

# dallasvoice

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## *The Easter Pooch*

Easter in the Park,  
Pooch Parade returns

by David Taffet, Page 8



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Photo by Chuck Marcelo. Design by Kevin Thomas

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Rev. Rachel Baughman

## Local Methodist churches open their doors to weddings

Two local Methodist churches have voted to allow same-sex weddings in their sanctuaries, and another has become a reconciling congregation.

St. Stephen United Methodist Church and Oak Lawn United Methodist Church were already reconciling congregations, meaning they welcomed LGBT people as equal members of their churches. And both churches held meetings on Sunday, March 25, to address same-sex weddings, which are still prohibited by the denomination.

Oak Lawn United Methodist Church approved a consensus statement stating that the church "should open our doors to support and honor marriages of all couples licensed to be married. We also agree that our church property, including our sanctuary, should be available for all ceremonies of legal marriage."

The Rev. Rachel Baughman of Oak Lawn UMC said this was about the work of welcoming everyone and being true to the constitution of the church.

"Members of our church put hard work and

intellect into this in a compassionate way we can all be proud of," she said. "We've all grown through the process."

Baughman said this fall the church had a wedding on the steps of the church, with the doors wide open. After the wedding ceremony, everyone attending went into the church for a ceremony of thanksgiving.

While no weddings are scheduled yet, Baughman said, "I'll always celebrate love," and she is making plans to celebrate her church's change of policy.

Northaven UMC voted last year to perform weddings in their church.

In addition to the two churches that will now perform weddings, Union elected to become a Reconciling Community, which will be the eighth reconciling congregation in the North Texas Conference Reconciling Ministry Council. Union was founded with the assistance of University Park United Methodist Church more than a year ago with the mission of caring for the neighborhood. It is in the process of moving to a building on the Oak Lawn UMC campus.

— David Taffet

## Uptown taco report: Down one Urban, up one Velvet

The Uptown location of Urban Taco, the Dallas-based brand that has occupied a stand-alone building on McKinney Avenue near Lemmon for nine years, will close its doors following dinner service on Saturday. But don't write it — or the space — off yet.

Urban Taco will be gone, only so that Velvet Taco — which currently has a flagship space just outside of Uptown along the Knox-Henderson frontage road, can soon transition into the building. Moreover, Urban Taco isn't going anywhere; it will continue its thriving Mockingbird Station location, which will actually serve as a model for future branches of the upscale taqueria.

"Uptown is no longer in our business plan, but we know Velvet Taco will do very well there," said Markus Pineyro, co-founder of del Sur Restaurant Group, which owns the Urban Taco brand.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

## Newest military trans ban on hold until 4 earlier cases are heard

After a court overturned President Donald Trump's original transgender military ban, Trump

issued new orders on Friday, March 23, that would disqualify most transgender troops from serving.

Trump first called for a ban last August in a series of tweets.

The current order says "persons with a history or diagnosis of gender dysphoria — including individuals who the policies state may require substantial medical treatment, including medications and surgery — are disqualified from military service except under limited circumstances."

The Williams Institute estimates 15,000 transgender troops are currently serving in the U.S. military, National Guard or Reserves.

According to Lauren Gray, spokesperson for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the plan has no immediate effect while courts review four earlier cases. She called the newest ban, "thinly-veiled discrimination dressed up as policy."

"The President's action was a foregone conclusion, and the result is the same ban that has already been repeatedly enjoined," said Peter Perkowski, legal director of OutServe-SLDN. "The Pentagon merely delivered a recommendation that the President asked for back in August—namely, that transgender people be categorically prohibited from serving."

— David Taffet



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### What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

**Do Not Take Mytesi** if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

### Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

### Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

#### Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

#### A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

#### Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

### What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

### What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

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# THE GAY AGENDA



Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at [nash@dallasvoice.com](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com) or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at [taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com) by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

## MARCH

### • 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](http://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: Brewing Up Business

The GLBT Chamber presents a monthly morning get together at 8:30 a.m. at Zephyr, 4001 Cedar Springs Road. Free to Chamber members. \$10 non-members.

### • April 5: Black Tie Kickoff

From 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Hall on Dragon, 1500 Dragon St. The 2018 Black Tie Theme will be unveiled and beneficiaries will be announced. Admission is free. Must be 21 to attend.

### • 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](http://DSGADallas.org) or email [info@DSGADallas.org](mailto: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](http://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. Stay tuned for details. (The rodeo was moved from the initially-announced location in Denton.)

### • April 7: Scarborough Faire

The annual Renaissance Faire opens and runs through May 28.

### • April 8: Turtle Creek Association Tour of Homes

The Turtle Creek Association hosts the Tour of Homes, featuring five residences along Turtle Creek Blvd., from 1-5 p.m. Tickets are \$54 each for non-association members and \$45 each for members through March 31. Prices go up after that date. Parking will be available at 3811 Turtle Creek Blvd. For information visit [TurtleCreekAssociation.org](http://TurtleCreekAssociation.org).

### • April 9: Dallas Cultural Plan

Creative Conversation is an annual panel

launched by Mayor Mike Rawlings for Dallas Arts Month from 6-8 p.m. at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Free with ticket at [ticketdfw.com/whats-on/2018](http://ticketdfw.com/whats-on/2018).

### • April 10: Resource Center tour

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to [development@mysresourcecenter.org](mailto:development@mysresourcecenter.org).

### • April 10: PFLAG Tyler

PFLAG meets at Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway Ave., Ste. 100, Tyler. For information visit [TylerAreaGays.com](http://TylerAreaGays.com).

### • April 12: PFLAG Dallas

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. [PFLAGDallas@outlook.com](mailto:PFLAGDallas@outlook.com).

### • April 12: GLBT Chamber new member showcase

Meet the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce's newest members at the new member showcase and business connections mixer from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn Dallas Market Center, 7325 N. Stemmons Freeway.

### • April 13: Compassion Fatigue Symposium

Ed-U-Care presents a program for caregivers from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road.



Longtime community leader Betty Neal is one of three people who will speak at The Dallas Way's Outrageous Oral event on Thursday, April 5. See listings for details.

### • April 14: Family Fun Day at the Dallas Zoo

Free admission to the Dallas Zoo for residents of Districts 1, 2, 6, and 14 (The 4 Amigos — Griggs, Medrano, Narvaez and Kingston) from 9 a.m.-noon at the Dallas Zoo, 650 S. R.L. Thornton. Parking is \$10 or take the Red Line.

### • April 17: 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 19: The Journey: A Coming Out Workshop

Did you come out recently? Have you been out for a while? No matter where

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week's guest is **Jalenzski Brown** from **UBE**; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except

the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the **Fuse** space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **Fuse-Connect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or [Jalenzski@mysresourcecenter.org](mailto:Jalenzski@mysresourcecenter.org). LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email [pegasussquares@gmail.com](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com); **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk

or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Gray Pride** support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar

Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.



you are on your coming out journey, you will benefit from this six-week interactive workshop open to all LGBT persons, family, and friends. Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Robin Booth, United Methodist Pastor Rev. Jane Graner and Will Fields on six Thursday evenings through May 24 at 7 p.m. at the Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Register at [CathedralofHope.ChurchCenter.com/groups](http://CathedralofHope.ChurchCenter.com/groups).

• **April 19: Tyler Area Gays dinner**  
Dinner at The Catch, 1714 S. Beckham Ave, Tyler. For information visit [TylerAreaGays.com](http://TylerAreaGays.com).

• **April 20-22: Rainbow Roundup camping trip**

Camping trip includes hay rides, crafting, fishing, face-painting and a BBQ dinner. Tent camping at \$30 per day, cabins at \$131 per day and RV sites for \$50-65 daily at North Texas Jellystone Park, 2301 S Burleson Blvd., Burleson. Promo

code is: rainbow18. There's a \$9.25 per person per day entrance fee to the park.

• **April 21: Gaybingo of Oz**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. [MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo](http://MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo).

• **April 21: Chamber Gala**

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce hosts its Gala from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at a private estate in Old Preston Hollow. Includes a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and libations. Individual tickets are \$65; sponsorships are available. Contact the chamber at 214-821-4528 for details.

• **April 21: Cirque du SoGay**

Mayhem Miller joins Ivana Tramp, MayMay Graves and Ryan Tiffin for an Impulse Group party from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

## pet of the week / AASAMI

Meet **Aasami**, a 4-year-old blue tabby domestic shorthair mix. She's an affectionate, outgoing girl who loves people. She likes being petted and especially loves cheek rubs. She is extremely friendly and likes to play with toys, eat treats and just spend time with people. If you're looking for a laidback, loving girl to cuddle with, she's the one for you! Aasami is positive for FeLV, but she can still live a happy life; she will just need to be the only cat in the home, or live with other FeLV kitties. Aasami has been spayed, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today. #159019

**Aasami** 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-Saturday. 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, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.



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## Mature Men, Join Us !

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# The tradition continues

The Pooch Parade is always a highlight of Easter in the Park, and last year, The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence made friends. (Photos by Chuck Marcelo)



Oak Lawn Park has a new name, but the Easter celebration continues, with the Pooch Parade highlighting the day

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

For the first time, Easter in the Park takes place in Oak Lawn Park. The event's not moving, but the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee did. So for the first time since the event began in 1967, no one has to feel like they're not welcome in a park that has reverted to its original name. Easter Sunday in Oak Lawn means

pooches, picnics and entertainment, although the day isn't the gay festival it once was. Today, people from around the city spread blankets on the lawn overlooking Turtle Creek to celebrate the beginning of spring.

This year, DJ Jennifer Miller will provide the music that begins at 1 p.m. And children are more welcome than ever, with the inclusion of an Easter egg hunt for children up to 10 years old that starts at 1:30 p.m. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for photos with the kids at 2:30 p.m.

Food trucks, including Pawtastic Snack for dog treats, will line up along Turtle Creek Boulevard, and a portion of their sales will go to support the Oak Lawn Park Conservancy.

Check-in to enter a dog in the pooch parade begins at 1 p.m., and the procession begins down Turtle Creek Boulevard at 2

p.m.

The entry fee is \$15 per costume entry at the event, \$10 if registered online by today (Friday, March 30). If multiple dogs are being judged together, that's one \$10 fee. Prizes will be awarded for Best Look-A-Like Costumes, Best Easter-Inspired Costume, Best Spring Costume, Best Group Costume, Most Creative, Best Overall and Best Child & Dog Costume.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges including Dallas Voice Publisher Leo Cusimano, Oak Lawn Park Conservancy President and CEO Gay Donnell and Laila Muhammad, who is a host of the syndicated show *Morning Dose* seen locally on CW33.

Dallas Animal Services, the SPCA and other rescue groups will be on hand for those interested in adopting a pet.

## History of a tradition

Easter in the Park began in 1967 when the Dallas Symphony began a spring series performing in Dallas parks. Two years later, according to reports in the Dallas Morning News, Oak Lawn had become the place young people moved to, and what was then known as Lee Park was "overrun with hippies." The afternoon was one of love and peace interrupted by a steady stream of jets — including 747s — flying overhead into the city's only airport — Love Field.

By the mid-1970s, the hippies were gone and the gay community began moving into the Oak Lawn neighborhoods surrounding Lee Park. The symphony played each year and the annual picnic grew into an Easter ritual.

The pooch parade didn't begin until the



# HRC releases 2018 Hospital Equality Index

Parkland shines as only North Texas hospital with a perfect score, while other area hospitals refuse to participate

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

If you want to make sure you're being treated fairly and equally as an employee, patient or visitor in a Dallas hospital, there's only one choice according to a new survey released by Human Rights Campaign this week. And that one choice is Parkland Hospital.

Not only is Parkland the only hospital in North Texas to receive a 100 on HRC's latest Hospital Equality Index, it's one of only eight in Texas to receive a perfect score.

The rest of UT Southwestern Medical Center, which adjoins Parkland, increased its score from 50 last year to 75 this year. Because it operates under the state-run UT system, which is subject to state law and lawmakers' whims, some benefits are denied its LGBT employees. The medical campus received only half its possible points on patient services and support.

The Dallas VA Hospital has shared top honors with Parkland in the past, but fell from a 95 last year to a 55 this year. It lost points for deficiencies in training in LGBT

patient care, patient services and support, employee benefits and policies and patient and community involvement. Part of this change could be the difference in federal policies under President Barack Obama's Department of Veteran's Affairs and Trump's.

The HEI is designed to rate inpatient facilities that provide medical and surgical care. Some outpatient facilities are also included. According to HRC, 70 percent of transgender patients and 56 percent of lesbian, gay or bisexual patients have experienced some sort of discrimination in healthcare.

Hospitals were rated in five categories.

The first is non-discrimination in a number of areas. Those include patient non-discrimination, equal visitation for same-sex partners or LGBT parents and employment non-discrimination. Staff training in culturally competent LGBT-centered patient care is also rated, because without training, policies won't be implemented.

The second category is LGBT patient services and support. Much of this category has to do with HIV testing, offering PrEP and HIV care. Also included is LGBT-focused mental health services, alcohol and substance abuse treatment and family planning or other LGBT-related care.

Transgender support and services include hormone treatment, gynecological care, gender-confirming surgeries or referrals and mental health care. Hospitals are scored on allowing and informing patients

HOSPITAL, Page 13



Parkland Hospital

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# A message of solidarity



Equality Texas has new video and logo to bring more awareness to the organization

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**E**quality Texas has released a new video and logo as a recommitment to its mission, and the organization is asking its supporters to sign a pledge to join the fight against attacks on equal rights.

"The reality is we're under attack; we've been under attack, and we don't expect the attack to stop," said Chuck Smith, CEO of Equality Texas.

That prompted a new slogan featured prominently in the organization's new vid-

eo: "If you attack one Texan, you attack all Texans."

Smith said that while lobbying remains a priority for the Equality Texas during legislative sessions, the Equality Texas Foundation's education work has become the largest part of what the organization does.

The foundation's work includes Queer the Vote encouraging voter participation; the Trans Visible Project sharing trans people's stories across the state; Keep Texas Open for Business reaching out to businesses for support, and the Equality Project that includes lobby training.

The election project is Smith's current priority.

"The 2018 election cycle is a big deal," Smith said.

He said two Dallas County races have statewide importance. Jessica Gonzales, who is lesbian, won her primary, and since she has no opponent in November, she will

become the third lesbian in the Texas House of Representatives. The other two are Rep. Mary Gonzales, D-El Paso, and Rep. Celia Israel, D-Austin.

And in northwest Dallas County, Julie Johnson is running for a state House seat against bathroom bill author Matt Rinaldi.

"Julie's district is one of the highest-priority races in the state," Smith said.

Smith said that having LGBT legislators makes his work easier.

"They take away [opponents'] ability to talk about the community in the abstract," he said.

Mary Gonzales knows agriculture, and Israel is a transportation expert. With the friends they have made throughout the Legislature, they discuss topics other than LGBT issues.

And in that way, Smith said, "They change the dynamic."

Through the election, Smith said, the

voter project will work to motivate people to participate. And last weekend's March for Our Lives worked hand-in-hand with Equality Texas' goals.

"Two of our core principles are protecting youth and preventing violence," Smith said.

Voter registration that took place at the marches throughout the state registered mostly millennials, Smith said, and that group is mostly supportive of LGBT equal treatment.

Smith asked supporters to do two things — share the video and sign the pledge.

He said despite the advances in equality, or maybe because of them, hate crimes are on the rise and legislative efforts are undermining marriage equality, legalizing discrimination as a religious right and blocking access to healthcare.

The pledge is to help Equality Texas fight back against these attacks. ■



# Are you PrEPed for summer?

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# Rising above the challenges

From a genetic disorder that took his legs, to his work as a social activist, Spencer West defies limitations

**TAMMYE NASH** | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

**Y**ou might think that being born with a genetic disease that kept his muscles from working properly and that forced doctors to surgically remove his lower extremities — from the pelvis down — by the time he was 5 would present enough challenges for any one person.

But for Spencer West, coming to terms with his sexuality proved to be even more difficult.

West — a motivational speaker and social activist who works for WE, an organization that works to “empower people to transform local and global communities by shifting from ‘me’ thinking to ‘we’ acting” — had his lower legs amputated at the knee before he was 5 years old. Doctors had hoped that would be enough to contain the damage from sacral agenesis, the condition with which he was born, and that he could eventually be fitted with prosthetic legs. But when he was 5, doctors had to remove the rest of his legs, from the pelvis down.

“After that surgery, I was told I would never sit up or walk, that I would probably never be a functioning member of society,” West said in a recent interview. “But my parents never believed that. They were amazing. They never treated me differently, and I legitimately never realized I was different until I went out in public.”

West said that his parents always wanted him to be as independent as possible, “just in case something ever happened to them. They wanted me to be able to take care of myself. So they forced me to take the risks I had to take to be independent.

“I did all the things normal kids would do,” he continued. “I took gymnastics,

swimming lessons. I went to kindergarten and on to public school and then college. I had a normal life.”

Except that West always knew he was “different” — and not because he had no legs.

“To be honest, being gay was much harder” than dealing with his physical limitations. “When they removed my legs, which were useless, suddenly I was able to get around much better. My legs weren’t in the way any more. I struggled much more with the idea of being gay.”

West said he was a senior in high school in Rock Springs, Wyo., when Matthew Shepherd was murdered in a highly-publicized anti-gay hate crime in Laramie. “That happened just four hours away from my hometown,” West recalled. “Suddenly, the world was not a safe place at all for gay people. I told myself, there’s no way I could be [gay] — not if being gay meant I could be murdered right there where I lived just because of who I was.”

It wasn’t until he went away to college — at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah — that West began to realize that there was so much more to being gay than what he knew. That’s when he began his coming out process, first telling his best friend and then calling his parents. And again, he said, his parents “were amazing.”

“They immediately said, we love you and we support you. For my mom, it took about a year of discussion, but not because she didn’t accept me. It was more that she wanted to understand what I went through. Like, ‘I think we always knew, but you said you weren’t, so we believed you.’ But they always responded with acceptance and love, right from the beginning.”

After getting his degree in communications at Westminster, West said he couldn’t find a job in that field, so he moved to Phoenix and took a job as operations director for a company. “I chased the American dream of money and a good job,” he said. “But it didn’t bring me the happiness I had expected it to.”

And then, in March of 2008, he went with friends on a volunteer trip to Kenya, and “Everything changed,” he said. “I was so enamored by the work they were doing, breaking the cycle of poverty overseas and empowering youth there.”

The trip was sponsored by WE, an organization that organizes groups for “meaningful travel,” through which participants have a chance to be “a part of something larger than [themselves],” and to be “immersed in a new culture, fostering genuine connections and seeing the world through a new lens.”

Participants “Work alongside community members on a sustainable development project and witness firsthand how communities are coming together to help break the cycle of poverty,” according to the WE.org website.

West was so taken with the organization and its work that he applied for a job with the organization and then moved to Toronto where WE is headquartered. He now works as a motivational speaker and leadership facilitator, helping organize volunteer trips to Kenya, Tanzania and India, and facilitating interactions between the local residents and the visitors — things like going with the women of a village to get water, helping build a school, touring markets and other cultural activities.

“I talk to people about how they get involved,” he said. “The trips are usually about 10 days, depending on the location.”

WE offers school and youth trips for those ages 13 and up over spring break and during the summer, and corporate and family trips for all ages, year-round. West also speaks at WE Day youth empowerment events for young people around Canada and the U.S. The organization recently held its first WE Day Texas event, at the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland.

He is also known for having summited Mount Kilimanjaro on his hands and in his wheelchair, raising funds to help provide clean water to more than 12,500 people for life, and for having completed a 187-mile trek on his hands and in his wheelchair from Edmonton to Calgary.

People who hear him speak, he said, usually look at him and realize that no obstacle is truly insurmountable. “We all face some sort of challenge. Mine is physical, and you can see it. But we all have challenges. WE has helped 200,000 kids around the country realize they all have the ability to give back.”

While speaking at WE events, West



Spencer West, who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, tells young people they can rise above their challenges.

said he tends to focus on using his own physical limitations to say, “Yes, I am different. But I am worthy, and I provide value, and each of you can, too. We are all different, and that’s what makes us lovely, and we can use those things that make us different to give back in our own ways.”

But he also wants to address the LGBT community, too, and, he said, he has begun “using social media as a way to talk more deeply on LGBT issues. ... I am slowly learning how to insert myself as an activist, because I have always focused so much on breaking the cycle of poverty through my work at WE. In 2015, I came out publicly and told my story at New York Pride. I have put my coming out story on YouTube. Now I am just figuring out what to do next.” ■





of their right to appoint someone, including a same-sex partner, as their medical decision-maker.

Employment policies and benefits is the third category that goes beyond employment-non-discrimination. Trans healthcare benefits as well as equal benefits for same- and opposite-sex spouses are rated.

Next is patient and community engagement. HRC has a number of suggestions for medical institutions but asks that when hospitals are evaluating the needs of the community, LGBT healthcare needs are included in surveys. To achieve this, demographic information about its patients should be kept, and there should be LGBT representation on boards and committees.

Finally, responsible citizenship is scored. Healthcare facilities could have 25 points deducted for activities that would undermine LGBT equality or care. Revoking equality policies, promoting conversion therapy or directing charitable contributions to organizations working to undermine equality are some of the reasons for points to be subtracted.

Other hospitals in Dallas — Baylor, Presbyterian, Methodist and Medical City — once again chose not to participate — some for good reason. No hospitals in Fort Worth or throughout the rest of the DFW area submitted information for inclusion.

However, HRC found some information about the policies of these hospitals on their websites. The information is included on the HRC-HEI website, but it is tricky to find. Navigate to the map, zoom in on Texas or the location you're researching, and click on the hospital location.

Baylor, for example, has on its website an LGBT-inclusive patient non-discrimination policy and an equal visitation policy. But the hospital has no employment non-discrimination policies and does no LGBT-sensitivity staff training.

What isn't included is Baylor's history of discrimination. Baylor is one of the few organizations found to have violated the Dallas nondiscrimination ordinance. When a same-sex couple tried to join Baylor's Landry gym as a family, their application was denied. To settle its suit with the city, Baylor eliminated all family memberships rather than give a discount to one couple.

Presbyterian Hospital lists on its website an equal visitation policy as well as an LGBT-inclusive employment non-discrimination policy. However, it doesn't have patient nondiscrimination posted.

Medical City offers employment, patient and visitation nondiscrimination policies that are LGBT-inclusive.

On the other hand, Methodist Hospital, which pioneered organ transplantation for people with HIV in Dallas, does not include LGBT patient or visitor non-discrimination policies, and sexual orientation and gender identity are not included in its employment policies, according to HRC's research.

Children's Health was not ranked but has been recognized by HRC for its gender clinic, one of only a few for teens in the country.



1980s, as Oak Lawn became firmly established as the center of the LGBT community in Dallas. Others always attended Easter in the Park, but the gays were running the show.

The 1980s also was the beginning of the AIDS crisis, and the group that brought comfort to the community — the Turtle Creek Chorale — began performing along with the orchestra.

Staging a show with the symphony became more and more expensive. Although

the Easter event was one of the symphony's best-attended park concerts, it was also the most expensive because they had to pay overtime to orchestra members for performing on a holiday. And so Easter in the Park continued without the symphony.

Since the departure of the DSO, the music portion of the afternoon has been filled with singers, bands and, this year, a DJ. The Pooch Parade continues and has become the highlight of the afternoon.



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# communityvoices



It's been quite a while since my last column in Dallas Voice. It's not that I haven't thought of things to write about — more like there is too much to write about!

There has been a dizzying array of distractions going on in Washington, D.C., many of which affect my people — transgender Americans — starting with Ben Carson withdrawing training materials on how to accommodate transgender people in homeless shelters because we might make someone “uncomfortable.”

Now Trump has doubled down on his ban on transgender people serving in the military. And not any little bit of his rationale is dictated by science, reason or the wishes of the Pentagon. No, his “policy” was almost word for word taken from the agenda of the Liberty Institute and the Family Research Council, both of which are genuine hate groups with hateful agendas.

It was bigotry on display.

I could write volumes about those and a dozen other issues. But after watching Saturday's “March For Our Lives” events around the country and listening, I mean really listening, to these amazing, eloquent, beautiful kids sharing their stories, demanding change and calling bullshit on MY generation, it felt like a wake up call. And I hope we don't over-sleep.

I thought my generation, the Baby Boomers, held so much promise. Some of us went on to do great things, but the whole-sale change that we had hoped for has been slow. Boomers have occupied the White House for the past 28 years, and many in this country believe we've had our chance.

Make no mistake, change is coming. Listening to these kids, I like what I hear.



Leslie McMurray  
Accidental Activist

What I didn't hear was partisanship, no Democrats vs. Republicans. What I did hear was: “Fix it!”

Not surprisingly, students are sick and tired of being afraid in their classrooms. Schools are a place of learning; they shouldn't be bloody reminders of mass murder.

Imagine having a millennial president and Congress:

Millennials, are less alarmed by immigration by a 5-to-2 margin. They say that immigrants, in particular Asians and Latinos, “strengthen society” rather than “threaten” its customs and values.

Millennials support marriage equality and legal pot at a greater rate than Boomers. They favor a bigger government providing more services and are less likely to claim a religious affiliation. (We Boomers may talk diversity, but millennials embody it.) Not all of their views line up with either Republicans or Democrats.

But this is where opportunity lies. The issue right now is one we should all agree on: Students shouldn't be terrified to go to school because some nut with a semi auto rifle might bust in and start shooting. But we DON'T all agree.

In a statement demonstrating extreme ignorance, Republican former Sen. Rick Santorum suggested students would be better served by taking CPR classes than by marching for gun law reform. I won't even waste ink responding to that kind of

stupidity and insensitivity.

The NRA is still arguing against ANY kind of gun control, modifications of equipment or closing gun show loopholes.

If these millions of kids, who will be of voting age in 2018 and 2020, (and the oldest of the millennials will be eligible to run for president in 2024) all get out and vote, the party likely to benefit from this are the Democrats.

If you are a Democrat, that's great news, right? Maybe. These kids aren't idiots. They also aren't going to sit around and wait, nor are they going to listen to excuses. If you can't get the job done, they will call you out and vote you out.

Democrats may have an opportunity here, but it's not one where reclaiming the Senate or House is a mandate for the same old business as usual. Democrats may have just one shot at it.

Let's make sure Democrats are up for the challenge and get it right. If you are running for office (or are in office) and you weren't at one of the marches around the country, where were you? Listen to what's being said and who is saying it.

This doesn't sound the same as what we've heard before. This time it's different. Don't mistake their peaceful demeanor for passivity. Don't dismiss their youth for naiveté.

This generation will call Bullshit.

This country has a gun problem. It has a mental health problem. No amount of CPR classes or active shooter drills are going to make it go away.

If we do nothing — I promise you — it will happen again. We must start the conversation and treat the lives of our children as though they are important.



# A season of hope

I think it is amazingly appropriate that the March for Our Lives movement is happening during the season of rebirth. Spring is beginning, and as the days once again grow longer, a new light has come into our national consciousness. It is the light of youth who have seen the problem clearly and taken action to bring it into the national dialogue, something which the adults in our country have been unable to do.

Harvey Milk once said, "You gotta give them hope." He was speaking of America's LGBT youth, but his words ring true for all young people today. The March for Our Lives movement gives hope to America's young people, and if we are listening it will give us hope as well.

Like most people, I watched the impassioned speeches by the Parkland, Fla., teenagers with amazement. Their message was strong, often a little rough around the edges, but filled with truth. It's that truth they are speaking to the powers in Washington, and it's that truth that we adults have been unable or unwilling to take there.

Some say their movement is naïve and that the gun lobby is too firmly entrenched to make any substantial changes. To that, I would note that Remington, a major firearms manufacturer just filed for bankruptcy, and its competitors are not far from following suit.

Strangely, guns in America are sold not for the desire to go hunting, but mainly out of fear.

Gun sales boomed under President Obama. The fearmongers drummed up a market based on the lie that, "Obama is going to take away your guns." That silly idea alone boosted sales to unprecedented levels.

Manufacturers, anticipating a Democratic victory ramped up their production, and when the election surprised everyone, they were left with a whole lot of guns in their warehouses.

The weakness in the gun market makes this movement even more powerful. The timing may just be right to bring our coun-



**Hardy Haberman**  
Flagging Left

try to its senses. The gun orgy may be over, and as we are forced to look at the deadly results, these young people are shining a bright new light on the problem.

Their struggle is one that LGBT people should recognize. Watching the march on television, I was reminded of the day in October many years ago in 1979 when I marched in the first March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. That event energized me and set me on a path of lifelong activism, and I feel sure some of the young people who attended this march will also be inspired.

It is a visceral, transformative moment and that power can't be underestimated.

I would hope that our community, which has been the victim of gun violence many times in the past, will join forces in this new awakening. It is my hope that these young people will never march alone again and that we can support them in whatever ways they need.

It is my hope that those of us with connections to politicians can open doors when needed, because their struggle is not that different from ours. We are all seeking to live a life free of fear, and that is a worthwhile goal for everyone.

Perhaps this new movement that has so much enthusiasm and energy can actually affect the Washington machine, even in the time of Trumpism.

That word "hope" seems so appropriate now in a time when so many like me have almost given it up. The March for Our Lives gives me hope, and I find it very apropos that rebirth of hope comes at a season when many will celebrate a resurrection. ■

*Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at [DungeonDiary.blogspot.com](http://DungeonDiary.blogspot.com).*

#NeverAgain. ■

*Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at [lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com](http://lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com).*

Where are our priorities?

I hope these kids vote. I hope the people they vote for actually listen to them; if those elected to do the job fail to act, they may not get a second chance.

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#Getting

A first-timer navigates the films, concerts, seminars and overall experience of the chill Texas cultural pop-up

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Executive Editor

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In Richard Linklater's dark comedy movie *Bernie*, a resident of East Texas describes the state capital as "the People's Republic of Austin" — a comment meant as a dig but really, a perverse compliment. Austin is Texas' funkier enclave, somewhat of a nation unto itself. And for 10 days each spring, South By Southwest, which celebrated its 32nd incarnation earlier this month, transforms it into a kind of fiefdom within that republic, a mini-city of 100,000 celebrities and stoners, tech geeks and movie nerds, roadies and musicmakers and fans of all things cultural. It is the ultimate technology pop-up: Burning Man with plumbing.

How insular is the event? During my time there, the young man who came to be known as the Austin bomber set off at least three devices, and it barely registered a blip among the attendees. People behaved with caution, of course (a few years back, a drunk driver plowed into a crowd, killing several), but the vibe is largely chill, relaxed, communal. Everybody is there to have fun, learn and experience what creative minds — powerful and aspirational — are doing in the world. The are woke, but mellow.

Technically called the South By Southwest Conference and Festivals, everyone just calls it South By, or SX for those too busy to text more than two letters. It's organized around several tracks — a film festival, a music festival, a smaller comedy festival and an "interactive," which seems a catch-all for tech, gaming and education, as well as the massive trade show that offers a glimpse into the future.

I wanted it all. And I got as much of it as I could.

As a SX first timer, I approached the assignment with a mix of anticipation and dread. Would the crowds be overwhelming?

Would the sessions, films and concerts disappoint? Would everything be too expensive? Would it be lonely on my own? But in truth, it was a total hodgepodge of experiences, mostly positive — a wonderland where everyone is Alice.

I drove down for the opening day, staying in a house outside the city (see sidebar, Page 19), and jumped right in with a screening of 1985, Austin-based filmmaker Yen Tan's somber, black-and-white period piece about a young man (*Gotham*'s Cory Michael Smith) who returns to his North Texas home over Christmas during the peak of the Reagan Era. He's behaving strangely, at least to his conservative, religious parents (Virginia Madsen, Michael Chiklis), and the audience knows something's up and suspects it has to do with his "roommate," whom he's cagey about discussing. It was a sombre but powerful beginning to the festival, and in some ways a wake-up call that, in 2018, we can actually make historical dramas about the AIDS crisis.

And that was just the start.

If Napoleon called England a nation of shopkeepers, he'd likely call Austin a city of line standers. Queues snaking around city blocks that never seem to move more than one body every 20 minutes aren't uncommon, but people seem good-natured about it. Only once did someone — an older woman, surprisingly — bully her way to cut in line unjustifiably. People were mainly relaxed, and you could spot the high-strung devotees and avoid them. There's a youthful energy that bespeaks we're-in-this-together, even among the older folks. You could see what you wanted to and even if you didn't, there was always something new to investigate.





Among the funky things at SXSW was a party where two people can have a face-to-face conversation... through a long sock, opposite; above, the documentary 'This One's For the Ladies' was a racy hit

## Cineastes unite

Sometimes that was good, sometimes bad. A weird but compelling sci-fi film called *Perfect* has stuck with me, while the sold-out preview of the Adam Pally comedy *Most Likely to Murder* was an unfunny bust. But the law of averages means many of the films were worth a cinephile's attention.

Overall, I screened close to 20 features, shorts, documentaries and episodics (South By's term for works intended for television of serial consumption), attended a dozen seminars and sessions, caught some live music acts and sampled, of course, the barbecue and tacos that all that non-Texans rave about. And there was a lot of gay-specific interest across the board.

Among the movies screening, there were several standouts with queer content. During the festival, the producers of *This One's For the Ladies* — a kind of *Magic Mike* documentary about African-American male (and one lesbian) exotic dancers — was surely one of the hottest, raciest movies to show (full frontal!), but also touched deeply on economic, racial and sexual politics within the stripper com-

munity. More serious, but even more amazing, was *TransMilitary*, directors Gabe Silverman and Fiona Dawson's portrait of four U.S. servicemembers' efforts to serve openly in the armed forces as transgender Americans. The film ends by noting that the current status of trans enlistees was up in the air ... before last week's White House announcement of its intent to ban trans servicemembers. It couldn't be more timely, or more powerful. The excellent short *Tooth and Nail* was inspired by the director's real-life coming out in the face of her brother's impending death.

It wasn't all dour. One the most amusing films was the short *Are We Good Parents?*, a comedy about a mom and dad confronted by the fact that their daughter wants to go to prom with a boy... when they always through she was gay, causing them to second-guess "where we went wrong." Molly Shannon's lesbian comedy *Wild Nights with Emily* was a fan hit, as was *The Gospel of Eureka*, a documentary about faith, justice and drag.

Some gay-interest films weren't especial-

■ SXSW Next Page



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■ SXSW From Previous Page

ly gay. Andrew Haigh's (*Weekend, Looking*) upcoming film, *Lean On Pete* is a poignant, authentic story about a teenager (*All the Money in the World*'s Charlie Plummer, who is going places) and how a racehorse gives him purpose following a life of tragedy. (Look for a review next month.) And the documentary *Meow Wolf: Origin Story* tracks the

Interactive had already been underway. SX started as a lazy indie music fest 32 years ago, but now the presence of bands at every imaginable venue helps define a lot of the experience. Especially after dark, the central business district is overrun with countless musicians — folksy singer-songwriters, outdoor pianists, unsigned hip-hop artists, revered pop icons of the last quarter century, up-and-coming garage bands... you name it. Even more



The music track at SX dominates the city for a week, with street performers (above, left, opposite), plus acts booked at clubs, bars and elsewhere.

Sante Fe-based art collective's rise from anarchic guerrilla artists to gay-led multi-million-dollar success.

## Music in the air

Meow Wolf also sponsored one of the parties, Fractallage, that helped launch the Music Festival, which started several days after Film and

than the films, cherry-picking which bands to check out becomes a tyranny of choice that requires some planning (*see sidebar, Page 19*). On the other hand, just take a stroll down Sixth Street and let the brisk Hill Country air waft its sounds into your ears. It's a symphony of diverse music and conversations, and fully intoxicating.

A lot of SX is focused on celebrity spotting. (The festival is astonishingly well organized, at least from the outside looking in, so you only bumped into Ethan Hawke if he wanted you to.) Melinda Gates' talk was an early sellout. Oscar winners Barry Jenkins (*Moonlight*) and Spike Lee packed in the crowds. Elon Musk showed up at one session unannounced, and it became the talk of the nerdosphere.

Clearly, entertainment dominates at one level, but activities from seriousness to socializing have their place. There were LGBTQIA meet-ups, sessions on gay representation in cinema and speeches, and how to start up an LGBT nonprofit. Some were better than others.

The technology track has gained tons of momentum, and not just when Musk drops by; many sessions felt like TED Talks, like futurist Ray Kurzweil (Google) ringing alarm bells about AI and "what's next." The four-day



Trade Show was a carnival of VR, point-of-sale innovations, robotics, transportation and 3D printing.

Much of the dialogue, onstage and among the attendees, was political as well, usually from a progressive standpoint. London Mayor Sadiq Khan delivered a keynote; Jake Tapper interviewed Bernie Sanders; Arnold Schwarzenegger made a thoughtful impression. Ta-Nahesi Coates spoke on race relations.

## Insider trading

SXSW is a blend of cutting edge and advertorial bait-and-switch. Some of the sessions seem more like marketing for products already in the works than innovations. I had hoped a seminar about *The Daily*, the year-old New York Times podcast, would provide behind-the-scenes insights into how the show is produced,

the world-premiere preview screening of *Ready Player One* was introduced by Steven Spielberg (see review, Page 20) and Mark Hamill joined *Last Jedi* director Rian Johnson for a cameo discussion; *This Is Us* junkies got to see the season finale weeks ahead of TV audiences. A Sweet-water ghost town inspired by *Westworld* was accessible (though quite a hike out of town), and the *Roseanne* reboot had a strong presence.

My personal favorite preview was the screening of the first two episodes of the upcoming TBS series *The Last O.G.*, Tracy Morgan's return to TV following a near-fatal traffic accident. Morgan stars as a former drug dealer dropped back in a now-gentrified Brooklyn after 15 years, trying to reconnect with his ex-girlfriend, the hotter-than-hot Tiffany Haddish. Co-creator Jordan Peele wasn't there, but Morgan and Haddish were, and the



Interesting art projects, and hip scenes, add to the atmosphere; the trade show is full of VR experiences, side bar.

how it has grown, how the stories are curated. But host Michael Barbaro merely interviewed his colleague Rukmini Callimachi about her area of expertise (Islamic terrorism) before revealing — *surprise!* — that she had a new podcast from NYT starting next week! The session was just as good as an episode of the podcast (it was, in fairness, billed as “*The Daily Live on Stage*”), but not the insider’s orgasm I wanted it to be. The same was true of Christiane Amanpour’s spirited discussion about an upcoming CNN series about sex and love around the world — interesting in itself, but slightly disappointing.

Naturally, some of the sneak-peeks were sought out specifically because they let you in on the ground floor. The opening night screening of the soon-to-be-released thriller *A Quiet Place* got buzz buzzing early. Audiences squealed when

post-screening Q&A was free-wheeling (the show is also hilariously insightful about race).

Insight is, in fact, one of the hallmarks of the appeal of SX. Most of the seminars at least tried to explore real issues in business and culture. One panel addressed inclusion and diversity (racial, gender) in the back offices of professional sports; one posed the racial biases inherent (if unintentionally) in artificial intelligence. Other panels were whimsical (the science of superheroes) or practical (how to sell your book online). But whether those insights derived from dreamy music, chemically-augmented reality or intelligent folks sharing their thoughts, it’s reassuring that — at a time when original thought seems to be on the wane — we have SXSW to celebrate creativity and innovation. ■

SXSW will return March 8–17, 2019.

# How to fest



There is no wrong way “to fest,” but there are definitely better ways to plan and schedule your experience for maximum impact.

**Decide what your interests are.** Four kinds of badges are available: Film, Music and Interactive, all of which are available at the same price, and all of which can get you into most events... in theory. But when it comes to going to specific events, they are prioritized. Film badges get you primary access into film events, Music into music, etc. The more expensive Platinum badge gives you priority (but still not guaranteed entry) into all the others, and accordingly cost a few hundred dollars more. On the other hand, when you’re spending money to attend in the first place, the difference in price is probably worth the time and disappointment... unless all you wanna do is one track.

**Plan ahead.** Passes are cheaper the farther you are from the next event, so you can get a Platinum badge now for about 30 percent less than you’ll pay a month out in 2019. Look at the schedule a few weeks out so you can try to hatch a game plan (as much as possible) for your must-dos, wannados and options — movies you wanna check out, speakers you wanna hear, bands you wanna catch. You’ll also want to arrange for accommodations early to secure the best rates and availability. Don’t be afraid to get a hotel away from the action for a better price and commute; consider Air BnB, or cultivate friendships with Austinites now for a crashpad.

**What to carry.** Bring a backpack. High-end cameras aren’t allowed inside many venues if you’re not media, so leave that Canon at home and use

your smartphone for selfies. SX is a marathon, not a sprint, so stay hydrated with a bottle of water (you can refill it), and maybe some Mio to add flavor. A protein bar or two would be good as well. (There are tons of foods trucks at the convention center all week, and the main events take place just south of Sixth Street, a destination for clubs, bars and restaurants, so you can always grab a bite somewhere.) And definitely bring a power cord and portable charger, cuz you’ll use your phone ... a lot.

**Getting around.** The closer you are to the action, the more you’ll pay to park. High-end hotels proudly alter their day rates for parking, happily gouging attendees. Next to the Austin Convention Center, \$30 isn’t uncommon for a slot in an open lot. But just south of Lady Bird Lake, at the Long Center, parking is just \$8, and a mile from that, at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas — where a plurality of the film screenings take place — there’s ample free parking. A complimentary shuttle transports you to and fro, though the number of buses in rotation drops by half after about 6 p.m., so the waits can be long. And it takes place in a busy city that doesn’t totally shut down for SX, so be forewarned about rush hour traffic and the normal hassles of any city. (In off hours, you can do a half-loop in about 20 minutes.) Lyft was a partner this year, so ride-sharing is common as well. But during the peak activities, you’ll do a lot of walking.

**Download the app.** SXSW offers an online app that is extremely useful in predicting sell-out crowds, “favoriting” events and tracking shuttles. You can also network with other attendees.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



# Avatarnished

'Ready Player One' is a massively multifarious mess

Over more than 40 years as a filmmaker, Steven Spielberg really helped *create* what we now think of as popular entertainment — sometimes mining it from the past (the Indiana Jones films, *Schindler's List*) or as a futurist (he was an early master of VFX, from *Close Encounters* to *Jurassic Park*). At age 71, though, he may have finally stumbled onto the apotheosis of his status as an iconographer with one of his youngest-centered films ever, the massively multiplayer online role-playing fantasy *Ready Player One*. It practically summarized Spielberg's legacy with countless in-jokes, self-referential cameos (especially to *Back to the Future*, a movie he helped produce) and tropes that wouldn't be tropes without Spielberg himself. It's a cinematic Mobius strip.

Which is not to say it's very good, because it isn't.

The plot concerns teenager Wade Watts (Tye Sheridan) living in the near dystopian future, a time when the huge online VR universe called Oasis, created by the late, legendary programmer Halliday (Mark Rylance), dominates all human interaction. People all but live inside the game, the only place to make money and be someone important, as evidenced by your avatar. Wade (online name: Parzival) is one of many denizens hoping to find the greatest Easter egg of all time: Three keys hidden by Halliday inside Oasis that will make its finder fabulously rich. Of course, another evil industrialist (Ben Mendelsohn) wants to get the keys first, or crush Wade before he finds them.

The plot calls to mind *Tron*, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, *E.T.*, *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, *The Lego Movie* and more off-shoots than I can recall, which is, sadly, the film's problem. *Ready Player One* is epic in its scope and dazzling in its use of CGI (too much so — it gave me a headache), but it's equally unwieldy. This is the



kind of movie nerds will freeze-frame for year, looking for its *own* Easter eggs, hints, references and gags. That might prove fun, but it leaves out what has always made Spielberg's bubblegum movies delightful: The heart, the personality, and sense of wonder. There's very little of that here,

just a catalogue of allusions (some quite excellent, like *The Shining* riff) but mostly just overwhelming and noisy, while missing many of the more salient moral issues posed by this online world. Someone needs to hit reset.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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# No Tie — know Frye

Fundraiser chair Leslie Frye sets out to create A Night to Remember

As a musician and singer, Leslie Frye knows something about creating memorable nights for people. But now he's literally responsible for coming up with a night to remember.

A Night to Remember, you see, is the theme for this year's No Tie Dinner and Dessert, the casual fundraiser for AIDS Services of Dallas, in which many folks host small dinner parties in their homes, then everyone gathers at the Frontiers of Flight Museum for tasty pastries and succulent sweets, all built around '80s prom décor.

Frye took on the duties of chair of this year's event (its 13th), so we asked him for insights into the most dressed-down of Dallas social events not set poolside.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

**NO TIE PARTY**  
Frontiers of Flight Museum,  
6911 Lemmon Ave. 7–11 p.m.  
\$75–\$150. NoTieDinner.org

**las?** Leslie Frye: About five years ago, I hosted my first No Tie Dinner Party with my friends, Todd and Miguel Atkins-Whitley. We had about 20 people and had a great time hosting the dinner and an even better time at the dessert party when we all showed up wearing the same bow ties. But it would not be until I toured one of AIDS Services of

Dallas' four apartment communities, like Hillcrest House, and saw and felt the compassion for each of the men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS that

I wanted to do more. I have been involved ever since.

**How has No Tie/ASD (or its needs) changed since you have become involved?** The basic needs haven't changed [over the years]. It costs \$40 for a night of housing and \$1,320 for a month of housing for each resident, so fundraisers like No Tie are critical to be able to provide as many "homes" as we can. They needed nutritious meals, social services, access to medical care, transportation and most importantly, a place to call home. The

■ FRYE Page 27



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## A brunching of gays Don Chingon



Adequate food, good cocktails?  
Service is the tie-breaker

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

**I**t's said that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. That comes close to describing our experience at brunch recently at Don Chingon.

The newish Tex-Mex restaurant on Lower Greenville Avenue only recently began brunch service, and we decided it was time to check it out. The facilities are oddly intriguing, if not outright inviting: A xeriscaped courtyard in front with an oversized bit of decor that calls to mind a pinata; griffitted wall with the command "Besame mucho" painted on it, in clear violation of the #MeToo movement's tongue clucking; inside, the style is dark but colorful, with sugar skulls and luchador face-masks adding a buoyant sense of whimsy. For the moment, we were hopeful.

We casually mentioned an outside table would be nice, but when the hostess left to set it up, she placed us indoor, although next to the (closed) garage-door-style wall — near the elements, but not in them. "Ah, well," we sighed; "maybe she didn't hear

us."

"Didn't hear us" became a frustrating refrain.

We found it odd the hostess placed the menus and silverware at the four-top across from each other, as if we were sitting down for a chess match or nuclear disarmament talks, rather than two friends ready to engage in conversation. (We took the seats we wanted catty-corner to each other.) And she didn't, as is the custom, inform us with the traditional boilerplate, "Your server, So-And-So, will be over in a moment" ... which, in retrospect, was at least honest. Other than a bowl of thin corn chips and ramekins of adequate salsa slapped down at our table, was the only communication we had with an employee for the next 20 minutes.

No one came to wait on us, to check on our waters or ask our drink order or, heaven forfend, see if we wanted to order, ya know, *food*. We chatted amongst ourselves for about 15 minutes, until Valentine whispered to me, "When can I start getting angry that no one has waited on us?" "Five minutes ago," I shot back.

And the lion was about to roar.

I waved politely in the direction of the bar, the welcome stand, the servers



walking past, in hopes of getting someone's attention, but without luck. I began to wonder whether, while dressing that morning, I had inadvertently donned my cloak of invisibility, before remembering that muggles can't access such wizardtech. Eventually, a waitress walked within one table of ours so that I had, at least the chance, of sending up a flare like some wayward Gilligan hoping for rescue.

"Excuse me," I said above a stage whisper, standing slightly from my seat with a flash of my wrist. "Miss!" I repeated, louder. The patrons at the nearby table heard me; they turned. The waitress continued her campaign of myopic deafness. One or two more "misses" finally resulted in me, fully on my feet, and near the top of my lungs, yelling, "Will someone please wait on us!"

That got the server's attention. And, I believe, several neighborhood dogs.'

The remainder of the meal arrived mostly without a hitch, though it did take an atypically long time for our drink orders to be filled, and at one point a food deliverer asked if we ordered more chips while we sat there with a pile that was large enough that it should have answered his own question. (He proceeded to wander like Diogenes through the streets of Athens, trying to find a hungry table.) We only got a meek, "Sorry for the delay earlier" as we were paying the check. Contrition, it seemed was in as short supply as efficiency.

What we ate wasn't bad, though nothing much to bring us back. I liked the cheesy, celebrity-inspired names of the cocktails, which were top-heavy with tequila and mezcal. (Valentine is a committed agavephile.) The combos were pretty solid; a smoky-sweetness to the Shakira Shakira; a bit of spice on the Luis Miguel's Espicia. But they washed down some pretty ordinary cuisine.

The chile con queso (\$8) was misnamed (as they often are): it was, rather, melted cheese with a light topping of diced tomatoes; the claim of roasted green chiles — the "chile" in chile con queso, mind you — was more aspirational than real. It was Velveeta-y, as tasteless as KellyAnne



Don Chingon's chimichanga, opposite, and the thin chile con queso, above, were underwhelming. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Conway's wardrobe.

I stepped outside my comfort zone to order the chimichanga (\$16). I've long felt chimichangas (deep-fried burritos) were an artifice of Tex-Mex, not a true staple — more marketing and salesmanship to bloated American waistlines than a legitimate culinary creation. As a result, I haven't ordered one since two competent presidential administrations ago. But this was was filled with brisket, with cheddar cheese, with a spicy-sweet BBQ sauce and a horseradish cheese sauce (according to the menu) that suggested some kick to it. I was game.

What the menu promised and what my tastebuds detected were not in sync. The distinctive bite from horseradish was entirely absent, and the cheese sauce was as bland as the queso. It also arrived cut in half, like a sandwich wrap. Maybe it fit on the plate better that way, or maybe it disguised how unimpressively the burrito was stuffed. The chopped brisket inside seemed fine, though its flavors were masked rather than highlighted by a thick flour tortilla (which was not especially crispy, as you associate with a chimichanga). The side salad had the benefit of being dressed with some tropical fruits, though the borracho beans would be more accurately styled bore-racho.

The Don Chingon hash (\$14) was amply sized and probably the best of the few dishes we tried, but other than the tequila selection, there's not much that would bring us back. We left disappointed, like the proverbial lamb ... though actually, some mutton might have spiced things up some. Couldn't have hurt.

Don Chingon, 2237 Greenville Ave.

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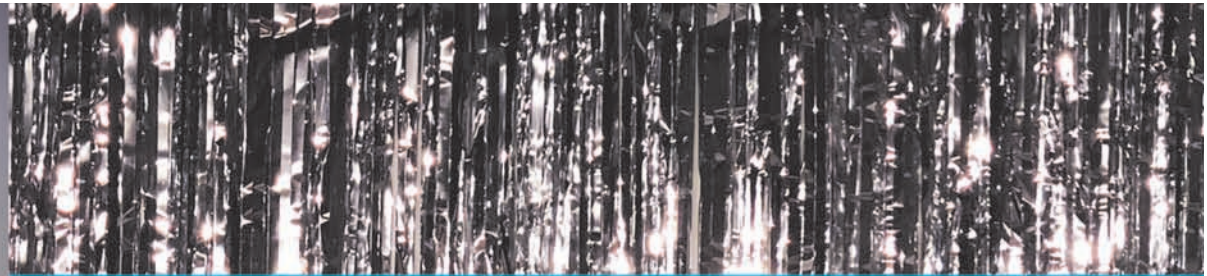
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# *A Night to Remember*



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**Wednesday 04.04  
— Sunday 04.15**

### Dixie Does Cowtown (twice!)

One of the top Tupperware ladies in the U.S. is only kind of a lady — Dixie Longate, the drag queen-cum-comic-saleslady — conducts an actual Tupperware Party in her performance piece, which returns to Fort Worth's McDavid Studio at Bass Hall this week. And as a sales pitch might go, "But wait! There's more!" Dixie's other big show,

*Dixie's Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull and 16 Other Things I Learned While I was Drinking Last Thursday* takes over from the Tupperware Party from April 11–15. Apparently, Dixie will rise again.

**DEETS:** McDavid Studio, 301 E. Fifth St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.



**Sunday 04.01**

### Easter in the Park arrives at the renamed Oak Lawn Park

Easter in the Park and the concomitant Pooch Parade has been a gayborhood institution for decades, but for the first time, it's not at Lee Park ... because there is no Lee Park any more. The now-christened Oak Lawn Park again welcomes everyone to the picnic, concert, parade and fundraiser for the local conservancy. The high point, of course, is the train of pet-owners and their doggies showing off couture and aiming for prizes. But mostly, it's just a good time outdoors. (Hint: Don't tell friends you'll meet them by the statue!)

**DEETS:** Oak Lawn Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd.



**Wednesday 04.04 — Sunday 04.28**

### Second Thought swallows in the relationship comedy 'Empathitrax'

What if repairing a relationship was as simple as taking a pill that makes you understand what your partner is thinking and feeling? Sounds good... until you realize all the complications that naturally ensue. That's the disturbingly comic premise of *Empathitrax*, the new production from Second Thought Theatre. Local luminaries Jenny Ledel and Drew Wall reunite for this look at mental health and easy fixes. (In previews through April 6.)

**DEETS:** Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 2TT.co.

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## calendar highlights



## ARTSWEEK

### THEATER

**The Comparables.** Bette, Monica and Iris are high-end real estate agents with rock-hard sales pitches. Sound like a female *Glengarry Glen Ross*? You can see for yourself at a staged reading for the show, presented by WingSpan Theatre Co. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. March 30–31. \$10. WingSpanTheatre.com.

**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. *Final weekend.* Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

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

### COMEDY

**Dallas Comedy Festival.** More than two dozen standups, improv groups and sketch comedy acts appear on four stages at the Dallas Comedy House, 3025 Main St. Friday–Saturday.

### DANCE

**L.A. Dance Project.** The modern dance troupe performs. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. March 30–31. ATPAC.org.

### 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 Sunday. 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. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

**Memory Mind Matter: The Sculpture of Eduardo Chillida.** The work of 20th century Spanish sculptor and artist. Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. Through June 3. MeadowsMuseumDallas.org.

### 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.

## FRIDAY 03.30

### COMMUNITY

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

## SATURDAY 03.31

### 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.

## SUNDAY 04.01 — EASTER

### COMMUNITY

**Easter in the Park and Pooch Parade.** Festivities start early, with the parade at noon. Oak Lawn Park 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd.

## TUESDAY 04.03

### 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





The 2018 Dallas Comedy Festival returns to Dallas Comedy House in Deep Ellum Friday, with headliners Sasheer Zamata ('Saturday Night Live') improv troupe 3Peat. (Pictured: Wiki Tiki Tabby)

Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 04.04

**THEATER**  
**Dixie's Tupperware Party.** Drag queen Dixie Longate hosts an actual Tupperware party with comic sass. McDavid Studio, 501 E. Fifth St., Fort Worth. April 4-8. (Followed next week by *Dixie's Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull and 16 Other Things I Learned While I was Drinking Last Thursday.*) BassHall.com.  
**Empathitrax.** The local premiere of a comedy about relationships, mental health and the drug society. Presented by Second Thought Theatre. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. April 4-28. 2TT.co.

**COMMUNITY**  
**First Wednesday Cedar Springs Wine Walk.** Monthly stroll through the gayborhood. Pick up a wine glass for \$10 outside the Round-Up Saloon. 6-9 p.m.

THURSDAY 04.05

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

■ **FRYE** From Page 21  
problem is that there is still a need for all those services today.  
**You've performed at No Tie events in the past — what's it like to now chair the event?** [Performing] is a creative process; being the No Tie chair is just as much of a creative process. It has been an exercise in having a dream of what I wanted the experience of coming to No Tie to feel like, raising the money and sponsorships, being able to execute the vision, and finding a group of people to help me bring it to life.  
The theme was inspired by an '80s prom. It's going to be a great night with as many balloon arches as we can fit into the Frontiers of Flight Museum! We will have the Jam Wows, a 13-piece cover band, fabulous drag queens Patti Le Plae Safe, Star Michaels, Angela Karmichael and Analee Pleasured [while] trying to set a world record for the most people dancing to "Footloose" while eating dessert.

**Will you personally get a chance to enjoy dinner that night?** I will not be able to host a dinner this year — I'll be busy blowing up balloons and making sure everything is perfect before the party patrons arrive.

**What's your favorite aspect of No Tie?** To see how the dinners I've hosted have grown. My first dinner was around 20 to 30 people and last year we had 60-plus spilling outside. I love the moment of chaos when I'm trying

to gather everyone to get them out the door and to the museum for the dessert party. There is just something about the adrenaline, excitement and enthusiasm that fills the air during that moment. The fact that there's going to be old friends to see, money to raise, open bar and more desserts than you can shake a stick at doesn't hurt.

this week's solution

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# Cassie Nova

boys will be boys (gay or straight)

Hello, all. Reality television has ruined me. Last week, a huge group of drag queens, trans women, gay boys and lesbian girls all went out to Uncle Julio's to celebrate the birthday of Sasha Andrews. It sounds like the perfect storm for some ridiculous *Real Housewives/Jersey Shore* bullshit. But not one drink was flung in someone's face, not one table was overturned. The only thing resembling drama was when the waiter brought extra Mexican butter for the fajitas and both Sasha and I reached for the little cup of golden goodness. A reality show bitch woulda snatched it and poured it over the other girl's head with some very telenovela flare. God, real life is so boring.

I am joking, of course. We actually had a really great time. I am thankful that we don't have more drama than we do. Every once in a while, one of us will be a petty princess and blow something stupid into a big deal, but once the beef is squashed, we actually feel closer. Funny how that works.

Now let me squash some of your beef. (That sounds weird. Where did that saying come from? Squash some beef? Sounds sexual. Anyhoo...)

Dear Cassie, I am a single mom of two beautiful boys. One is 11 and the other is about to turn 15. Before my first son was born, my girlfriends and I would go to the gay bars all the time. I remember seeing you in the old Rose

Room. Those were the days. I love my gays. I was kind of a chubby gal but at the gay bar I danced with all of the hot guys with no judgment. I wouldn't exactly call myself a fag hag, but I never felt more me than when I did around my gays.

The reason I am writing is because I know in my heart that my older son is gay and I have a few questions I'm not sure who else to ask. I've told him over and over that I will love him and support him no matter what, but lately he has become very secretive. He used to tell me just about everything. Now it seems like I am the last person he wants to talk to. What can I do to get him to open up to me?

The other question I have is about his masturbating. He does it all of the time. No one showers or poops that much. I've walked in on him twice while he was... you know. How much is too much? Should I say something? I'm not sure how I would even start that conversation. Thanks in advance for any advice you can give me. I hope to come out and see you soon. Take care, Deborah.

Dearest Deborah, First off I want to say thank you for being so loving and accepting of having gay child. The reason I am not even asking if you are sure he is gay is because a mother always knows. My mom knew I was gay from the time I was 4 or 5. She tells me that now, but at the time, and all through my youth, she ig-

nored that feeling and pushed back the truth. Your son is lucky.

As far as him being secretive, that's normal. Keep an open dialogue with him and remind him that he can come to you with everything. Pushing too hard, though, could make him shut down even more. I can't imagine being a kid in this day and age with social media and the state of the world. The best thing

you can do is remain open and willing to talk to him about anything. Think before you speak, because teenagers are volatile creatures and freak out over the smallest slip of the tongue.

Take him to see the movie *Love, Simon* or buy him the book it is based on, *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*. It is such a great story and an important one. For a movie about a boy in high school dealing with coming out to have a wide release warms my heart. It is even playing in places like Mansfield and Waxahachie. I can only imagine how different things would have been for me if I saw a movie like *Love, Simon* at 15. It could open a dialogue and make things easier to talk about.

Now, on the subject of your son spanking it: You need to shut up and act like it is no big



deal. It is normal. From the time I was 13 until I was 17, I beat my meat like I hated it at least three times a day. It is an important part of growing up and maturing. It's about self-discovery more than it is about self-satisfaction. Please don't think that because he is gay he does it more. Boys, gay or straight, become filthy gross individuals during this time but it really is normal.

When I was his age, let's just say if my hands were made of wood and my dick was made of sand paper, I'd be nothin' but nubs. Or I would have caught on fire by now. Buy that boy a lock for his bedroom door and a big bottle of lotion and give the boy some privacy. One of the worst memories in my life was my mother walking in on me spanking it. And that was just last week. Just kidding; I was probably your son's age and it haunts me to this day. It was so horribly embarrassing for both of us. We did not make eye contact with each other for more than a month. She did start knocking after that. The best thing you can do is act like you never saw anything.

Your boys sound lucky to have you. Remember it is more important for you to be their parent, and less important to be their friend. Good parents always end up being a friend to their child. Not to freak you out, but you do realize that in less than two years, you will have two teenagers. Good luck, you are gonna need it. Oh, and come back to the Rose Room. We would love to see you! Cassie.

Dear Cassie, I have a friend that does nothing but post how horrible things are in his life on Facebook. It makes me never want to talk to him or be around him. Does that make me a horrible person? I try to post comments like "keep your head up" or "it will get better," but it is exhausting. WWCND? Thanks, Todd.

Dear Todd, Miss Thang, I swear I was just saying this same thing to someone. We all have those friends that wah-wah all over Facebook. I'm broke, no one loves me, feline AIDS is the number one killer of domestic cats. It is always something. Kind of reminds me of the boy who cried wolf. How do you know when your friend is really in need if they are always in need... of attention!

I think some people thrive off of others telling them things are going to be OK. It's a way to get attention. A way to fish for sympathy. Now, I hope you know when your friends are really in need and you are there for them, but for these constant Debbie Downers I just roll my eyes and keep scrolling.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.

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Pool shark at The Hidden Door (and security, too!)



Wishing Bear a happy birthday from The Strip



Chanel in her first performance since the accident, at Marty's Live. (Photo courtesy Roger Huffman)



The drag brunch cast at Sallio Italio

Making the **SCENE** the week of **March 30–April 5:**

- **Alexandre's:** **Walter Lee** on Friday. **Londée** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** **Wall of Food** show at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Bigger is Better Easter Bonnet Contest, High Heel Race and Cake Walk** from 5-8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **Mutt Mosh** from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. **Supafly Trash Disco** with **DJ Blaine** from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** Mahanna Street is closed until May 1. Take Wheeler Street or Cedar Plaza Lane to Bowser.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10** watch party from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Pekers:** Cash prizes for **karaoke** on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Easter Basket Auction** at 7 p.m. on Sunday benefits **Resource Center** and **Texas Gay Rodeo Association**. **RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10** watch party on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **TGRA Rodeo Kick-off** and **Royalty Competition** at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **The 515 Bar:** **Tap TV Trivia** with cash prizes from 8-10 p.m. on Thursday.
- **The Rose Room:** Special guest **Janet Andrew** on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** **Trashy Tuesdays**.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Easter Bonnet Contest** at 3 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Oak Lawn Easter Kick-Off to Spring** begins at noon on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood** and **Chad Mantooth**

## Watching 'Drag Race' with Asia at JR.'s







Hanging out at Woody's



Raunda gets a giggle



Kilo Kikii and Lady Monroe



Friends and fun on The Strip



Siblings on The Strip

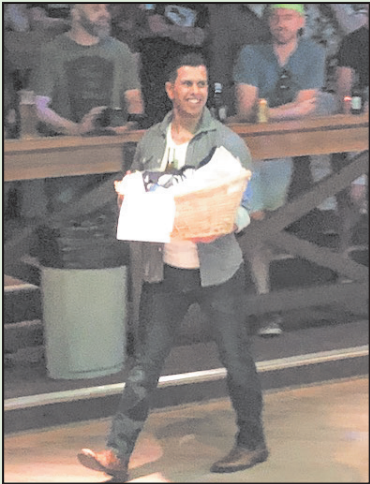


Looking fabulous for a night on the town



Brian at The Hidden Door

# Lost Souls Bachelor Auction







## No Tie Dinner Kickoff



The Pineapple Gang at Sue's

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Sunday Fun Day at Sue's



Angel Seven at Woody's

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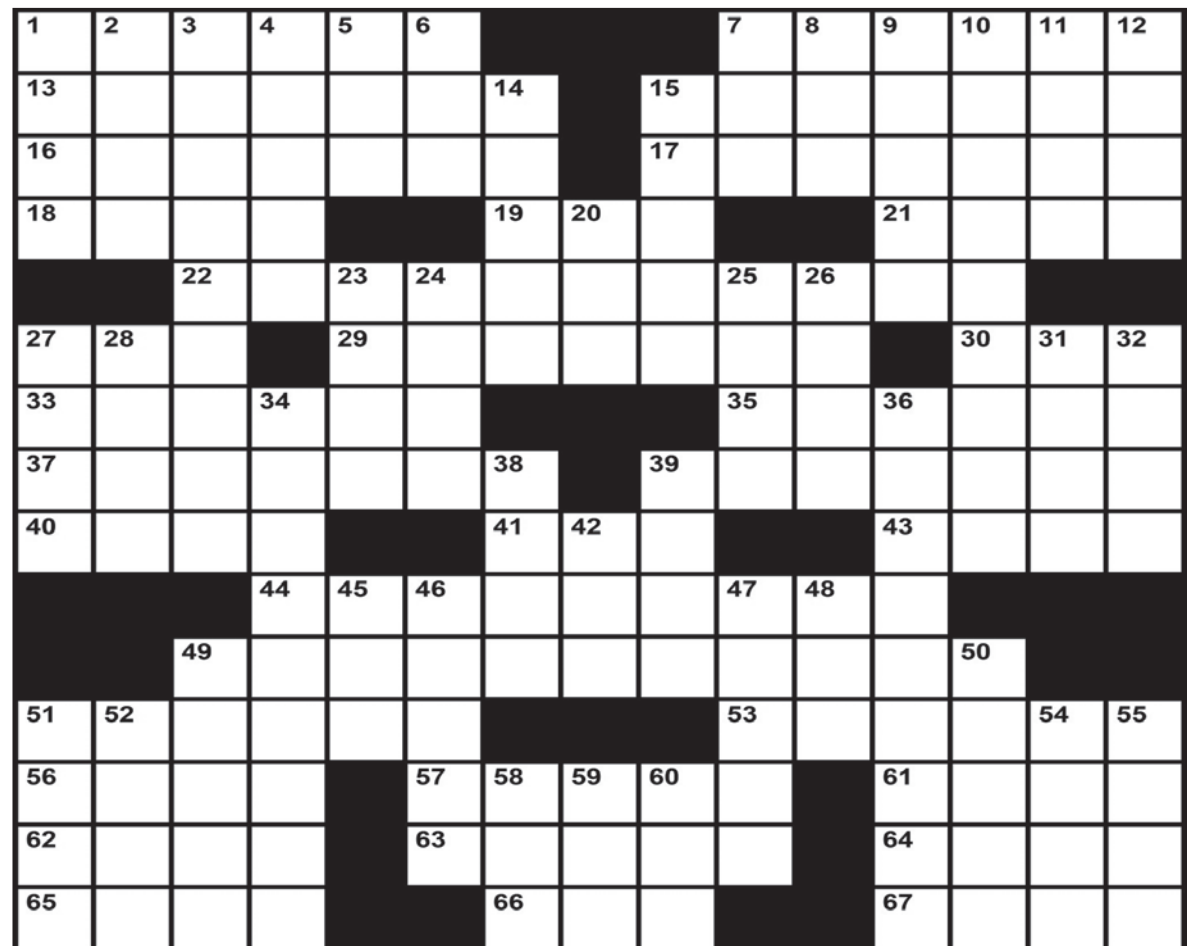
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## Words from Dear Simon

Solution on Page 27

### Across

- 1 "\_\_\_ because you think I look like a guy?" (with 7-Across)
- 7 See 1-Across
- 13 Establishes sexual preference?
- 15 Classical guitar great
- 16 Put it to your mouth at a gay rodeo
- 17 Like the most in-vogue porn stars
- 18 Heal, like a bone
- 19 Earhart's domain
- 21 They may be liberal
- 22 "\_\_\_ because you don't look like a guy" (with 49- and 66-Across)
- 27 H.S. math course
- 29 How fag hags find gays
- 30 Suffix with hero
- 33 Was an angel on Broadway
- 35 Frank once of the House
- 37 Hairstylist, maybe
- 39 Pain in an orifice
- 40 Male enhancement exaggeration?
- 41 Home o' the brave
- 43 XXX, to Greeks
- 44 Suddenly and completely
- 49 See 22-Across
- 51 Goldberg of *The Color Purple*

- 53 Opera tenor Caruso
- 56 Sauce brand
- 57 Above the horizon
- 61 Opposite of loads
- 62 Wilde country
- 63 Bodybuilder Charles
- 64 \_\_\_ fan tutte
- 65 Pine for
- 66 See 22-Across
- 67 You may go down on one

### Down

- 1 Get into a slip
- 2 Pakistan neighbor
- 3 Eatery on the Orient Express
- 4 "The best is \_\_\_ come!"
- 5 *A Chorus Line* song
- 6 Versatile vehicle
- 7 To God, to Caesar
- 8 Guy under J. Edgar?
- 9 The whole shebang
- 10 "Ay, \_\_\_ a king" (Shakespeare)
- 11 Type of personal lubricant
- 12 Goes down on
- 14 Quick bite
- 15 Small bush
- 20 It changes a señor's gender
- 23 Glen or Glenda: \_\_\_ *Two Lives*
- 24 Baldwin staffer
- 25 *Dark Angel* star
- 26 *Maude* producer
- 27 Name on a column
- 28 Byron poem
- 31 Old fruit drink
- 32 Bette Davis feature of song
- 34 Tease
- 36 Where Dover moved his "bloomin' arse"
- 38 Trojan Horse, e.g.
- 39 Lawman Wyatt
- 42 "Fifth Beatle" Sutcliffe
- 45 Lover with a penetrating glance?
- 46 *The Seven Samurai* director Kurosawa
- 47 Buck of C&W
- 48 Family
- 49 *The African Queen* co-star, informally
- 50 Make a pass at
- 51 Small songbird
- 52 Bugs Bunny's Broadway musical?
- 54 Lambda Legal Defense suit, e.g.
- 55 Garfield's pal
- 58 Sexual ending
- 59 Pitch preceder
- 60 Colette made a splash in it

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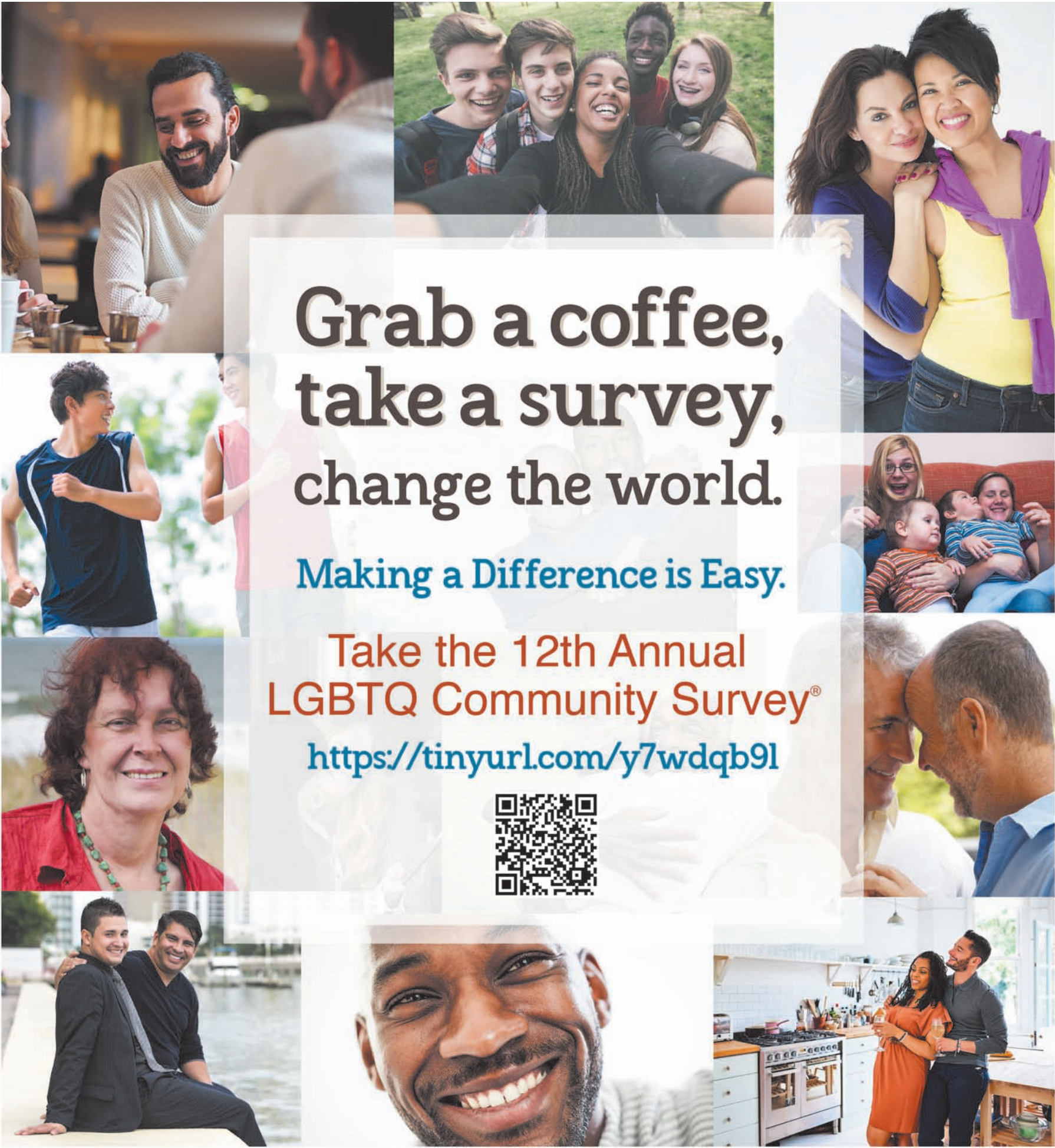
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