought he worked in a store that sold videos. They had a nice relationship despite, or maybe because of, the misunderstanding.

One subject recovered from damaging reparative therapy. Another is a former priest. And one is a social worker working with survivors of the Pulse nightclub massacre. One discusses his relationship with his father, who is transgender and is now his second mom.

As he did in his first book exploring what makes same-sex relationships last, Clausen successfully searches for and finds how gay sons develop healthy relationships with their fathers.

Not the Son He Expected: Gay Men Talk Candidly About Their Relationship With Their Father by Tim Clausen available on Kindle and through Amazon.
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shooting, “a kid threatened to bring a gun to school. He didn’t; it was just a threat. But at the time, you don’t know what’s actually happening,” she said. “I wasn’t at that campus when it happened.

“I was headed to the [Career and Technical Education Center], and I started getting all these texts from my friends who were at the school. At that point, nobody knew what was happening. Nobody knew it was just a threat and there wasn’t actually a gun. It was really scary,” she said.

But Conde hadn’t waited for there to be a threat at her school. She, like the student activists from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, had already begun to fight back.

“It was pretty instantaneously [after the Parkland shooting] that I decided I had to do something to get involved,” Conde said. “I immediately made a list of all the Texas representatives I knew of and started writing to them. I emailed everyone I possibly could. I started a Twitter page Remind 101 to send people notifications about what was happening, what was being planned.”

She also started a Facebook page for Frisco March for Our Lives. She wasn’t trying to organize a march in Frisco, but instead to “get as many students as possible from my school district to come together in a large number and go to the March in Dallas.” She said almost as soon as she started the Facebook page, organizers for the March for Our Lives set in Dallas on March 24 contacted her, asking her to join their efforts. She was happy to oblige. Conde said that she shares the goals of the March when it comes to demanding stricter regulations on buying guns. She isn’t asking that all guns be banned, she said, just that some “common sense” regulations be put in place that will help keep those guns out of the wrong hands.

“We want universal background checks before you can buy a gun, and a rolling database that’s available to [all law enforcement],” she said. “We want them to ban bump stocks. It’s absolutely absurd that something like that is available for people to buy, anyway. We want to see all the assault-type weapons banned, and high-capacity magazines regulated.”

Conde said that she finds the prospect of arming teachers to be “an absolutely terrifying idea. And most of the teachers, in my community at least, are absolutely not OK with that idea. They don’t want to have to shoot a child, even one with a gun. Teachers have made a commitment to protect us, not to shoot us.

“And some teachers have their own issues, too,” she added. “You just never know when someone might snap.”

Conde also said that while it would be great if students would stop bullying each other, that’s not likely to happen. And, she added, being bullied doesn’t necessarily make someone a murderer. She knows that first-hand.

“I was bullied severely in middle school,”
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Conde said, noting that while she came out last year as a lesbian, in middle school, she “dated just about every boy in my middle school. I guess I thought if I just dated the right boy, I wouldn’t be gay,” she said. For some reason, she continued, dating different boys made her a target.

“Everybody was doing it,” she said, meaning dating different people. “I don’t know why they decided to target me. But they did. I had people telling me, ‘Just kill yourself already. Nobody wants you here anymore.’ Things like that. I had to be removed from some classes because of it. I had to have a special schedule.”

Conde said her parents did their best to address the situation, as did the school’s administration. Still, she said, “nothing really changed until I got to high school. I mean, kids are going to talk about other kids. They are going to be mean. Middle school is just an evil time.”

Conde encouraged anyone being bullied to find their own group of people to offer love and support and a safe space to be. For her, that came in the form of her church community. “I got really involved in my church, Preston Trail Community Church, and it saved my life. That community of people is just so amazing. It really made a difference.”

She also said that no matter how bad the bullying got, it never occurred to her to retaliate with violence. “I just listened to my mom, who always preached that you have to kill them with kindness. ‘Living well is the best revenge;' that’s what she always says,” Conde noted.

And she doesn’t think the idea that school shootings could be avoided if kids weren’t bullied is a reasonable solution. “The truth is,” she said, “it’s just not realistic that everyone is going to be super perfectly nice to everyone else, and that you can prevent mass shootings and mental illness because you are super nice to everyone. Yes, mental health is a big part of the issue. But it’s bigger than that. They shouldn’t have access to guns.”

While it’s often the openly LGBT kids that find themselves targeted by bullies, for Conde, coming out helped quell the attacks. “I’m openly gay at school. Everybody knows,” she said. “At first, some people were like, ‘What? No way she’s gay! She dated all those boys!’ But now, it’s OK. At my school, we have a ton of kids in all colors of the rainbow, and our [Gay-Straight Alliance] is super active.”

At first, when she began really questioning her sexuality, Conde said, “I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, no! I have to marry a boy. I have to have children.’ It’s like that’s what’s expected of you. But I changed my expectations for my life. You don’t have to be what everyone else wants you to be. Just be yourself.”

Conde said she is lucky to have a loving, supportive and “super liberal” family. “When I came out last year, my little sister [now 14] was crying because she was so excited. She said, ‘Now I get to go to Pride with you!’ My parents were great. My mom told me, ‘Everybody’s got a little bit of gay in them.’”

For now, Conde said, she’s going to focus on finishing high school and finding a way to pay for college. She wants to study history and political science and eventually work for a nonprofit organization advocating for human rights — “LGBT rights, minority rights, gun law reform, whatever is needed at the time,” she said.

She also already works as a freelance makeup artist, she said, and “I’d love to be able to keep doing that as a side job.”

Some people have criticized the student activists that have risen up in the wake of the Parkland shooting, targeting the young leaders of the movement with insults, lies and hate, insisting they are only children who don’t know what they’re talking about. Conde, and those like her are proof those critics are wrong.

And while she may be only 17 now, Conde pointed out that she will turn 18 in early October — just in time to vote in the November general election. She plans to make her vote count.
The importance of protest

The principle of freedom of speech is, perhaps, one of the most venerable aspects of American life. The health of our society depends on the free exchange of ideas and information, and that is incredibly important on university campuses, where civil discourse is an integral component of obtaining an education.

Even at private universities like SMU, where the strictures of the First Amendment do not apply, free speech is nevertheless a vital principle to be protected. However, we protect speech because of its power; speech can have enormous — even harmful — effects. It can be used to ostracize and marginalize the disenfranchised, or to send a message of exclusion and hostility to those seeking a position of privilege. By welcoming Steven Crowder to campus, Crowder, a speaker notorious for his penchant for “triggering” others, makes a living by identifying and employing precisely the kinds of speech designed to do harm.

Words like “P**got,” which have been used to oppress and abuse members of the LGBTQ community for generations, hold a cherished place in Crowder’s vocabulary, and he wields them precisely because of their ability to injure. Although access to respectful dialogue is a crucial element of any education, the foundation of respectful dialogue is respect. Words designed to demean, harass, or intimidate others — typically, members of an insular minority — are not used with respectful intention; they are, by nature, words used to wound. And when they are hurled like the hateful insults that they are, any aspect of respect is immediately siphoned away from the resulting dialogue. Instead of fostering the free exchange of ideas and information, these kinds of words create a nearly insurmountable obstacle to healthy, civil debate by instantaneously delegating their targets to a place of subordination.

This is why protests are important. Where free speech fails to contribute to education because of hateful intent, counter-speech steps in to balance the scales. When the use of hate speech wholly strips civil discourse of civility, counter-speech fills the void by offering respectful dissent.

Protests provide a mechanism for salvaging important conversations that would otherwise be thwarted by the use of hate speech, and preserving the role of universities as bastions of intellectual discussion and debate.

The students protesting at SMU do not oppose free speech. Rather, they respect it so highly that they want to save it from being mutilated to the point of weaponization. We respect your right to call us P**got, but that does not mean we’ll tolerate it without engaging in speech of our own.

Joanna Pearce is a third-year law student at the SMU Dedman School of Law and the president of OUTlaw, SMU’s LGBTQ and ally law student association.
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Like every award, the Readers Voice Awards are all about picking winners, but sometimes voting is its own reward. It certainly was for Susan Carson, who ended up taking home a prize from us: Dinner for two, theater tickets and $500 in cash — all just by voting online in the RVAs during the month of January — quite a windfall. It shows how much we depend on our readers to make a difference, and we thank all of you, and the winners and our advertisers for keeping a dialogue going about issues that matter to all of us.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Every year, we prove that the “Voice” in Dallas Voice isn’t those of us who work here, but those of you who read us. That’s why we created the Readers Voice Awards more than a decade ago: To have you weigh in about what you love about North Texas.

And you responded — boy, how you responded! Thousands upon thousands of votes were cast in dozens and dozens of categories over nine divisions. And we love to tweak and come up with new categories, so as you read through here, tell us what you liked most and what you’d love to see in the future. Give all the winners — and yourselves — a pat on the back.
Here's to the winners!

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**Bat Out of Hell**
JUNE 27 - JULY 7, 2019

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Sue Ellen’s is undoubtedly an institution in the LGBTQ Dallas scene — a home for the ladies to bond, dance and drink. But in today’s conversation, its status as a haven for women is even more important. This is a place where sisterhood thrives … and not just for lesbians. All women can let their hair hang down (and maybe other things hang out) where dudes aren’t in the way being, well, dudes. Instead, Sue’s is a celebration of feminism across the spectrum — gay, straight, nonbinary, trans — and we should never stop celebrating that.

— Rich Lopez

Best Straight Bar for LGBTs

The Grapevine Bar
3902 Maple Ave.
Open daily 3 p.m.–2 a.m. (Sundays from 1 p.m.)
214-522-8466.
GrapevineBar.com

Best Karaoke Host
Wayne Smith, Liquid Zoo
2506 Knight St. • 214-221-3004.

Best Exotic Dancer
Max Dakota, Club Stallions
11311 Harry Hines Blvd.
972-997-1493.

Best Bartender
David Garza
Cedar Springs Tap House
4123 Cedar Springs Road, ste. 100.
214-377-7446.
CedarSpringsTapHouse.com.

Best Local Drag Performer
Cassie Nova, The Rose Room at S4
3911 Cedar Springs Road.

Best Theme Night
Trashy Tuesdays | TMC
3903 Cedar Springs Road.
214-521-4205.
TMCDallas.com

Best Beer Bust
The Hidden Door
5025 Bowser Ave.
Open Mondays-Saturdays 7 a.m.–2 a.m.
(noon to 2 a.m. on Sundays).
Beer bust on Sundays. • 214-526-0620.
HiddenDoor-Dallas.com.

Club DJ

DJ Benson Wilder
Spins at the Dallas Eagle, Purple Party 2018.

Benson Wilder wanted to be a DJ since he was a teenager, buying (and making) mix tapes and CDs at flea markets. And for the last decade, that dream has been a reality. He’s forged his tastes from Miami to San Francisco to NYC, but lately, crowds show up to hear his dance beats at the Dallas Eagle, where he’s a resident DJ well known for his We Love the ’90s sets on Sundays. But Wilder also enjoys funky club tracks on Friday nights and tribal/house on Saturdays or at circuit events, like the Purple Party, where he will be featured entertainment later this spring. That’s a sweeping resume, but the end result is usually the same: Happy, sweaty men dancin’.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Place To Get A Lap Dance
Tin Room
2514 Hudnall St.
Open Mondays–Saturdays 10 a.m.–2 a.m.
(noon to 2 a.m. on Sundays). • 214-526-6365.
GRINDR

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DJ Benson Wilder
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— Arnold Wayne Jones

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— Rich Lopez

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— Rich Lopez

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Ron Allen, CPA
2909 Cole Ave., ste. 119. • 214-954-0042.
RonAllenCPA.com

Best Criminal Defense Attorney
Chad West, Esq.
900 W. Davis St. • 214-509-7555.
ChadWestLaw.com.

Best Civil/Family Attorney
Rebecca Covell, Esq.
3710 Rawlins St. • 214-443-0300.
CovellPC.com.

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— Rich Lopez
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3607 Oak Lawn Ave. • 214-217-1818 • UptownERDallas.com.

We all have medical emergencies that fall outside our primary care physicians’ normal office hours, and making a split decision about where to get help can be stressful. But our fine readers have taken some of the guesswork out of that high-pressure decision, recommending Uptown ER. More than just a walk-up doc-in-a-box, Uptown is a total freestanding emergency room, staffed by medical doctors and support personnel that can attend to virtually every necessity without the inconvenience (or usually wait time!) of a hospital ER — all kinds of imaging, defibrillation, pharmacy services and more, including admitting privileges to local hospitals while accepting most insurance. Best of all? It’s available 24/7/365.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
For some in the queer community, gym = church. Minus the obvious snarks of cruising the hotties and steam room tales, this is where the gays get stronger ... and not only physically. We all like to look at the hardbods and think whatever, but with its proximity to the gayborhood, LA Fitness — offering one-stop shopping with racquetball and basketball courts, an indoor pool, spa and juice bar — has not only helped people maintain their abs, it’s helped folks find their own confidence in themselves — and what’s more sexy than that?

— Rich Lopez
Gay culture has always been fashion-forward, so having a storefront where you can seek out hot club clothes and trends in swimwear is almost like looking into a crystal ball. And Outlines packs in a lot of them. From statewide exclusives like Parke & Ronen swimsuits and branded tees with outrageous, funny and salacious messages (personal favorite: “You had me at uncut”), Outlines is our readers’ go-to destination for looking sharp, out and proud.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

The internet has made shopping for, ummm, “unmentionables” more anonymous, but let’s face it: Gay people kinda enjoy the social aspect of shopping for adult novelties. It’s part of what makes us empowered, non-heteronormative, faboo. And Tapelenders has been a destination for many years. In addition to sex toys, porn mags and videos and fetishwear, Tapelenders also features quirky gifts, sexy poolside swag and even items that probably weren’t in demand a decade ago, like same-sex wedding cake toppers.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Best Gay Apparel
Outlines
3906 Cedar Springs Road.
214-528-1955.

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— Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Furniture
IKEA
7171 Ikea Drive, Frisco. • 888-888-4532.
Ikea.com.

Best Thrift Store
Out of the Closet
3920 Cedar Springs Road. • 214-599-2173.
OutOfTheCloset.org.

Best Vintage/Antiques/Consignment
Lulu B’s
1010 N Riverfront Blvd. • 214-769-1929.
LulaBsDallas.com.

Best Collectibles/Comic
Zeus Comics and Collectibles
1334 Inwood Road. • 214-219-8697.
ZeusComics.com.

Best Domestic Auto Dealership
Sewell Dealerships
Various locations along Lemmon Avenue.
Sewell.com.

Best Import Auto Dealership
Park Place Dealerships
Various locations along Lemmon Avenue.
ParkPlace.com

Best Grocery Store
Kroger
4142 Cedar Springs Road
(and additional locations). Open daily at 6 a.m.

Best Florist
All Occasions Florist
3428 Oak Lawn Ave. • 214-528-0898.
AllOccasionsDallas.com.

Best Garden Supply/Nursery
North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven Road. • 214-363-5316.
NHG.com.

Best Liquor and Wine Selection
Goody Goody Liquor
3316 Oak Lawn Ave. (and additional locations).
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Best Eyewear/Optical (tie)
Uptown Vision
3710 Rawlins St., ste. 100.
Open Mondays–Saturdays at 10 a.m.
(Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m.)

Fashion Optical
3430 Oak Lawn Ave.
Open Mondays–Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays
at 10 a.m. and Sundays at noon.
In some ways, a hamburger is the simplest of sandwiches: A bun on which you place a patty of cooked ground beef, some condiments, maybe a sliced vegetable or two. No big deal. But if that were the case, we would not be as obsessed with them culturally. Doing a burger right is a thing of beauty, and making them interesting is the pinnacle of culinary pop sensibilities. Hunkys has been coming up with amazing burgers in the gayborhood for decades, from the highly popular Texas cheeseburger to a triple-decker (named the Big Bear Burger!), or the avocado cheddar and jalapeno burger, that’s sweet, creamy and spicy all at once. A hamburger is no big deal? That’s definitely not the case at Hunkys.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Best Lunch Spot/ Best Patio
Cedar Springs Tap House
4123 Cedar Springs Road, ste. 100.
214-377-7446.
CedarSpringsTapHouse.com.

Now that the cold, rainy winter is officially behind us, Dallasites come out like groundhogs to enjoy the nice weather, which means nice patios, and readers loved the patio at Cedar Springs Tap House. And why wouldn’t they — it’s located in the heart of the gayborhood with excellent people-watching. But it’s the fact it also won for best lunch spot that probably sealed the deal: five bucks secures you a burger, beer and fries (or fish ’n chips with a brew), Mondays–Fridays until 3 p.m. And there are great daily food specials, and great beer selection, whenever you choose to sit out and chill.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Dining Experience
Parigi
3311 Oak Lawn Ave. • 214-521-0295.
ParigiDallas.com.

The word “Parigi” is Italian for “Paris,” which tells you something about the euro-sensibility of this restaurant. Chef-owner Janice Provost combines the sophistication of French cuisine (from bread pudding French toast to housemade pasta to French onion soup gratinee to the signature “chocolate glob” dessert) with the cosmopolitan feel of a New York City bistro. Of course, if the appeal were just the food or just the atmosphere, it wouldn’t be Parigi — the service from the excellent staff makes it memorable. You feel like a friend here (Provost spends almost as much time checking on her guests as she does whipping up great dishes). It’s no wonder that Dallas Voice readers named it their Ultimate Dining Experience — it’s been an Oak Lawn institution for more than three decades. Like the city itself, Parigi is eternal.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Best Local LGBT Role Model

Sean Baugh
Artistic director of Turtle Creek Chorale.
TurtleCreekChorale.com.

Everyone has a different definition of what a role model is, but by almost any standard, Sean Baugh qualifies. The artistic director for the Turtle Creek Chorale for the past three years, Baugh not only handles his musical duties with style and audience appeal, but his genial nature makes him seem like just a “good guy.” And in a world of 4 a.m. hate tweets from the Oval Office toilet, being a good guy means something.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Local Museum

Dallas Museum of Art
1717 Harwood St.
Open daily (except Mondays) at 10 a.m. (noon Sundays). • DMA.org.

Nobody who has been inside the Dallas Museum of Art in the last year or so would question why Dallas Voice readers selected it as their favorite local museum. Under the guidance of executive director Agustin Arteaga, the DMA’s exhibitions have flourished in their thoughtfulness and diversity, from the record-breaking Mexican surrealist show featuring bisexual artist Frida Kahlo to the Zen-like Infinity Mirror Room of Yayoi Kusama’s All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins to a radical fashion display by avant garde designer Iris van Herpen (pictured) to a new permanent collection of Islamic art, the DMA is an exciting place to visit. And how often do you say that about a museum?

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Local Straight Ally

Dale Hansen
Sports Editor, WFAA-TV, Channel 8.

Best Performance Venue

Winspear Opera House
2403 Flora St. • ATTPAC.org.

Best Public Space

Klyde Warren Park
2012 Woodall Rodgers Freeway.

Best Architecture or Landmark

Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge

Best Party for a Cause

Black Tie Dinner
BlackTie.org.

Best Local LGBT Nonprofit

Resource Center
5750 Cedar Springs Road.
Open weekdays, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
214-521-5124.
MyResourceCenter.org.

Best Local LGBT Sports Organization

Lost Souls Rugby Football Club
LostSoulsRFC.org.

Best Art Gallery

Craighead Green Gallery
1011 Dragon St. • 214-855-0779.
CraigheadGreen.com.

Best Local Artist

Robbie Conover

Best Local LGBT Role Model

Sean Baugh
Artistic director of Turtle Creek Chorale.
TurtleCreekChorale.com.
Best Theatrical Presenter
AT&T Performing Arts Center
ATTPAC.org.

Hard as it may be to believe, just about 10 years ago there was no such organization as the AT&T Performing Arts Center. It now is so integral to our arts scene, the idea of life without it seems unfathomable. Of course, the Broadway Series imports tons of national tours of hit, award-winning musicals and even plays, but the ATTPAC umbrella also include TITAS dance shows, Off Broadway on Flora, a speakers series and more … all of which grace the terrific contemporary venues of the Winspear Opera House, the Wyly Theatre and the Moody Performance Hall.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Local Production of a Play
The Legend of Georgia McBride (Uptown Players)
Performed Dec. 15–17, 2017, at the Kalita Humphreys Theater.

Without exaggeration, it’s fair to say that Uptown Players is one of the enduring gifts to the cultural scene of Dallas… especially queer Dallas. Its slate of shows impresses audiences and critics year after year, often with a sensibility hotly in tune with the Uptown clientele. Few were as delightfully unexpected as The Legend of Georgia McBride, about a straight man who takes a job as a drag queen a learns a lot about himself. Fast-paced, hilarious and often touching, the expert cast and crew really dazzled readers — and voters! — last year. (And proof of Uptown Players’ appeal? They also won for best musical production with La Cage aux Folles.)

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Local Production/Musical
La Cage Aux Folles (Uptown Players)
Performed July 28–30, 2017, at the Kalita Humphreys Theater.

Best Local Stage Director
Cheryl Denson
Directing credits in 2017 include The Full Monty and La Cage Aux Folles (both Uptown Players).

Best Local Musical Actor/Actress
Denise Lee
Performing credits for 2017 included Ruined (Echo Theatre), Gallows Road (movie) and The Inspectors (TV series).

Best Dance Troupe/Event
Bruce Wood Dance
BruceWoodDance.org

Best Local Singer
Mel Arizpe

Best Local Arts Organization
Best Local Band, Group, or Musician
Turtle Creek Chorale
3630 Harry Hines Blvd., ste. 360.
214-526-3214. • TurtleCreek.org.
The 37th Annual Black Tie Dinner Board of Directors Invites You to

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It's a cliche that pets are like gays' children, but cliches take root because they are true. So, would you leave your offspring with some $3/hour babysitter you found on Craigslist without references? Of course you wouldn't! So why would you leave your four-legged kids with anyone but the best? Pooch Patio, in the heart of the gayborhood, has been taking care of Rexes and Fidos for years. Our readers picked it as the best in boarding and kenneling because they know the staff care as much for their pets as they do themselves. When you have to be away from your dog, it's nice to know your dog doesn't mind being away from you.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
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It’s unseamly to complain about air travel options when you live in North Texas. We have one of the largest, busiest airports in the world, which can take you practically anywhere, and weather delays are uncommon. We also have two major airlines based here … and two airports. And it’s the second of those that readers celebrated. And why not? Southwest practically invented casual flying, with friendly staff, reasonable fares and convenience to the gayborhood (the Cedar Springs location of Love Field is a real treat). If a huge legacy carrier can be said to have a camp mentality, Southwest is it.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Best Weekend Getaway
Rainbow Ranch, Groesbeck, Texas. RainbowRanch.net.

Best Local Hotel
Warwick Melrose Hotel Dallas
3015 Oak Lawn Ave. • 214-521-5151. WarwickHotels.com

Best LGBT Destination
San Francisco, Calif.

Best LGBT Cruise Experience
RSVP
310-432-2300. • RSVPactions.com

Best Local Travel/Cruise Agency
(tie)
The Pauer Group
The Travel Bureau
214-905-3995
Find The Travel Bureau on Facebook.

Best Online Travel Site or App
Expedia
Expedia.com.

Best Romantic Getaway
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.
Scenes from SX

We covered the massive South by Southwest music, film, digital and comedy festival and conference in Austin, which just concluded earlier this week. We’ll have a longer write-up soon, but until then, here are scenes from the hubbub.

Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
Making music in a bar… Tracy Morgan and Tiffany Haddish participate in a Q&A following a screening of two episodes of their new TBS comedy The Last O.G. … Attendees enjoy being weird, like wearing colorful hats to movie screenings…. A funky band performs on opening day of the Music Festival…. One of the reasons Austin smells like Willie Nelson’s bandanna…. Bikes on racks! Who knew?
Gracias!

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Dancing queen

Plano native singer-songwriter Jena Rose’s dance track climbs The Billboard dance chart

Jena Rose is perhaps the most pleasant 17-year-old you will ever meet. Over the telephone, the Plano native seems like any typical schoolgirl.

“I’m sorry, that was my dog,” she says in a lilting voice as a shrill bark interrupts our conversation. But don’t let Rose’s youthfulness fool you. The girl is serious about her music.

Perhaps you’ve heard her voice thundering from the speakers at your favorite dance club. Remixes of the teen diva’s latest single recently landed the track on Billboard’s dance chart. “Sweet Love” broke the Top 20, peaking at no. 18. The song’s popularity took the classically trained pianist with a gift for songwriting a bit by surprise.

“I’ve always said to myself there is no plan B,” Rose says of her musical ambitions. “This is what I want to do for the rest of my life. I’m determined to get there, and I hope I do. Things have been coming true, and I hope they continue to from here on.”

She puts in the effort for sure. “I write all my songs on the piano,” Rose says. “I started out taking inspiration from Sara Bareilles, Leona Lewis and Adele. That’s really been my inspiration. I’m a singer-songwriter. And then just recently I’ve been doing these dance remixes. I didn’t expect it, but I love it. It’s a really good community, and I’ve been having a lot of fun.”

Last November, Rose performed at an Austin gay club for the launch of online radio station, PrideATX.com. She loved the experience and says that she finds her gay audiences very supportive. With a physician father who specializes in gender reassignment surgery, though, Rose has always felt a connection to the LGBT community.

“I’ve always grown up in a house that’s very accepting and loving,” Rose says. “We don’t see race, gender, anything.”

This wise-beyond-her-years spirit also informs the diva’s songwriting. In fact, listeners are often caught off guard by the maturity of the teen’s lyrics. Rose says she finds many rich sources of inspiration in the world.

“Being young, I haven’t gone through everything in life, obviously,” she says. “I like to take inspiration from the world around me, my friends, family, TV shows, movies, and also my own experiences. Basically, I sit down at the piano and work with different chords and melodies. Then a song just happens.”

Rose anticipates releasing her first EP at the end of this month. Its offerings — from ballads to uptempo tracks — will showcase the diva’s songwriting skills and musical range. And while the EP has yet to be officially titled, Rose has a good idea of what she will name it.

“I think it’s going to be called Reasons,” Rose says. “That’s the next song that is coming out, so we’re naming the EP after that song. Honestly, [the single] is my favorite. It’s real. I’m excited to put it out.”

Later this spring, Rose will join indie pop band Echosmith for its Inside a Dream Tour. A Dallas show is slated on May 4 at the Granada Theater, and Rose is eager to perform for her hometown. The pop princess has also toured with High School Nation, a traveling festival making lunchtime stops at high schools across the country. So far, though, Rose has no particularly odd fan encounters to report.

“There was one girl who knew me from YouTube, and she was like crying the whole time,” Rose says. “That was such an amazing feeling. But as far as weird stories, I don’t know if I have any yet. I’m sure I will have some from the upcoming tour. I’ll let you know.”

— Scott Huffman

For more information, visit jenarosemusic.com.
Name and age: Kelli Coleman, 30
Occupation: Retail manager
Spotted at: Whole Foods Market
A music scholarship to the University of North Texas brought Kelli, who is originally from West Virginia, to the Metroplex about a decade ago, and she never left. After coming out at 18, she has been active in the LGBT community. She has partnered with the Resource Center through the Lone Star Ride, with the Cathedral of Hope through her participation in music, and recently has been involved with women's empowerment work through Alaffia Empowerment and Entrepreneurs du Monde.
She returned recently from Togo, Africa, where she travelled with the Whole Foods Market Team Member Volunteer Program and worked with a village on an elementary school building project and participated in education work for maternal health and micro lending outreach throughout the country.
What do I hear? Kelli plays for local musicians such as Anton Shaw and the Calamity Janes, in addition to being a dedicated athlete and runner, completing several ultra distance marathons this year. She hopes to continue empowerment work abroad and dive deeper into the world of alleviating poverty through micro-finance. She also aims to finish her first 100-mile running race before the year is over.
Kelli is in a loving relationship with a fellow runner and believes you need to always radiate positivity.
More than games

‘Berlin 1936’ is nonfiction that reads like a horror novel


It’s the first day of the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, and composer Richard Strauss is impatient. He hates sports and he hates the tax that’s been enacted for this sporting event. For the hymn he writes on behalf of it, he demands 10,000 reichsmarks, and it rankles him that he ends up taking less.

Tom Wolfe has been to Berlin many times, and he couldn’t pass up a chance to see the Olympics there. Berlin is vibrant and friendly, and Berliners love the American novelist. He loves them… until a society matron whispers secrets in his ear.

On the second day of the games, Toni Kellner is found dead in her apartment. She was not a social woman — in fact, she was not a woman at all, and Nazi-enforced edicts made her afraid to seek help for her bad heart. Berlin used to have a thriving gay community, but the Third Reich is über-aware of gay men and people like Toni now.

Joseph Goebbels can’t stop thinking about the trouble his wife put him in. Not only did she have an affair with a swindler some years ago, but something else recently came to light: the Nazi Minister of Propaganda’s wife was the child of a Jewish man.

Jesse Owens won gold. And again. And again. And again.

By the eighth day of the Olympics, the city’s Roma and Sinti populations are taken from their apartments and moved to a sliver of land near a sanitation field. Most of them will die in concentration camps similar to the one being built just forty minutes away by local train.

And by the end of the Olympics, Hitler “is already determined to go to war.”

It may seem trite to say that Berlin 1936 reads like a novel, but it does. Indeed, it’s nonfiction that plays out like a horror novel, with a swirl of unaware and innocent victims, ruthless killers and a stunning, invisible stream of ice just beneath its surface.

The compelling thing about that is that it’s not one large tale of the Nazis and the games; instead, it’s as if author Oliver Hilmes starts with major historical figures and adds little advent-calendar windows with real people inside: here’s the Roma child, snatched from her bed; there’s the terrified, ailing transvestite; here’s the American woman who kissed Hitler; there’s the Romanian Jew who owns a thriving nightclub; all in the middle of an international story that readers know is only the beginning.

How could you resist? Don’t even try. Instead, just take Berlin 1936 to a corner and don’t count on coming out for a good, long time. Start this book, and you’ll want to just be left alone.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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Mini works over its Clubman wagon, but there are still bumps to smooth out

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

In the beginning, there was the Mini Cooper—a pint-size two-door road cart that had cute looks and glee-inducing handling. Then customers asked for more space, so Mini gave us the Clubman wagon and Countryman crossover. This week, we’re stuck in the middle with the Clubman—all updated and more suave, especially in the John CL:<1 CLUBMAN JCW


'17 CLUBMAN JCW

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Cooper Works edition.
It’s as cute as any other Mini, with bulging oval headlamps, cute curves and a floating roof. But look a little closer and you’ll see six doors — four on the sides and two Dutch-style in the rear. LED lamps front and rear ignite the night while the short little rear wipers keep glass clear. (Our model came with black 18-in. wheels, but I’d go for the special-edition 19-in. JCW alloys.) Definitely choose the red roof and stripe package — very British bling.
Stoop and slide to see what’s inside. Mini keeps its interior with the large center screen, podded instruments behind the thick leather-wrapped steering wheel and toggle switches in the lower console. Heated cloth seats are all-day comfy and side-gripping supportive. Dual-zone automatic climate control is simple to use and there’s reasonable space for four adults and their gear. Wireless phone charging, Apple CarPlay and navigation are also appreciated. Rain-sensing wipers clean the screen.
On the flip side, I could do without the annoying parking sensors that beep immediately upon starting whether you’re in gear and driving into anything or not. The rear camera is much nicer. I do not get the dash-mounted head-up display that makes you look down to view it; it’s a mere imitation of real head-up displays that visually project over the hood. BMW has very nice HUDs, so maybe Mini will receive help.
Clubman JCWs burble with a 2.0-liter turbocharged 4-cylinder engine delivering 228 horsepower — plenty to plant power to pavement through the standard all-wheel drive system. As in all Minis, the shifter for the 6-speed manual transmission is a bit stiff, but gets the most out of the engine. Fuel economy is rated 21/31-MPG city/hwy — not stellar for a compact, but frugal for a performance machine that can run 0-60 mph in 6 seconds and 147 mph top speed.
Owning any Mini is about the driving experience. Keeping in mind it has a firm sport suspension, the car does a good job of soaking up rough pavement. But it’s really at home sweeping through fast curvy backroads, throttling the Interstate or honing the local track club. The chassis and steering hold hands as if they are happily married. Oversized brakes keep it all on the pavement.
My family owned a Mini Countryman for five years. It was always an enjoyable car to drive on the highway, but the rough ride and rattles tried our patience. If the Clubman JCW proves the more refined machine I just experienced, I could go for a Mini that’s been worked over by John Cooper.
Prices for the Mini Clubman start at $24,800, rising to $35,900 for JCW editions and $41,500 as tested. At that price, competition includes the Mercedes-Benz GLC, VW Golf R, Subaru WRX and Audi S3.
**Friday 03.30 — Saturday 03.31**

**L.A. Dance Project makes its Dallas debut**

If your last name is “millipede,” you’re gonna be interested in feet … even if you spell it differently, as choreographer Benjamin Millepied does. His brainchild, the L.A. Dance Project, has built up a sterling reputation in just five years for high-energy modern dance that is exciting, new and very accessible. TITAS presents the Dallas debut of this hot company for two nights.

DEETS: Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

**Friday 03.23 — Sunday 04.15**

**Jubilee stomps it up to ‘Ain’t Nothin’ But the Blues’**

Perhaps even more than jazz, the blues is a quintessential American musical form, though its roots go back to African chant, and branch off into Delta spirituals, Chicago nightclubs and Harlem honkytonks. It’s a rich cultural resource, to be sure, and grows even with electronic-funk, neo-soul and more. The jukebox musical *It Ain’t Nothin’ But the Blues* packs all those styles plus into its whirlwind historical history of foot-stompin’ and roof-raisin’ music. Presented by Fort Worth’s Jubilee Theatre.

DEETS: Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. JubileeTheatre.org.
**ARTSWEEK**

**THEATER**

**It Ain’t Nothin’ But the Blues.** Jubilee Theatre in Fort Worth presents its local premiere of the jukebox musical celebrating African chant, Delta spirituals and urban honkytonk. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through April 15. JubileeTheatres.org.

**The Great Society.** The follow-up to Robert Schenkkan’s award-winning biography of LBJ’s White House years, including his work with Martin Luther King Jr. Presented by DTC and Houston’s Alley Theatre. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through April 1. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**She Kills Monsters.** A dramatic comedy loaded with fantastical monsters, sexual awakenings and role-playing. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through April 1. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Hitchcock Blonde.** A drama that weaves together three stories, with the Master of Suspense at the heart of it. Directed by Benjamin Lutz. Final weekend. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Eventbrite.com for tickets.

**DANCE**

**Riverdance.** The Irish step dancing company returns for its historic 20th anniversary tour. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 23–24. ATTPAC.org.

**CONCERTS**

**Turtle Creek Chorale: Anthems.** Dallas’ men’s chorus presents the latest show in its season, celebrating four original compositions that call attention to the bonds that connect us. Each night will feature a special guest appearance by a local luminary. See story Page 14.


**Yayoi Kusama: All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins.** The DMA features the only Infinity Mirror Room of its kind in a North American collection, this tribute to the gourd by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through April 1. DMA.org.

**First Sculpture: Handaxe to Figure Stone.** An exhibit of found and modified objects from the Paleolithic era of human enterprise. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through April 28. NasherScultureCenter.org.

attention to the bonds that connect us. Each night will feature a special guest appearance by a local luminary. See story Page 14.

FINE ART
Yayoi Kusama: All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins. The DMA features the only Infinity Mirror Room of its kind in a North American collection, this tribute to the gourd by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through April 1. DMA.org.
First Sculpture: Handaxe to Figure Stone. An exhibit of found and modified objects from the Paleolithic era of human enterprise. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through April 28. NasherScultureCenter.org.

FRIDAY 03.23
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 03.24
COMMUNITY
FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

TUESDAY 03.27
FILM
Weird Science. “Classic” teen comedy from the 1980s about nerds making the perfect woman. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 03.29
CABARET
Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy’s Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 03.30
EVENT
Dallas 40th Reunion. TV stars Linda Gray and Patrick Duffy reunite for a weekend of events at Southfork Ranch, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the debut of the nighttime drama Dallas. For a complete lineup, visit Dallas40.com.

THEATER

Kelly LeBrock and Anthony Michael Hall star in the ’80s teen comedy “Weird Science,” screening Tuesday at the Magnolia.

FRIDAY 03.30
EVENT
Dallas 40th Reunion. TV stars Linda Gray and Patrick Duffy reunite for a weekend of events at Southfork Ranch, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the nighttime drama Dallas. For a complete lineup, visit Dallas40.com.

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SPECTRUM
214-788-4792 | People.SMU.edu/Spectrum

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AMELIA COURT
214-590-5847 | ParklandHospital.com

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LEGACY COUNSELING CENTER
214-520-6308 | LegacyCare.org

LEGAL HOSPICE OF TEXAS
214-521-6622 | LegalHospice.org

NELSON-TEBEDO HEALTH CENTER
214-526-2336 | MyResourceCenter.org

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Fr. Worth | 972-321-7473 | NoTexasAIDS.org

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Inside Hollywood

Trans actors get patron, and are Dolly, Lily and Jane going back to work?

Ryan Murphy’s *Pose* places trans actors front and center. If we can all survive as a nation until summer, *Pose* will be here to see us through. The latest TV series from mega-creator Ryan Murphy is set in mid-’80s New York City and will dive deeply into the world of underground ball culture, so memorably depicted in the documentaries *Paris is Burning* and *Kiki*. There are the usual famous faces attached to the show, people like Kate Mara, Billy Porter and James Van Der Beek. But if we’re being honest, the real thrill is going to be the sheer number of transgender actors who’ll be taking their shot on the show. MJ Rodriguez, Indya Moore, Dominique Jackson, Hailie Sahar and Angelica Ross, most of whom are first-timers or at least in the early stages of their acting careers, will collectively make *Pose* the show with the most trans actors playing trans characters in TV history. Verdict: we’re watching. We don’t even care if it’s good like early *Glee* or terrible like later *Glee*. We’re watching.

Lee Pace (Pushing Daisies) came out as bisexual — to the best of our ability to interpret his statement, that is — and he did so in that way that celebrities who’d rather not be asked too many questions about much of anything come out, by calling the interviewer “intrusive.” (We like to think we had him sort all the way back to Soldier’s Girl and Wonderfalls, well before Ian McKellen accidentally outing him, but that’s just us thinking we have special powers of observation.) Oh well, we’re still glad to have him on board and we assume he’ll get used to being publicly queer soon enough. Meanwhile, he’s got a new project, one that takes the idea of scandal back to a more innocent, less jaded, pre-Trump era, when most celebrities didn’t come out at all, and when a famous man getting busted for cocaine and other crimes was a big deal and we were all bummed about it because it meant that the Back to the Future car wasn’t going to be as big a deal as we’d hoped. The film is called *Driven* and *Pose* will play none other than John DeLorean, inventor of that iconic, now vintage-cool vehicle, a man who also got involved with crime and cocaine and sent it all crashing down. It also stars Judy Greer, Jason Sudeikis and Corey Stole, so we’re pretty much here for it right now, even though it’s due later in 2018.

Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin are ready to reboot 9 to 5. The plan is for Patricia Resnick — the original screenwriter — and Rashida Jones (*Parks and Recreation*) to write it. The plan is for three new young women to star in it. But the plan we care most about for the in-talks reboot of 9 to 5 is that Dolly, Jane and Lily are all on board. This is probably the best news of 2018 so far, and if you don’t agree then we don’t know you and you don’t know us. 9 to 5, for you young people, is the classic 1980 comedy about women fighting workplace harassment and discrimination. It also gave the world the great Dolly Parton hit song of the same name. And given the current movement of women in the workplace demanding better treatment, what better time to reboot? The young women haven’t been cast yet, but they will find more than capable mentors in the O.G. nine-to-fivers. Can’t wait, obviously, but Dolly’s the one with the best public statement on the matter. She advised production to pick up the pace: “I told them we better get after it or it’s going to be 95.” Indeed.

Denis O’Hare, Anna Kendrick get untitled for now. OK, maybe this one is a bit obscure if you don’t follow British comedy, but if you do then you know the name Christopher Morris is one to trust. The wicked comic genius behind shows like *Brass Eye*, *The Day Today* and *Nathan Barley*, and director of the blistering terrorism comedy *Four Lions* — yes, we said terrorism comedy — has a new film in the works. It is currently without a title, and we know nothing about its content. We do know that it stars Anna Kendrick, gay actor Denis O’Hare (True Blood), Orange is the New Black actor Danielle Brooks, and one of our fave queer stand-up comedians James Adomian (*BoJack Horseman*). But that’s plenty to go on for now. It could star sock puppets, frankly, and we’d still give it our full attention. So while we’re waiting around for a title, go investigate Morris’ earlier work. You’ll be glad — and possibly unsettled and disturbed — that you did.

— Romeo San Vicente

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Making the SCENE the week of March 23–29:

- Alexandre’s: Filter Kings on Friday, Bad Habits on Saturday, Wayne Smith on Sunday, K-Marie on Tuesday, Anna Fredericika Popova on Wednesday, Chris Chism on Thursday.
- Club Changes: Miss Outa Site at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- Club Reflection: Imperial Court meeting at 1 p.m., Trinity River Bears meeting at 2:30 p.m. and Bears Cobbler Cook-off at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- Dallas Eagle: Naugh-Tea Sunday begins at noon.
- Hidden Door: Mahanna Street is closed until May 1. Take Wheeler Street or Cedar Plaza Lane to Bowser.
- JR.’s Bar & Grill: Asia O’Hara hosts a RuPaul’s Drag Race Season 10 watching party on Thursday.
- Marty’s Live: Drag It Out hosted by Nicole O’hara Munro at 10 p.m. on Tuesday.
- S4: Sexy Sundays with DJ Snowhite
- Sue Ellen’s: Cherry Bomb on Saturday, Bella, Darla & Izzy at 3:30 p.m. followed by Bad Habits on Sunday. Tuesday Bluesday with Tyla.
- The 515 Bar: 4-Year Anniversary Party on Sunday.
- The Rose Room: Kara Fox Paris on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- TMC: The Mining Company: Trashy Tuesdays.
- Urban Cowboy Saloon: Tara St. Stone hosts Trailer Park Divas Drag Brunch at noon on Sunday, Texas Gay Rodeo Association show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: OSO Sexy Extra Innings at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- Zipper’s: Monday Madness with sounds by DJ Rudeboy.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth

Southwest Airlines: Best Airline
Crinkles & Co. Best New Restaurant
Craighead Green Gallery: Best Art Gallery
Cassie Nova: Best Drag Queen
Dr. Bill Henderson: Best Optical/Vision store; Best Optometrist
Alexandre’s: Best Cocktail Menu
Alex Long: Best Insurance Agent
Lost Souls Rugby: Best Local LGBT Sports Organization
Black Tie Dinner: Best Party for a Cause

Nerdvana: Best New Restaurant

Dr. Tseng: Best Dentist

Pet Supplies Plus: Best Pet Supply

Green Lotus: Best Spa Treatment

Turtle Creek Chorale: Best Local Arts Organization/Best Local Group

Goody Goody Liquor: Best Liquor and Wine Selection

Campuzano: Best Tex-Mex Restaurant (tie)

North Haven Gardens: Best Garden Supply

Hollywood Feed: Best Pet Grooming

Fantastic Moves: Best Moving Company

Lula B’s: Best Vintage/Antique/Consignment

Uptown Physicians Group, Dr. David Lee: Best Medical Group Practice/Best General Practitioner
RVA WINNERS

Norma’s Cafe: Best Diner
Metro Paws: Best Veterinarian
Go Go Dog Walk: Best Pet Sitter/Dog Walker
Parigi: Best Dining Experience

Out Of The Closet: Best Thrift Store
Max Dakota: Best Exotic Dancer
Ikea: Best Furniture Store
Nailed Nail Bar: Best Mani/Pedi

SPCA: Best Animal Adoption
Park Place: Best Import Auto Dealership
Hunky’s: Best Burger

Cedar Springs Tap House: Best Patio/Lunch Spot
Best Lesbian Bar: Sue Ellen’s
Dr. Michael Shippy: Best Chiropractic
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Sean Baugh: Best LGBT Role Model
Nathan Scott Photography: Best Photographer/Videographer
Dallas Museum of Art: Best Local Museum
Ron Allen: Best Accountant/Tax Preparation
Bill Moore, Advanced Skin Fitness: Best Cosmetic Practitioner
Ojeda’s: Best Tex-Mex (tie)
Robert Elorduy: Best Personal Trainer/Massage Therapist
Outlines: Best Gay Apparel
Zeus Comics: Best Comics/Collectibles
Best Grocery: Kroger
Dale Hansen: Best Straight Ally
Wayne Smith: Best Karaoke Host
Oishii: Best Asian/Sushi
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Solution on Page 69

Across
1 Diana of Lady Sings the Blues
5 Where they sing “Hello Dalai”?
10 Peggy of WOW Cafe
14 Engaged in
15 The way we word
16 Not hard to get in bed
17 Jane Spahr and Mychal Judge
18 Male partner of St. Bacchus
19 La Traviata solo
20 Paul Newman role in Exodus
21 1979 Bette Midler film
23 Industrial-size container
24 Shaft of a knight
26 Atlas Shrugged author Rand
27 “___ we a pair?”
29 Provide gratis
31 Bay bobber
32 Sweeney Todd hot spot
34 Bonehead
38 The Bells ___ Mary’s
41 Where boxers are visible
42 Like Nijinsky’s ballet moves
43 www.stopaids.org, e.g.
44 Emulated Sara Gilbert
45 Prepares Easter eggs
46 Ambulance letters
47 Boot attachment for Jack Twist
48 Wallace’s running mate in 1968
49 Quit, with “out”
50 Colette’s fathers
51 Like Scar in The Lion King
52 F-word start, for Socrates?
53 Bear up there
54 Penn. neighbor
55 No player for the Eagles, e.g.
58 WBA decision
60 AfterEllen.com and others
62 Scrabble companion of Q
63 Look at a hottie in a gay bar
64 Twin to Jacob
65 Where Patty Sheehan puts it
66 Land of Emma Donoghue
67 Diggs of Private Practice
68 Full of lip
69 ___ many words

Down
1 Like Gomer’s Mayberry
2 Type of queen
3 Poet Edna
4 Signal that goes either way
5 Bottom
6 “___ little silhouetto of a man...”
7 With 36-Down, Dame
8 Prod
9 Ball balancers
10 Poseidon’s province
11 He was Edna in Hairspray
12 B. D. Wong, for one
13 Earp, who shot off at the O.K. Corral
21 Word after pro
22 What 50 million Frenchmen never drink
25 Get hard
28 Prominent cock
30 Pressure meas.
31 Muscle Mary’s pride
32 Like phone sex
33 Lisa Ben’s magazine
35 Elizabeth Taylor movie on the Nile
36 See 7-Down
37 Calls incorrectly
39 Pranksters who have been exposed?
40 Triple X, for Caesar
45 Prepares Easter eggs
47 Boot attachment for Jack Twist
54 Threesome that doesn’t work out?
56 Drags
57 Start of a child’s rhyme
59 Bicolor bite
61 Wicks once of the WNBA
63 Island necklace
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