Making it work
Dallas designer Venny Etienne prepares to walk the ‘Runway’
by Arnold Wayne Jones, Page 16
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IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®
This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

**MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY**

**BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:**
- **Worsening of Hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

**ABOUT BIKTARVY**

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

**Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:**
- dofetilide
- rifampin
- any other medicines to treat HIV-1

**BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY**

**Tell your healthcare provider if you:**
- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other health problems.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:**
- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

**POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY**

**BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:**
- Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.**

**HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY**

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

**GET MORE INFORMATION**

- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.

Get HIV support by downloading a free app at MyDailyCharge.com
BIKTARVY® is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in certain adults. BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you. To learn more, visit BIKTARVY.com.
Northaven’s having none of it

Northaven United Methodist Church has used a Pride flag to cover the words “United Methodist” on its large sign facing Preston Road to protest the recent vote by the UMC General Conference to discriminate against LGBT members.

The church voted to retain wording in its Book of Discipline declaring that homosexuality is not acceptable, so same-sex couples may not marry in the church, and LGBT members may not be clergy.

On March 2, the parking lot at Northaven was full by 9:30 a.m., an hour-and-a-half before Sunday morning service, as attendees gathered to hear the Rev. Marti Soper promise the congregation that nothing at Northaven, which has long been LGBT-inclusive, would change. Many in the congregation, as well as Soper, wore rainbow stoles during the service.

Two years ago, Northaven’s members voted almost unanimously to allow same-sex weddings at the church. A plan rejected by the General Conference would have allowed those pastors and churches that wanted to ordain LGBT clergy and marry same-sex couples to do so without repercussions from the denomination.

Soper acknowledged that she could be charged and sanctioned as she continues to support her LGBT members. She said she expects that in the Dallas diocese, the sanctions would be minor because the bishop stands on the side of equality.

Soper acknowledged that information might get to other churches and said the congregation might keep pictures of weddings at the church off social media.

In the Methodist Church, anyone may file charges against a pastor. In the case of same-sex weddings, charges usually originate in another congregation that doesn’t support the practice.

While the hundreds of people in attendance at Northaven on Sunday showed support for their pastor, their comments and questions indicated they were worried about Soper, and some questioned whether she should remain affiliated with the Methodist Church.

Leaving the church is an option for the congregation, but, Soper said, not something that can happen quickly. Her salary and pension are paid through the denomination, as is the mortgage on the building. The Methodist Church is working to resolve those issues because many churches are considering leaving the denomination.

Soper said there are some options that would protect the church even within the Methodist Church, and they are exploring them. She said she’s also waiting to see how the Judicial Council, the church’s judicial branch, rules on the path approved at the general conference.

The council has already indicated it will find the Traditional Plan to be unconstitutional.

Mavs hosting Pride Night on March 26

The Dallas Mavericks have designated Tuesday, March 26, as their Pride Celebration night and are encouraging LGBT basketball fans to take advantage of special ticket prices while also helping out a great cause.

The Mavs will host the Sacramento Kings at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave., that evening, with the game starting at 7:30 p.m. Kathy Jack, the Mavericks’ LGBT community liaison, said on Facebook this week that there will be a reception for LGBT fans before the game too.

Tickets for the evening can be purchased at GroupMatics.Events/MavsPride19, and a portion of each ticket purchased through this link will go directly to Resource Center. AND, if you buy your ticket through this link, you will get a special Mavs Pride t-shirt while supplies last. WARNING: T-shirts will be sold out before tickets are, so get yours quickly.

Tickets range from $24 to $114.

‘London Patient’ cured of HIV

Scientists with the consortium called IciStem, which is being supported by amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, announced this week at the Conference of Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Seattle that they have a patient from London that has “not experienced a rebound of his HIV during the past 18 months off antiretroviral therapy (ART).”

According to an email sent from amfAR, “This is the longest duration of ART-free undetectable virus in an adult since the Berlin patient, who is believed to have been cured by a similar procedure 10 years ago.”
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*Our PrEP Navigator has more information about the free PrEP medication program.

817-479-1200

Transgender Wellness Clinic
Hormone therapy for transgender adults, offering free labs and free clinic visits. Plus receive emotional health support from a licensed professional counselor free of charge. Open to transgender individuals regardless of HIV status.

Call 469-310-4500 for more information.
MARCH
• March 8: International Women’s Day celebration
The local celebration for International Women’s Day continues with Just-A-Lunch event from 12:45-4 p.m. at Asian Star Chinese buffet in the southeast corner of the shopping center at Buckner Boulevard and I-30. Cost is about $15 payable at the restaurant; reservations are required. RSVP by calling 347-933-1256.

• March 10: Prime Timers
Visit then games at a private home in Carrollton from 2:30-5 p.m. RSVP by text or call 214-218-0912.

• March 12: Grief support group
LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• March 12: Prime Timers
Dinner at 7 p.m. at Alfonso’s Italian, 718 N. Buckner Blvd.

• March 14-17: Texas Bear Round-Up

• March 14: Business Connections Mixer
Bite, cocktails and music presented by North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce from 5:30-7 p.m. at Erdos + Ko, 2050 N. Stemmons Freeway, 10th floor. Complimentary to members and escorted guests.

• March 14: Mayoral candidates forum
Preston Hollow Democrats has candidates for mayor of Dallas speaking during its general meeting from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Walnut Hill Recreation Center, 10011 Midway Road. Members will vote on an endorsement.

• March 15: Prime Timers
Happy Hour at 5:30 p.m. at Woody’s, 4011 Cedar Springs Road.

• March 15: DFW Pride Happy Hour
Private bar, complimentary bites from Wolfgang Puck and music in the board room from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. The museum will be open until midnight, and attendees are encouraged to stay.

• March 15: Federal Club Happy Hour
Mingling upstairs from 6-8 p.m. at Merchant House, 4040 Maple Ave.

• March 15-17: Blinded: Turtles Rock Out
The Turtle Creek Chorale sings classic rock — Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, Meatloaf, Queen — on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St.

• March 15: Just-A-Game Night
Private bar, complimentary bites from Wolfgang Puck and music in the board room from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. The museum will be open until midnight, and attendees are encouraged to stay.

• March 15: Social Justice Burnout
Licensed professional counselors including Jimmy Owen speak about how seeing and experiencing social injustice affects our mental health from 2-5 p.m. at Addison Conference and Theatre Centre, Stone Cottage, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Tickets at eventbrite.

• March 16: Texas Bear Round-Up Dinner at 7 p.m. at Alfonso’s Italian, 718 N. Buckner Blvd. RSVP by text or call 214-218-0912.

• March 16: Prime Timers Visit then games at a private home in Carrollton from 2:30-5 p.m. RSVP by text or call 214-218-0912.

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• March 18-19: DFW Pride Happy Hour Private bar, complimentary bites from Wolfgang Puck and music in the board room from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. The museum will be open until midnight, and attendees are encouraged to stay.

• March 19: Just-A-Game Night
Private bar, complimentary bites from Wolfgang Puck and music in the board room from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. The museum will be open until midnight, and attendees are encouraged to stay.

• March 19: Social Justice Burnout Licensed professional counselors including Jimmy Owen speak about how seeing and experiencing social injustice affects our mental health from 2-5 p.m. at Addison Conference and Theatre Centre, Stone Cottage, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Tickets at eventbrite.

• March 20: Texas Bear Round-Up Dinner at 7 p.m. at Alfonso’s Italian, 718 N. Buckner Blvd. RSVP by text or call 214-218-0912.

• March 20: Prime Timers Visit then games at a private home in Carrollton from 2:30-5 p.m. RSVP by text or call 214-218-0912.

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THE GAY AGENDA

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TV. She also enjoys going for runs, playing with toys and cuddling with people. If you have another dog at home, bring them for a meet and greet to see if they get along. Vervain has been spayed and microchipped and is current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today! #167458

Vervain is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas’ Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are $100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, $50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, $25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and $25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more). Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older. Initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

Meet Vervain, a 1½-year-old, black-and-white pit bull mix weighing 58 pounds. She’s a sweet, playful gal who loves attention and is quite the social butterfly. She’s friendly, loving and very smart. While in a foster home, she learned routines very quickly and proved to be a great houseguest. She is crate-trained and housetrained, and she knows basic commands. She does fine when left alone and is happy to hang out on the couch and watch

Theatre Centre, Stone Cottage, 2-5 p.m. at Addison Conference and

• March 16: House of DIFFA: Futuro
A fashion experience that provides an exciting mix of philanthropy, theatrics and DIFFA’s legendary runway production at 6 p.m. at the

Omni Hotel Dallas, 555 S. Lamar St. Tickets at DIFFADallas.org.

• March 16: Gaysby Gaybingo
Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at rcdallas.org.

• March 16: Prime Timers
Adventure road trip to Texas Food Truck Showdown in Waco. Carpool from Oak Cliff. RSVP to 214-218-0912.

• March 18: Equality Day
Equality Texas holds its biennial lobby day at the Texas Legislature.

• March 18: Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall
Third organizational meeting of Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall will be at 7:30 p.m. at Harry Meyers Community Center, 815 E. Washington St., Rockwall. For more information, contact Patti or Heidi at sdrockwall@att.com.

• March 19: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas
Largest Democratic club in Texas meets at 6:30 p.m. at Mattito’s, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave.

• March 20: Prime Timers
Lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Cheddars, 12355 Greenville Ave.

• March 21: GALA Happy Hour
Free appetizers, game tables, for GALA’s third Thursday happy hour from 5-8:30 p.m. at Henry’s, 5741 Legacy Drive, Suite 100, Plano.

• March 21: Tyler Transgender Support
Tyler Transgender Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the Genecov Room, Tyler Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway, Tyler.

• March 23: AIDS Walk South Dallas
Walkers gather at 8 a.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd. $25 individual walker. $30 Walker with pet. Vendor space $50.

• March 23: Prime Timers
Prime Timers DFW 29th chapter anniversary with bingo and door prizes at 4 p.m. social and 5 p.m. dinner at Dunston’s, 5423 W. Lovers Lane.

• March 24: Prime Timers
Visit then games from 2:30-5 p.m. in Carrollton hosted by Harry and Tommy.

• March 26: Grief support group
LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• March 26: Family Night at
Dunkins Pizza
GALA family night’s 10th year of networking, socializing, happy hour, rock n’ roll and pizza and 10 percent of proceeds benefits GALA Youth from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Dunkin’s Pizza, 8930 State Hwy 121, McKinney.

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Art by and for the people

Arttitude commemorating 50th anniversary of Stonewall Riots

ALEX GONZALEZ | Contributing Writer
alexgonzalez@planoprofile.com

Since its inception in 2014, Arttitude has worked to bring the LGBTQ community together through art. Through donations and sponsorships from various organizations and individuals, Arttitude has been able to produce several art exhibits, events and showcases at no cost to attendees. As part of the impending revamp of the Cedar Springs Strip in Oak Lawn, the organization is creating a mural to commemorate 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which will be celebrated in June this year.

“We will be featuring the trans activists who were instrumental in starting the gay rights movement,” Arttitude co-founder Jerome Larez explained. “I think people who are not part of the ‘G’ or ‘L’ part of the LGBTQ spectrum — people of color and the trans community — often go overlooked. We don’t really realize the impact they had with the Stonewall Riots.”

Arttitude held community engagement sessions to encourage Dallas’s LGBTQ community to vocalize what they want to see in the mural. Arttitude reps will hold three more engagement sessions before they starting work on the mural.

And they hope the community will remain engaged with the mural project once the painting begins.

Arttitude co-founder RafiQ Salleh-Flowers said, “The idea is to bring the community together. We will invite members of the community to come paint with the muralists, that way, instead of one gay person painting the mural, it will represent people from all parts of the LGBTQ community.”

During the production of the mural, Arttitude plans to host parking lot parties with food trucks and possibly drag shows to hopefully get people of all ages, genders, sexual orientations, races and abilities engaged and contributing to the project.

“Everything we do is complementary to the community,” Salleh-Flowers said.

“We want people to have access to art.”

Apart from the planned Stonewall Mural, Arttitude’s MariconX exhibit, celebrating the works of Latinx LGBTQ artists, returns this summer.

“‘Maricon’ is such a strong word,” said Larez. “It’s so derogatory. So we decided to reclaim that word and turn it into something positive. It brought the Latinx artist community together. It was a way of saying, ‘This is who we are, and this word is no longer going to be something negative for us.’”

Arttitude is currently accepting submissions for this year’s MariconX exhibit, which will be held at the Latino Cultural Center from June to August.

Work on the Stonewall mural is expected to begin within the next month, and the mural should be complete by mid-to-late May, in time for Dallas Pride on June 1-2.

Rafiq Salleh-Flowers, left, and Jerome Larez at the HIV mural on Cedar Springs Road.

America’s Got Talent semi-finalist Christina Wells headlining fundraiser at S4

Christina Wells, one of the semifinalists on Season 13 of America’s Got Talent in 2018, is headlining “Dinner and a Show” on Saturday, March 9, in the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Proceeds will benefit Tucker’s Gift and North Texas Pride, and tickets are $20.

The event is presented by the Miss Gay Texas State pageant system and hosted by Linzee Serrell. Korina Duvall will emcee. Other local performers participating in the show include Vivian Vee, Reva Dena, Sable Alexander, Toni Faye, Dita D’dur, Angelica Karmichael,
Singing and supper

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Doors open at 5 p.m., and dinner, featuring Dickey’s barbecue, will be served from 5 to 6 p.m. The show starts at 6 p.m.

Wells, a native Texan who holds a bachelor of science degree in nursing, worked for 15 years as a registered nurse before returning to her first love — performing. She sat down this week to answer a few questions for Dallas Voice.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: You gave up singing for nursing when you graduated from college. Have you now given up nursing for singing?

Christina Wells: After 15 years of nursing and usually having three jobs at a time, I quit working as a nurse [last] Nov. 15. I just recently celebrated three months of being a full-time performer.

But I will always maintain my nursing license. Nursing is more than a job; it is a
Longtime LGBT rights activist Erin Moore is running for Dallas City Council Place 9, a seat being vacated after two terms by Councilman Mark Clayton. Moore is one of five openly-LGBT candidates running for the council this year.

Moore has a long history of serving the LGBT community. Soon after Moore became active in the LGBT community in Dallas, WFAA interviewed her regarding a city council vote, identifying her with an on-screen name line as “Erin Moore, lesbian.” The incident is still a running joke among Moore and her family and friends.

She’s been president of Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance and has held several offices, including president, with Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, and she served on the Stonewall Democrats national board. As a member of the Democratic National Committee’s platform committee, Moore helped get support of marriage equality included in the platform for the first time.

While president of DGLA, Moore helped get protections based on gender identity included in city ordinances for the first time.

And as a member of the Mayor’s LGBT Task Force, she helped comb through ordinances to find areas that needed updating to become LGBT-inclusive.

Moore says that her job the last four years serving as Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel’s chief of staff makes her the most qualified candidate to serve all residents of Place 9, an area that surrounds White Rock Lake and runs east from there.

“I’ve been working on the day-to-day issues that affect everybody,” Moore said, pointing to gentrification, transportation and preserving White Rock Lake as the three issues most important to her and those living in the district.

While she supports revitalization of neighborhoods, Moore noted that on her street alone there have been three teardowns recently. Gentrification has raised the value of homes in the area, she said, but with that comes increased taxes.

“Keeping people in their homes is a problem,” she said, adding that she proposes offering an escrow account for those who’ve paid off their mortgages.

That way, she explained, they pay their taxes and insurance in monthly installments and aren’t hit with a large bill at the end of the year.

Those hit with large end-of-year tax bills they can’t pay can arrange payments, Moore acknowledged, but they are slapped with significant penalties that can cause them to fall even further for the next year.

Noting that as Dallas continues its rapid growth, Moore said, traffic problems continue to grow, too. In her current position as Daniel’s chief of staff, she said, she has involved in tackling those transportation problems. She’s worked on the rebuilding I-635 and the 3G (Garland, Grand and Gaston) intersection projects, improving bike trails and addressing the basics, like potholes.

Moore said she is interested in environmental issues and has volunteered, within District 9, with For the Love of the Lake, an organization that helps keep the White Rock Lake shoreline clean. She suggests preserving the Great Trinity Forest and the Trinity River by having that area designated as an historic landmark to prevent development, rerouting the river or building “underwater highways.”

Moore also wants to see road funds taken only after bonds are issued.

Moore is also concerned with the growing problem of homelessness, saying she’d like to see some of the services for the homeless offered in other areas of the city, instead of just in the downtown area. She said she was horrified by the curfew recently passed by the council, and once she is on the council, she said, she will work to rescind it.

That curfew, Moore said, disproportionately and unfairly targets homeless, LGBT and disadvantaged youth.

Moore worked for many years as a graphic designer, and her last job in that field was at Dallas Voice. During her campaign, she’s on leave from her position as Daniel’s chief of staff and, if elected, intends to be a full-time city council member.

Moore is married to DGLA President and Lambda Weekly Co-Host Patti Fink. They’ve been together almost 20 years and were legally married in April 2016.
So many of my friends from high school have completed college and started lives, careers and families, while I’m hesitant to finish college, since I still don’t know what I even want to major in.

How do you figure out what to do with the rest of your life? — Lost

Dear Lost,

I can hear the confusion in your letter. You start out describing how well your life works for you then immediately follow with how empty your life feels. There is no crystal ball to guide you. But there are ways you can find your path.

One way is to take an Interest Inventory Test. These tests are administered in community colleges and universities. A guidance counselor will go over the results with you to show you what careers people with similar test results as yours are in.

Talking to a guidance counselor about not knowing what to major in can help you find ways to continue toward some degree.

Another way to find direction is to talk to your friends about their journey of finding their paths. Listening to your friends’ stories can give you direction and inspiration.

You are not afraid of hard work. I can see this because you work two jobs. My advice to you is to get back in school. Get a degree.

There are more people than not whose career is not what they had planned. But their degree opened the door to their future.

Good luck, Candy

Dear Candy,

My husband works at home, and thankfully works so well he can support myself and my two children without either of us having to leave our youngest’s side. It took a while for us to agree upon me going full “stay-at-home parent” for the sake of not putting our child in daycare. But for the last few years, I’ve wanted the freedom to work some kind of part-time job and have additional income for myself and some ambition for me to get out of the house more. I love being a mother and a wife, but I’d be lying if I hadn’t thought about severing all of that just to pursue something solely for me and to fuel what little ambition I have left.

What should I do?
— When is it My Turn?

Dear When,

First, let me commend you for being in touch with how you feel and what you want. You feel frustrated with being at home all day every day. You want more for yourself — more stimulation and money that is just for you.

With a couple, when plans are made and deals are struck it’s important to remember these plans and to remember that deals are open to growth and change. You are not the same person you were five years ago. Neither are your husband and children. The deal needs to be renegotiated with fresh eyes.

Tell your husband your dreams. You want to reach your potential not only as a wife and mother, but also as an individual. He wants you to reach your dreams, too. He just needs to hear how you can reach your dreams and be happy at home, too.

A Gottman couples counselor can help the two of you communicate, find ways to reach your dreams and find happiness together. Go make an appointment.

— Good luck, Candy
calling so it will always be a part of my life.

You are known for your message of positivity. Expand on that a bit; what is your message, and how do you stay positive yourself? I think that everyone has something to say or a cause, so to speak. My cause is self confidence and body positivity.

I think I received an extra helping of the positive outlook gene, because I have always had the “Pollyanna” point of view. I think that we are capable of realizing our dreams and that we have all we need to make that happen by understanding we are enough and by seeing our own potential.

I accept my imperfections and flaws, and I am learning to love the woman that I am and what she is capable of achieving. I want to help others to see and feel the same.

You were named Houston’s Pride Superstar for 2016-17. Why do you think you resonate, as a performer and as an individual, with the LGBT community? What makes this community special for you?

The LGBTQIA+ community has always been very special to me, first and foremost because I am a lesbian. I came out of the closet when my sons were 4- and 1-years-old, and we have attended Pride as a family almost every year. Often times, the annual gay Pride Idol event was the only way I would get a chance to perform.

When I auditioned for Houston Pride Superstar, I just wanted to sing, and I was so surprised when I won. It was a pivotal moment in my life, and it opened the door to my singing career.

I feel that most people — within the community or not — connect with me because I am a plus-size woman, a minority woman (half black, half white), a single mom, a nurse, a caregiver, a lesbian — and I am not afraid to be seen, nor am I afraid to share the more vulnerable parts of my life.

What message do you have for the LGBT community? I have learned there is strength in vulnerability and in sharing our struggles. We strengthen our community when we share our hardships and shore each other up. I hope that my visibility inspires others to reach for their dreams and share their talents.

What’s next for you? What do you have in the works? I am working on an original album, and I am also working on a plus-size dress line. I am traveling all over the country giving motivational talks and singing, and I am so excited to get to sing for Dallas at The Rose Room.
HIV stigma as an obstacle for prevention

S tigma is a powerful, sometimes unseen force. And most of us experience it in some way or another.

Those working in the HIV space realize that stigma is an immense barrier to HIV testing and treatment. We talk about it, we advise everybody to eradicate it, and we discuss how training has the ability to enhance someone’s well-being and improve results for the communities most at risk in terms of contracting HIV.

Stigma can impede the realization of HIV/STI prevention on the ground — specifically when it comes to clean needle exchanges and safe places to inject. The Yale School of Public Health conducted a study examining whether or not Indiana’s 2011-2015 HIV outbreak in Scott County — spread largely through drug needles — could have been prevented or reduced. The authors concluded that if a clean needle exchange had been started in the early years of the emergency, the resulting diagnoses would have fallen to a third of the 2015 total.

Instead, the government of Indiana cut funding to the last HIV testing center in the county and did not declare a public health emergency until the number of infections had already fallen.

It is no coincidence that the avoidable tragedy of Scott County’s HIV outbreak was an intersection of two highly-stigmatized conditions in our society: HIV-positive status and drug addiction.

We live in a world where drug addicts are treated like criminals more often than they are treated like people with a disease, and HIV-positive people are treated with moral reproach. Maybe Indiana state officials were afraid of how it’d look for them to launch a clean needle exchange program, despite the immense amount of data showing that such programs work.

Maybe that’s why they ignored local public health leaders’ warnings and let the situation spiral out of control.

What always takes my breath away is that almost every social standard, approach and frame of mind can influence the spread of HIV, since HIV does not spread in a vacuum.

The HIV pandemic is specifically coupled with unnecessary stigma, and social equity is harmed. Ending HIV-related stigma requires considerably more effort than showing individuals how to discuss HIV in a delicate, capable way. HIV stigma incorporates social determinants: race and ethnicity, salary level, instruction level, sex and sexual identity, among others. If we want to end stigma so that we can stop similar emergencies by utilizing harm reduction options, we need to be having open discussions about sexuality, racial injustices, drug abuse and gender identity.

And beyond those conversations, we need to reject stigma.

This notion has been written about academically for decades, but we need to make it a priority for those with political power, keeping in mind that “the attribution of and internalization of stigma can reduce the effectiveness of prevention and harm reduction activities: that the stigmatization of client populations affects how they are treated and that the internalization of stigma by the client (or potential client populations) prevents them from accessing or fully utilizing the services on offer (Fitzgerald, McDonald, & Klugman, 2004; National AIDS Trust, 2003).”

Josh Robbins is an award-winning sexual health advocate, author of the site instilljosh.com and spokesperson for DatingPositives.com. He was nominated for a GLAAD media award in 2017 and recently won the National Lesbian and Gay Journalist Association’s Excellence Award in the blogging category.
IFFA, the design-centric fundraiser and social lodestar of gay Dallas, is only a few weeks away, and Venny Etienne is still fussing over the garment he plans to donate for the auction. The placket has not been attached, and he’s debating over what to do with the collar. He currently has a black faux-ostrich band but is considering chucking it for a simple strap of blue denim to match the rest of the piece.

“What do you think?” he asks.

The process of creating fashion can be a slow one for Etienne. He likes to multitask in his workroom — listening to music, sipping on a cabernet, checking in on social media and, eventually, making a decision and sewing something. Those were all luxuries he could not indulge, though, when he was cast in the upcoming season — the 17th — of *Project Runway.*

Etienne is certainly not the only Project Runway alum to donate to DIFFA, or even the first local one, but he may be the first who is on the cusp of reality TV fame while working on his jacket. The garment he’s donating to DIFFA this year won’t be his first; he’s an old hand at this. (See sidebar, Page 17, for details about this year’s DIFFA gala.) Since graduating from Wade College’s school of fashion design in 2015, he has built his brand (his label is called LeVenity) across North Texas, producing a steady stream of ready-to-wear women’s sportswear but also seasonal collections and custom work. But, because we live in the era we do, it’s not always enough to be talented; you also need to be on TV. (Is there any drag queen who hasn’t sent in an audition tape to *RuPaul’s Drag Race* or any line cook who hasn’t dreamed of being named *Top Chef*?)

Until last year, though, it wasn’t something Etienne had pursued. In fact, he had substantial misgivings about putting himself on display so early in his career.

“There’s always a flip-of-a-coin to it, because you’re putting yourself out there,” Etienne says. “[Some designers] may find it as a benefit [to their brand],
others may find it as a disadvantage. I had always been hesitant because I didn’t feel I was ready. And then there was the time restraint [to finish a challenge]. But people who have seen my journey have been pushing me to apply. They said, ‘Just don’t be the bitch.’”

He finally took the plunge last year, during a period of relative tumult for the venerable show, which has aired since 2004. First was the news that — after originating on the Bravo channel before migrating to Lifetime in 2010 — it would be returning for its 17th season to Bravo. Next was the shocking news that two of the stalwarts who had been with the show since the beginning — Emmy-winning host/mentor Heidi Klum and Tim Gunn — were leaving to start a new series for Amazon Prime. Who knew what rules were being thrown out and how different the show would be?

Nevertheless, Etienne applied when the casting call went out. And while there were some minor tweaks to the show (he’s hush-hush on the details before the season premiere on March 14), he says the experience went pretty much as he expected… although he concedes you can never really prepare for the reality of reality TV.

“I’ve seen other shows, and I kind of expected that it’s not just a design show — it’s still a production” — that is, they are making entertainment television.

“So I’m theirs for however long they need me. But it’s really hard!” he says. “Even right now, as I’m doing flyers [promoting a watch party], I’m asking friends, ‘What do you think of that font?’ So going on the show means I’m putting myself in front of fashion oracles who know a lot — [longtime judge] Nina [Garcia] is there, Brendan Maxwell, [Season 4 winner and new mentor] Christian Siriano. But my main focus was putting my best foot forward.”

That meant, more than anything, understanding his own strengths.

“I do sportswear, basically separates — pants, dresses, jackets — but I like edgy and sophisticated silhouettes… trendy and sporty at the same time. [And when it comes to the judging], it’s more about them having to decide who you are as a designer; as long as they understand who you are as a designer, [that’s how they judge you]. If your work is all about craftsmanship, then you show something frayed, they are...”

CARSON AND DANA AND LUCY, OH MY!

House of DIFFA: Futuro peers into tomorrow

For decades, the gala hosted by DIFFA — the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS — was centered on denim jackets that were restyled by designers and celebrities into runway couture, all to raise money to combat HIV/AIDS. But for the last decade, DIFFA has become something different each year, with the fashions built around themes, whether smoking jackets or masquerade glam or even circuswear.

For this year, House of DIFFA: Futuro leaves a wide-open doorway through which guests and designers can design their own style. Will it be silver jumpsuits? LED-embedded jock straps? Galactic headdresses?

THAT’S ALWAYS PART OF THE FUN IN CHECKING OUT THE FASHIONS.

Returning to the Omni Dallas Downtown Hotel, DIFFA will feature jackets, dresses and other wear donated by the likes of Dolce & Gabbana, Zac Posen, Theory, Ted Baker and more, all up for silent auction. For the live auction portion of the evening, DIFFA’s board tagged none other than Queer Eye original castmember (and current RuPaul’s Drag Race judge) Carson Kressley to serve as celebrity auctioneer. And comedian Dana Goldberg returns to Dallas — this time not at the Black Tie Dinner (where she has performed many times), but here. Guests will enjoy cocktails, appetizers, dinner and dancing (with music by DJ Lucy Wrubel) along with the runway show… and of course the change to people-watch.

Omni Dallas Hotel, 555 S. Lamar St. March 16. Doors open at 6 p.m. DIFFADallas.org.
Michael Carbonaro thinks a lot about the nature of reality.
But, ya know, not in a pretentious way.

In fact, the openly gay 42-year-old magician — who you might know from his hidden camera “Magic Clerks” segments on *The Tonight Show*, or his TruTV series *The Carbonaro Effect* (also streaming on Netflix) — is quite the opposite from pretentious. Friendly and open, he’s happy to talk about his history, his TV fame, his philosophy of performing. It’s just that, during our recent telephone interview in advance of his upcoming live show at the Majestic Theater, he had some interesting things to say about why magic is so bewitching.

“There is something about magic that charges us up because we think we know how the world operates,” he says. “And when you see something that looks impossible occur, it’s like a little window into a trap door in the universe. And you go, ‘Oh my gosh — I didn’t know the universe could work that way!’

Maybe it’s that love of the other side of the mirror, combined with his natural charisma, that makes Carbonaro’s artistry so engaging. During his live shows, the still-boyish wizard is impish and fun, devoid of the air of self-important cheesiness of, say, David Copperfield (who was Carbonaro’s hero growing up) — he’s both genuine and funny. The audience is along for the ride.

Contrast that with his television persona. On *The Carbonaro Effect*, he and
a team of writers come up with an endless supply of hidden camera pranks, each more inventive than the next. One minute, he’s pretending to be a research assistant who accidentally releases alien spiders from a rock recovered from a meteor site; the next, he’s portraying a bro-ish ski shop employee who manages to pull hundreds of pounds of equipment from a tiny backpack, to the amazement of his customers. Both are about fooling the eye... but in one case, the audience knows what it’s getting into. In the other, it’s as if the quantum world has been turned upside down.

Originally, Carbonaro thought he and his team could pull off about 10 episodes’ worth of tricks and gimmicks; now in its fourth season, the show has hit about 100.

“‘There’s something about magicians and their trickster spirits,’” he says when explaining how they’ve come up with so many ways to blow people’s minds. “‘We just get in a room and riff, ‘Wouldn’t it be cool to try and ship a bowling ball in a flat package?’”

Carbonaro, who met his husband on set on a TV production, says that trickster spirit, that attraction to how things aren’t, that ties the LGBTQ community to magic.

“Growing up gay, there was the concept of being shown the very heterocentric world, where people have a wife, and then they have kids, and then they get married, and that’s just what they do,” he says. “But there’s an amazing amount of freedom to saying, ‘Actually, no that’s not what I want to do,’” he says.

“It’s like what I was saying about magic — the world doesn’t necessarily operate the way that we all assume. And I think that’s very exciting,” he says, a final bit of impish glee in his voice. “I think that’s a charge.”
wondering who you are. Everything to me was a first experience, but I was really [surprised] by how real and down-to-earth the judges are. I know on the show they look very cutthroat, but I could see the constructive criticism and the love in what they are saying.

Etienne did have a few advantages over the other contestants, none of whom he knew prior to filming: He had been to Mood — the fabric store where the designers shop for all their materials — and so he knew the layout, the inventory. But that ultimately didn’t make much of a difference.

“I usually spend hours there!” he notes, but was given only 30 minutes to get everything he needed for a challenge. “And under pressure, anything can happen.”

The pressure, of course, is the life-blood of these kinds of programs; pushing the contestants to the brink is part of the drama.

“It was very exhausting, just the pressure of the challenges. These are one- or two-day challenges, and I don’t normally work on that schedule. They want to push you to the point of disaster, but sometimes the best things come out,” Etienne says.

And, he says, the friendships he forged with the other contestants were real.

“I think this season, in terms of camaraderie, will be just like the same I just saw on All Stars, where one person was helping the other one with a zipper — why not help? I’ve always had that mentality. Let’s put our best foot forward without sabotaging each other… but once the sabotage starts, game on!”

Etienne cannot reveal, of course, how well he did on the show. In terms of highlights, though, he says it was great meeting celebrities (“that’s something I’m not used to”), and was amazed at how tiny Christian Siriano is. But ultimately, he found it to be a positive experience… and one he approaches with open eyes on the prize.

“I don’t wanna be a TV designer,” he says. “I take my business seriously. Although I have received a lot of recognition in Dallas, I want to receive recognition on a broader scale. I’m not looking to be a public figure. I need clients and to make a profit, but I also want to inspire people. A lot of who I am came from the hood. I grew up in the projects and kept persevering. If my story could encourage people to go further, then that’s a personal mission — a good that I hope will come out of this show.”

But for now, he needs to finish that collar.
Friday 03.08 — Sunday 03.30

Classics Theatre Project returns with Sam Shepard’s ‘Fool for Love’

The Classic Theatre Project launched last summer with The Cherry Orchard, and the promise to stage meaningful works from the last century or so. The company jumps ahead a few decades with Sam Shepard’s dark comic romance Fool for Love, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, Company artistic director Joey Folsom stars alongside Sasha Mya Ada in a production directed by Van Quattro.


Friday 03.08 — Sunday 04.14

DTC’s ‘The Wolves’ explores the drive to be the best on a girls’ soccer team

What could be more cutthroat than a pack of wolves? Heirs fighting over a millionaire’s estate? Women at a shoe sale at Nordstrom? Amateurs. Try a girl’s soccer team. Sarah DeLappe’s dramat-ic comedy shows the drive, ambition, competition and lengths young athletes will go to be the best. The fierceness is on display in The Wolves, a Pulitzer finalist making its regional debut from Dallas Theater Center.


Thursday 03.14 — Sunday 03.17

The Best Little Bear-House in Texas! TBRU returns

The Texas Bear Round-Up — the annual congress of the hirsute, the cuddly and their fans — returns to Dallas, courtesy of the Dallas Bears, for a 24th incarnation. This year its theme is The Best Little Bear-House in Texas, which of course we always knew. Among the activities are a kick-off costume party, Mr. TBRU contest, a barbecue, beer busts and more. Entertainment includes a performance by Miss Coco Peru, as well as Bear Dance with special guest Vanessa Mateo, aka Miss Vanjie, pictured.

DEETS: Visit TBRU.org and Beardance.org for details and a complete schedule.

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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Are You Now, Or Have You Ever Been... Carlyle Brown wrote this drama about when queer poet Langston Hughes was compelled to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Final weekend. Presented by Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.


You Got Older. The second show of Kitchen Dog Theater’s 2018–19 season, this is a bawdy dark comedy by Clare Barron makes its regional premiere. Final weekend. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. KitchenDogTheater.org.

OPERA

Manon Lescaut. Puccini’s early work, an adaptation of a woman torn between love and money. Final performance March 9 at 7:30 p.m. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. DallasOpera.org.

FINE ART

Berthe Morisot: Woman Impressionist. One of the most acclaimed of the Impressionists in her lifetime, Morisot fell into obscurity in the 20th century but has been rediscovered for her talent in this comprehensive exhibition. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through May 5. DMA.org.


Ida O’Keeffe: Escaping Georgia’s Shadow. The work of the “forgotten” sister of Georgia O’Keeffe, a promising artist in her own right, gets an exhibition. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Sunday. DMA.org

FRIDAY 03.08

COMEDY

Del Shores: The Sh*t Stirrer. The Texas native returns with a world premiere one-man show. The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m. DelShores.com.


COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 03.09

COMMUNITY

This is the final weekend to catch Kitchen Dog Theater’s production of “You Got Older.”
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.

MONDAY 03.11
CABARET
Mama’s Party. Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. $10.

TUESDAY 03.12
FILM
The Quiet Man. Colorful Irish-set romance with John Wayne and Maureen O’Hara. John Ford won his fourth and final Oscar as best director (a record that still stands). Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 03.14 — PI DAY
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.

BROADCAST
Project Runway. The design competition returns with two Dallas designers in the mix. Now back on Bravo. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY 03.15
OPERA
La Boheme. Perhaps Puccini’s most beloved opera, and among the most performed, about Bohemians living in Paris during le fin de siècle. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 15–31. DallasOpera.org.

SATURDAY 03.16
FUNDRAISER
House of DIFFA: Futuro. The return of the design gala and fundraiser. Omni Dallas Hotel, 555 S. Lamar St. 6 p.m. DIFFADallas.org.

this week’s solution
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finally consenting to a little back-and-forth email exchange first, here’s what I eventually got. Oh, it’s rich, too, Howard. You’ll get a kick out of this half-baked, nosyish shit: “Hey! This is Amber. Thanks again for reaching out. I maintain a higher end body, skin and brain with daily effort. As such, I developed the rate scale of 100 to 500. Based on my research after our conversation, 75 percent off the usual hourly rate for anything over a couple hours. That doesn’t count for the hours I’m alone in the hotel. It only refers to the hours we are physically together. However it is expected that we are together a considerable amount. So for instance. If we went to a 2-hour dinner that’d be (100x2) x .75 which comes out to 150 dollars. Hotel, food, and drink, is generally included and also flights if needed. There are no partial hours. Another example is if we are having naked fun for a couple hours then when we cuddle till morning, it goes back down to 100 during the cuddling time. So the formula I developed for an extended visit is (Rate x Hours) x .75. Cash upfront is needed for the expected number of hours. Guaranteed happy ending at all levels. Kink demands a premium. Girlfriend experience is included with all rate levels, meaning when we’re together you have all my attention and I’ll be as affectionate as you’re comfortable with. I hope I covered everything. I really put a lot of thought into it. I’m also very naturally well endowed upstairs. Hope to hear from you soon.”

Howard, if this schoolmarm ditz had squatted directly over my wide-opened mouth, I don’t think she could’ve fed me a worse boner-killing dump. — Grady

Dear Grade-D: To weave successfully those IRS loopholes — forcing the world’s oldest profession to pretend platonic “companionship” is all any man with an erection desires — well, the result is this brilliantly farcical, written-by-committee turd you shared with us, courtesy of “Amber” and her team. (Note: Dear readers, I tried to salvage as many of Amber’s grammatical horrors as possible, short of causing any of my literati readers’ heads go spinning completely off.) So for instance. If we went to a 2-hour dinner that’d be (100x2) x .75 which comes out to 150 dollars. Hotel, food, and drink, is generally included and also flights if needed. There are no partial hours. Another example is if we are having naked fun for a couple hours then when we cuddle till morning, it goes back down to 100 during the cuddling time. So the formula I developed for an extended visit is (Rate x Hours) x .75. Cash upfront is needed for the expected number of hours. Guaranteed happy ending at all levels. Kink demands a premium. Girlfriend experience is included with all rate levels, meaning when we’re together you have all my attention and I’ll be as affectionate as you’re comfortable with. I hope I covered everything. I really put a lot of thought into it. I’m also very naturally well endowed upstairs. Hope to hear from you soon.”

Howard, if this schoolmarm ditz had squatted directly over my wide-opened mouth, I don’t think she could’ve fed me a worse boner-killing dump. — Grady

Dear Brassy: Next? Well, matching barcode buttonholes’ rats, a yappy pair of SPCA Chihuahuas, and obsessively collecting Fort Trof coupon codes, of course. What else? Clearly, Gloriana, your heterosexuality fluctuates with the daily tides of your personal economics — the lower your wallet, the higher your heels. After all, you’re a big girl now: “Next” can be anything you want it to be, just as long as you milk it to full advantage while there’s still some dewy blush on the rose. Playing an old cripple doesn’t engender quite the psychopathically tender show appeal as the same performance handicaps in one’s springtime.

Dear Howard: Brass tacks: I’m heterosexual, 24, broke my leg in a motorcycle accident, lost my bike, lost my construction job, no disability, got two months behind on my rent. My merciful super said, “Two weeks from today don’t let the door hit your hobby ass tossing me the keys.” Have a heart, I said — as soon as my cast comes off, I’ll find work again. He explained his heart got lost behind in the desert sand, along with his left eye, during a third tour of duty in Iraq, or Nam, or somewhere, but happily he managed to at least salvage all his pecker. So I told him no anal, and literally no kissing — nonreciprocal only — then he nodded, you’re to be out in seven days. So, on day 6, I tapped my crutches at the dude’s door ‘round midnight, moved my shit over to his place the next morning, and that was three months ago back. What comes next? — Glory Daze

Ask Howard

How to do the wrong think right

Green — March equals green. Any shrink holding aloft a flashcard with the word “MARCH” emblazoned on it will invariably hear an association-free reply of some variant involving only this color: St. Patrick’s Day, leprechauns, envy of thy neighbor’s new lushly sodded lawn, the first day of Spring, four-leaf clovers, etc. Yet for most of the country, March is anything but verdant. Winter still hasn’t wittered; Spring still hasn’t sprung. March flauts all of February’s frostbitten tedium against none of April’s budding aromatics. As calendrical months go, this personal nemesis of Julius Caesar is but a winking cockteaser, just some blustery enigma we’re frustratingly stuck with throughout its duration—that flirtatiously off-limits heterosexual who accidentally booked the gay cruise. Therefore, say I, what better time than now for us to pay homage to some of our gayborhood’s honorably hard-core, accidental hetero residents?

Almost exclusively, Howard’s received questions are either from college-age Millennials or retirement-age “daddies;” apparently, that entire swath of prime, sexahollic 25-to-40-year-olds is not in need of my answering their inquiries on how to best properly commit infidelity (they manage to cheat quite smoothly well, thank you, minus any advice sought from me). Of course they’re still in that giddy, glory stage — shoshorned in between the euphoric, every-day-is-a-Grindr-holiday of cocky youth, versus the “swipe left” fossil-frightmare of ever-diminishing returns on one’s gym membership (where every five years one works twice as hard to achieve half the results).

Frustrated disillusionment hasn’t happened yet to my 25-to-40-year-old gay readers, but it’s a different story in that same age range on the flip side: Universally, every single one of my straight male readers (yes, I have a few) expresses shock to me at how soullessly hard it’s become just to get laid by a rented vajay-jay for an hour while the wife’s pleasantly withering, when suddenly a very attractive lady (rotating a squeaky rack of birthday cards around and round) smiled at me — uh-huh, a lovely lady smiled at me! She said, “Are you a fan of Howard’s, or a detractor? From the look of things, it could sway either way.” Long story short, Howard, I’m now married to the most beautiful lady in the whole wide world due to me pasting a gay dude, in blood, to my own face. I love ya, man. Your columns, too... the ones I can understand. — Heston

Dear Charlton: If only I possessed enough of your same open-mindedness, then I might have bothered flogging that long-ago issue of Sports Illustrated to my half-severed thumb during a similar instance involving a dearth of reading options and... who’s to say, Moses, but it may very well have ended up being me, instead of Gigale, sporting Tom Brady’s wedding ring today! I love ya, straight dude — like a deep, fragrant whiff of Nakpalm on a spring morning, you saved my March from equaling Soylent Green.

— Howard Lewis Russell

Have a question — about love, sex, etiquette or anything — Howard might answer? Email AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and he may answer you!
Making the SCENE the week of March 8–14:

- 1851 Club: Sapphire, Barbie and Jaden Davenport on Friday. Candi Carroll, Tara St. Stone and Caress Riata on Saturday.
- Cedar Springs Tap House: Drag on Tap at 9 p.m. on Monday.
- Club Reflection: Imperial Court Show at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- Dallas Eagle: United Court presents Shirts vs. Skins at 7 p.m. on Friday. Discipline Corps Club Night on Friday. United Court presents Let’s Show Some Pride at 7 p.m. on Saturday. NLA-Dallas Club Night at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Dallas Bears Club Night at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- Deja Vu: Spring Forward on Sunday.
- Hard Rock Cafe: Drag Brunch presents Broadway. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and show starts at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Reservations required.
- Hidden Door: GDMAF hosts an afternoon of hot dogs, sausages and chili, raising money for LifeWalk as Gloria Devine makes her bid for the title of Miss LifeWalk from 2-6 p.m. on Sunday.
- JR.’s Bar & Grill: Double Trouble with Raquel Blake and Bleach at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- Liquid Zoo: RuPaul’s Drag Race Watch Party with Kennedy Davenport on Thursday.
- Marty’s Live: Showcase with Chanel Champagne on Monday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Boys! Boots! Boxer Briefs at 10 p.m. on Monday. Dance Competition at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. The Showdown at 11 p.m. on Tuesday. RuPaul’s Drag Race Watch Party at 7:30 on Thursday.
- Sue Ellen’s: The Gawd Almighty from 5-7 p.m. followed by the Tuxedos on Sunday. The Queer Off Season Two at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- The Rose Room: Del Shores at 8 p.m. on Friday. Ka’aliyah McKim Diamond on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. AGT Season 13 finalist Christina Wells and friends perform a benefit for Tucker’s Gift and North Texas Pride. Food at 5 p.m. and show at 6 p.m. on Sunday. $20 cover.
- TMC: The Mining Company: Fuego Wednesday Latin dance contest at 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Urban Cowboy: Western Wednesdays with Domita Sanchez and Jacob Reding. Dance Lessons from 10:30-11:30 p.m. Drag Show and dancing from 11:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth
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Solution on Page 23

Across
1 It may come before 69
5 Caligula playwright
10 30 Rock’s style
14 Ellen of
The Umbrella Academy
15 They don’t watch gay porn on TV
16 Julia who played Gomez Addams
17 Breezed through
18 Zellweger of Chicago
19 Home of the Bruins
20 Observation about a heterosexual
23 Shakespearean prince
24 USA alternative
25 Start of a retort to the observation
32 Free, in France
33 Tie for Madame Butterfly
34 Song type for Harvey Fierstein
36 Laura Nyro’s “___ Him on a Sunday”
37 Barrel bottom bits
39 Cyber-chat area
40 Sit for Robert Giard
41 More of the retort
42 Ticklish doll
43 Like a nervous Nelly
45 Bridal paths
47 Josè’s huzzah
49 Std. of a line through Auden’s land
50 Surfer’s protection
54 Group that needs reeds
59 End of the retort
61 Begin to wake up
62 Cicely of Fried Green Tomatoes
63 Zhivago heroine
64 Blow hard
65 Hung loosely
66 Eric Stonestreet award for being Cam

Down
1 Place for sweaters
2 Auto dash dial
3 Former Time film critic
4 Not currently available to tackle tight ends
5 Songs about donning gay apparel
6 Iowa State University site
7 “Want a ___?” (pre-kiss suggestion)
8 Person with a PC
9 Condom, for one
10 Places to buy condoms
11 A pop
12 Rocky Horror Picture Show fans, e.g.
13 Plug attachment
21 Letter enc.
22 Sceptic’s response
25 American Idol judge Cowell
26 Too big for your britches
27 Chi Chi LaRue’s field
28 Help with the heist
29 Colette’s Parisian heroine
30 Internet troublemaker
31 “___ to bury Caesar...”
32 Suction head
35 Med. care grps.
37 Swashbucklers, two at a time
38 Like a quickie
44 Toe woe
46 “Try ___ for size”
48 Alcohol for Merman?
49 Mounted
50 Request by a well
51 Caesar’s final reproach
52 Cry before getting off
53 One in bondage
55 Spamalot writer Eric
56 Emulated Diana Nyad
57 Six years as a senator Baldwin
58 “Don’t leave me!”
60 The Buckeyes, for short

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