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Outlaw rising

Lil Nas X is generating controversy not just with his music, but with his identity

by Rashid Eldoma, Page 20

Important Facts About DOVATO

This is only a brief summary of important information about DOVATO and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?

If you have both human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) and hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Resistant HBV infection.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV infection before you start treatment with DOVATO. If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the hepatitis B virus can change (mutate) during your treatment with DOVATO and become harder to treat (resistant). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in people who have HIV-1 and HBV infection.
- **Worsening of HBV infection.** If you have HIV-1 and HBV infection, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking DOVATO. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Worsening liver disease can be serious and may lead to death.
 - Do not run out of DOVATO. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your DOVATO is all gone.
 - **Do not stop DOVATO without first talking to your healthcare provider.** If you stop taking DOVATO, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your liver.

What is DOVATO?

DOVATO is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection in adults: who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past, or to replace their current HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take DOVATO?

Do not take DOVATO if you:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine that contains dolutegravir or lamivudine.
- take dofetilide.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using DOVATO?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have kidney problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. One of the medicines in DOVATO (dolutegravir) may harm your unborn baby.
 - Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different medicine than DOVATO if you are planning to become pregnant or if pregnancy is confirmed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
 - If you can become pregnant, your healthcare provider will perform a pregnancy test before you start treatment with DOVATO.
 - If you can become pregnant, you should consistently use effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with DOVATO.
 - Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are planning to become pregnant, you become pregnant, or think you may be pregnant during treatment with DOVATO.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take DOVATO.**
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - One of the medicines in DOVATO (lamivudine) passes into your breastmilk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.



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Produced in USA.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines interact with DOVATO. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with DOVATO.
- **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take DOVATO with other medicines.

What are possible side effects of DOVATO?

DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Those in the “What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?” section.**
- **Allergic reactions. Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with DOVATO. Stop taking DOVATO and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms:** fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue; problems breathing.
- **Liver problems.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with DOVATO. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without a history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver.
Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or “tea-colored” urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms that could be signs of lactic acidosis:** feel very weak or tired; unusual (not normal) muscle pain; trouble breathing; stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy or lightheaded; and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Lactic acidosis can also lead to severe liver problems,** which can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the signs or symptoms of liver problems which are listed above under “Liver problems if you are female or very overweight (obese).”**
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking DOVATO.
- **The most common side effects of DOVATO include:** headache; nausea; diarrhea; trouble sleeping; tiredness; and anxiety.

These are not all the possible side effects of DOVATO. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.



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^aSubject to eligibility and program terms and conditions; ViiVConnect programs do not constitute health insurance.

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DOVATO is a complete prescription regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past or to replace their current HIV-1 medicines when their doctor determines they meet certain requirements.

Results may vary.

*As compared with 3- or 4-drug regimens.

LáDeia

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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.

Where can I find more information?

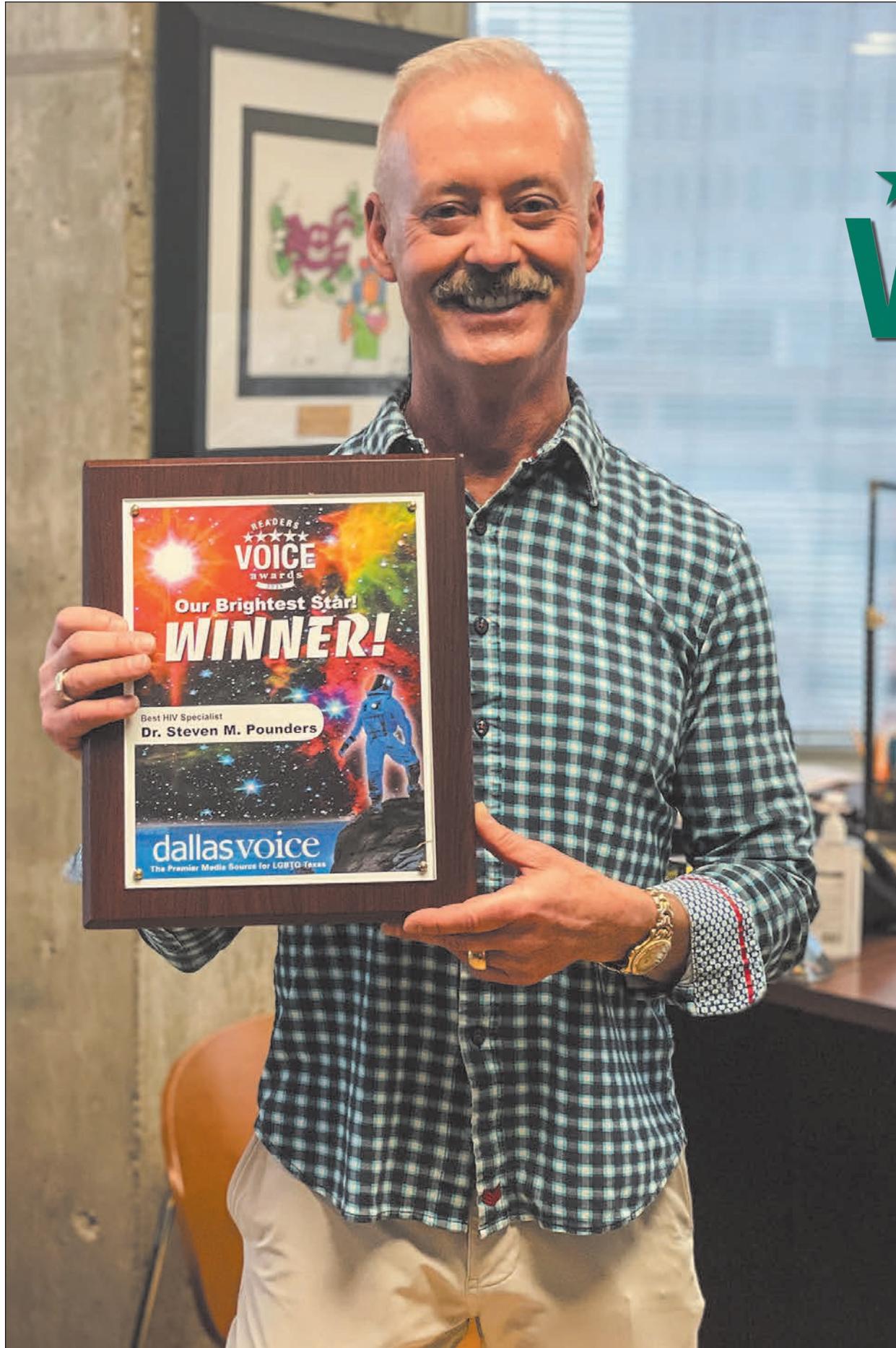
- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to DOVATO.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

August 2020 DVT:4PIL

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Ask your doctor about DOVATO.





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District 2 Jesse Moreno

District 4 Carolyn King Arnold

District 5 Jaime Resendez

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Peter Triporo, NP named Top 10 in 2018 America's Top Nurse Practitioner Awards presented by Point of Care Network.

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Rally for trans kids held at Capitol



Rachel Gonzalez, right, speaks at the rally.

Equality Texas led a rally for trans kids at the Capitol in Austin on Wednesday, April 14, to oppose harmful legislation.

Equality Texas CEO Ricardo Martinez talked about bills that would ban hormone blockers and prevent trans girls from participating in school sports.

"We are going to be here to defeat these bills," he said. "We will not be marginalized and oppressed anymore."

Dr. Aliza Norwood is the medical director for Vivent Health, which provides gender-related medical care. Norwood said she has a trans

brother. She talked about puberty blockers, saying they are completely reversible. A bill she mentioned would punish doctors for providing "evidence-based care" to trans kids. And she described the effect transition had on her brother.

"My brother became happy for the first time in his life," she said.

Rachel Gonzalez is a Dallas mom with three daughters. Her oldest is transgender.

"This is the third session I've had to come to Austin to ask the Legislature to give my children basic human rights," she said.

Another mom of a trans child said she is being accused of making her child transition. She said she can't get her kids to make their beds and certainly couldn't force a gender change of them.

The rally took place in the underground House of Representatives office extension and lasted 30 minutes. After the rally, parents and allies were going to continue testifying against the onslaught of anti-LGBTQ bills.

— David Taffet

Funeral assistance offered to Texans who've lost loved ones to COVID

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson announced that FEMA will begin accepting applications this

week for funeral assistance under a program created under the American Rescue Plan. Texans who paid for funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020, for an individual whose death may have been caused by or was likely the result of COVID-19 can apply for up to \$9,000 of assistance per funeral through FEMA's dedicated call center. Call 844-684-6333 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. central time. The TTY number is 800-462-7585. No online applications will be accepted.

— David Taffet

NCAA: No championship games with states banning trans youth from sports

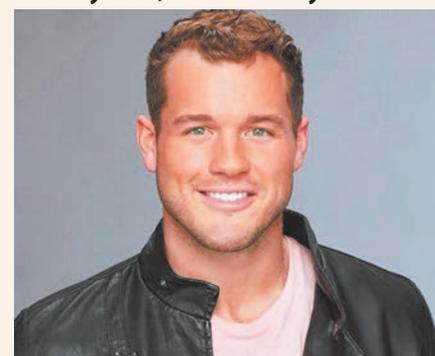
The NCAA this week — as Texas lawmakers continued to debate a number of anti-trans measures — announced that it will only hold college championship games in states where transgender student-athletes can participate without discrimination.

In addition to Senate Bills 1311 and 1646, which target trans youth and had hearings in the Senate States Affairs Committee this week, Texas lawmakers have filed six additional bills that target transgender students participating in sports, including SB 29, SB 373, and HB 1458.

Wesley Story, communications manager at Progress Texas, warned this week, "Texas has two NCAA championship games in the immediate future, and a lot to lose if lawmakers continue pushing forward hateful, transphobic bills."

— Tammye Nash

Colton Underwood: Newly out, new reality show



Colton Underwood

Colton Underwood, former star of *The Bachelor*, has come out as a gay man. He talked to Robin Roberts about it on *Good Morning America*, saying he had spent a lot of time running from his own truth and hating himself because of it. He told Roberts he thought that getting chosen as one of the contestants in 2018 on Becca Kufirin's season of *The Bachelorette*, where he became famous for being a virgin, and then being chosen as the star of Season 23 of *The Bachelor* would deliver him from being secretly gay.

The same day that Underwood came out on *GMA*, *TMZ* broke the news that Underwood is apparently already in the process of filming his own reality TV show documenting his coming out story.

— Tammye Nash

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Trans rights in the crosshairs

Texas Legislature considers numerous bills targeting transgender Texans

BY JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer
james.journo@gmail.com

A pack of school yard bullies is back in session, and this time, making life hell for transgender people is still atop their agenda. The LGBTQ community is once again playing defense as the 87th session of the Texas Legislature continues. Equality Texas, the statewide pro-LGBTQ advocacy group, is following more than 40 bills that either target or support the LGBTQ community.

The negative bills include religious exemptions for licensed professionals who think their religious beliefs should exempt them from performing services for LGBTQ people, state pre-emption of municipal nondiscrimination ordinances, HIV criminalization and multiple attacks on transgender people — trans youth in particular.

The bills targeting transgender youth are the most popular among conservative lawmakers, especially those bills that would bar trans youth from obtaining medical care and from playing in sports according to their gender identity.

Freshman Rep. Bryan Slaton, R-Royce City, has tried several times to add amendments during debate to bills barring transition-related care. On Wednesday, April 14, he almost succeeded in tacking an amendment onto a bipartisan bill by Insurance Committee Chair Dr. Tom Oliverson, R-Houston, related to prescription drugs. Oliverson, who regularly receives F on Equality Texas's Scorecard, opposed the amendment itself while

still voicing support for its intent. The amendment failed 79-57, with 20 Republicans voting no.

That same day, the House Public Health Committee heard HB 1424, also by Oliverson, which would allow healthcare providers to deny medical services based on religious beliefs. These bills usually target abortion access and LGBTQ people. Also that day, the committee heard House Bill 1399 by General Investigating Committee Chairman Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth, which would bar insurance coverage for medical care related to transitioning.

SB 29, another bill by Perry and a priority of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's, would ban transgender youth from playing sports based on their gender identity. It passed Wednesday in committee, 18-13.

Earlier in the week, on Monday, April 12, the Senate State Affairs Committee heard Senate Bill 1646 by Senate Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee Chairman Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, designating transition care as child abuse. It would hold medical profession-

als and parents liable. SB 1311 by Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood, would punish doctors for providing transition-related care.

On Monday, April 12, HIV and AIDS advocates testified against House Bill 369 by Rep. Tom Crad-



Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick

dick, R-Midland, the longest serving member of the House. It's a so-called "HIV criminalization" bill that would make exposing someone to HIV a criminal offense.

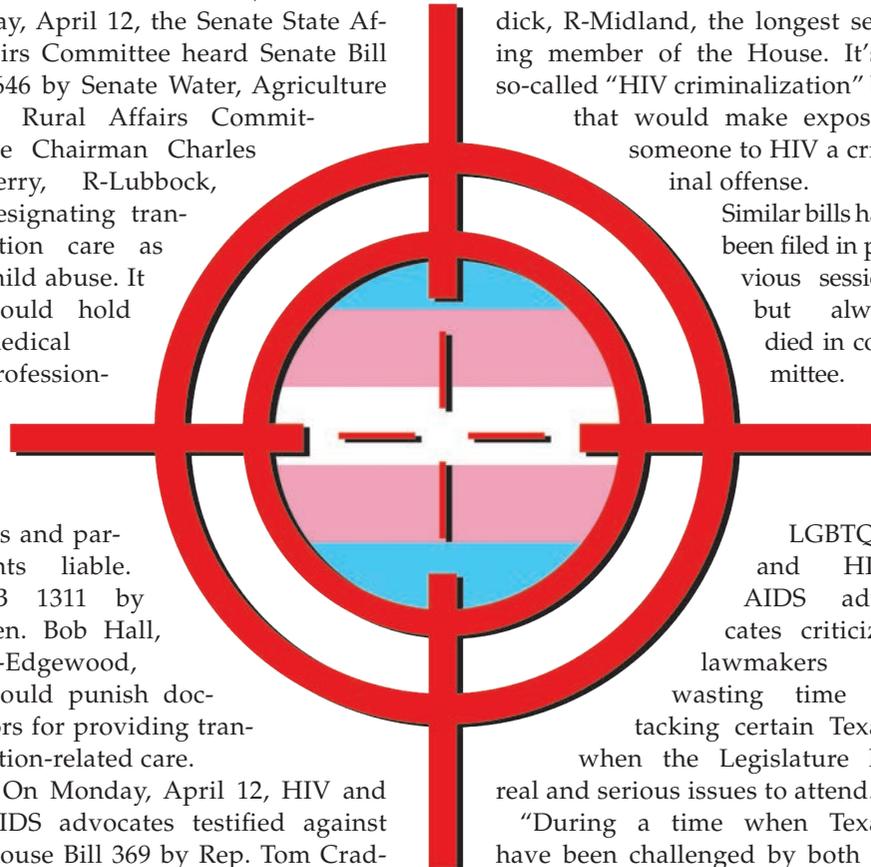
Similar bills have been filed in previous sessions but always died in committee.

LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS advocates criticized lawmakers for wasting time attacking certain Texans when the Legislature has real and serious issues to attend.

"During a time when Texans have been challenged by both the

COVID-19 pandemic and catastrophic winter weather-related power outages, the state legislature's priority should be delivering aid and relief to the people of Texas, not legislating against LGBTQ people and specifically transgender kids," said Human Rights Campaign Texas State Director Rebecca Marques. "The vast majority of Americans, including 60 percent of Republicans, support the equal treatment of transgender people, and legislating on transgender issues is among the lowest priorities."

Andrea Segovia, the field and policy coordinator for the Transgender Education Network of Texas is keeping watch. "While we at the Transgender Education Network of Texas see the attacks on trans youth spreading like wildfire throughout the country, we know it is slowly burning in our own backyard," she warned. "Dan Patrick has continued to target trans people and especially trans youth in his time as lieutenant governor," she said.



Dallas Ryan White council needs new members

Under-represented groups are especially needed for the council and its committees

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Dallas Eligible Metropolitan Area Ryan White Planning Council is looking for new council and committee members. The council has 33 slots, and only 19 of them are currently filled.

According to council chair John Dornheim, a membership is limited to two three-year terms. A number of people joined the council together, and they all rolled off at the same time, he explained.

Council members need to reflect the HIV/AIDS community, Dornheim said. So if 30 percent of HIV cases in the 10-county area covered by the council are Hispanic, about a third of council members should be Hispanic, too.

But, he noted, "We're down to two Hispanic members."

Dornheim said council members are also an aging group, while young people make up the fastest growing group of new infections. So committee members ages 21-45 are needed to make sure the needs of people within that age group are addressed.

The transgender community, which has among the highest HIV infection rate per capita, is also under-represented on the committee.

To join, Dornheim said, you don't need to be a medical professional. Nor do you need to be HIV-positive. People who work for an agency or hospital that provides medical or other care to people with HIV may join but are prevented from participating on certain committees. That's to avoid even the appearance of them directing money to

programs their agency offers.

The Ryan White program was named for a teenager who contracted HIV at the age of 13 after receiving a blood transfusion. He fought AIDS-related discrimination in school and testified about it before Congress. He died a month before his high school graduation and several months before Congress passed the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act.

Today, the Ryan White CARE

Act, as it's come to be known, provides money for medication, PrEP and related services for people living with HIV.

Dornheim explained that administration of services is different in various councils throughout the U.S. The 12-county area in the Dallas Council also includes Collin, Cooke, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Henderson, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro and Rockwall counties, and is administered by Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins.

Houston's Ryan White funds, Dornheim said, are administered by that city's mayor.

There are seven councils in Texas. Fort Worth's planning council includes Tarrant County and counties west of there.

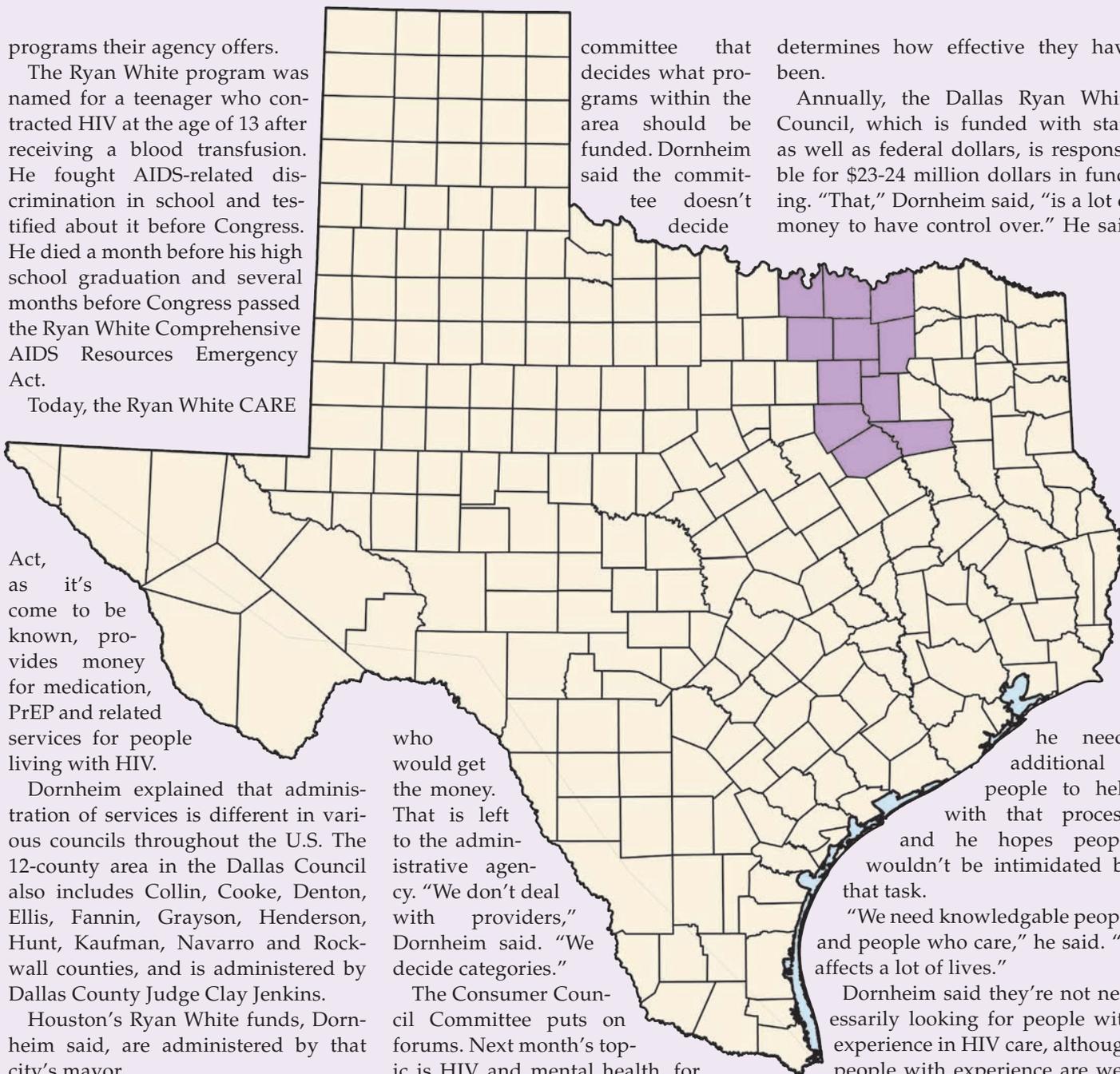
New members may join a committee before they are appointed to the full council by Jenkins. Someone indicating an interest in joining a committee would apply on the website and be interviewed by members of the council.

Committees include Allocations, the

committee that decides what programs within the area should be funded. Dornheim said the committee doesn't decide

determines how effective they have been.

Annually, the Dallas Ryan White Council, which is funded with state as well as federal dollars, is responsible for \$23-24 million dollars in funding. "That," Dornheim said, "is a lot of money to have control over." He said



who would get the money. That is left to the administrative agency. "We don't deal with providers," Dornheim said. "We decide categories."

The Consumer Council Committee puts on forums. Next month's topic is HIV and mental health, for example.

The Needs Assessment Committee decides whether new services should be funded. For example, as people living with HIV are living longer, what new concerns do they encounter? Should vision care or hearing be included in what's provided to people with HIV?

The Evaluation Committee reviews programs that have been funded and

he needs additional people to help with that process, and he hopes people wouldn't be intimidated by that task.

"We need knowledgeable people and people who care," he said. "It affects a lot of lives."

Dornheim said they're not necessarily looking for people with experience in HIV care, although people with experience are welcome to join. What they need, he stressed, are "people who are willing to listen, learn and spend time."

Council meetings and committee meetings are monthly, and each meeting lasts an hour to an hour and a half. Some people serve on more than one committee.

To join, visit DallasCounty.org/departments/rwpc and click on the link *Membership Application*.

Dispelling Myths

Social media campaign shines light on trans women of color

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
richlopezwrites@gmail.com

Transparency, a program of Abounding Prosperity Inc., is in the middle of a campaign that is working to dispel myths about transgenerism in Black and Latinx communities by getting people to “face the facts.” The campaign launched March 31, on International Transgender Day of Visibility, and runs through April 18, the National Transgender HIV Testing Day. Program Manager Naomi Green de-

scribes both the program and the campaign as a way to uplift and empower the trans community and battle the stigma surrounding transgender women.

“Transparency is a holistic program that was developed out of a need to address the socioeconomic and health gaps that exist for Black and Latinx trans women,” she explained.

Abounding Prosperity launched Transparency in 2019, creating it out of necessity, based on the rise in violence against trans individuals as well as the general discrimination and stigma. While inclusive of trans men of color, the focus has been primarily on women, who are disproportionately impacted by prejudices.

The idea behind the “Face the Facts” came from the program’s advisory board, and was intentionally bookended



Managers and participants in Abounding Prosperity Inc.’s Transparency program include, from left, Naomi Green, Chevell Gee, Kellie Durhal, Shawn White, Zimora Evans and Gia Reyes.

by those specific days of recognition. But Clinical Case Manager Gia Reyes was instrumental in having the campaign expanded beyond March 31.

“We didn’t want this to be just one day,” Reyes said. “If you spread it out and see it as a constant thing on social

MYTHS, Page 15

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Easier access

Lawmakers in Missouri, Maine consider bills to make HIV prevention meds easier to get

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lawmakers in the Missouri House have already approved legislation making it easier to get drugs to prevent HIV infection, while Maine legislators are considering a similar bill.

In Missouri, the proposal sponsored by Rep. Phil Christofanelli, a Republican from St. Peters, passed easily. It would allow people to go to pharmacies to obtain pre- and post-exposure drugs to prevent HIV infection, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

It was supported by 148 lawmakers from both parties on Monday, April 12,

with seven Republicans voting “present.” The measure now goes to the Missouri Senate.

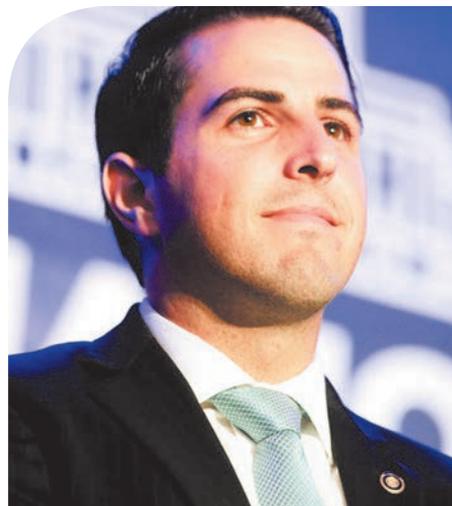
Christofanelli said he believes people should be able to access the drugs wherever it is most convenient because they can save lives.

The bill would require pharmacists to distribute the drugs with the supervision of a licensed physician and follow strict protocols. Patients would have to follow up with a physician and receive a prescription to get more than a 30-day supply of the pre-exposure medication.

Christofanelli said he hopes big pharmacy chains will adopt the plan if it is approved by the Missouri Senate.

In Maine, lawmakers are considering a proposal to require health insurance providers to expand their coverage of HIV prevention drugs.

Democratic Sen. Heather Sanborn, of Portland, submitted the proposal, which was the subject of a hearing be-



Rep. Phil Christofanelli (Photo by Gage Skidmore) and right, Sen. Heather Sanborn

fore the Maine Legislature’s Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. Sanborn said her proposal would require state-regulated health insurance providers to cover at least one HIV prevention drug.

Sanborn’s proposal would also require at least one such drug to be available without prior authorization. She said it would also create a process in which some pharmacists could dispense up to 60 days of HIV prevention medication to someone who lacks a prescription from a doctor.

HIV prevention medications include drugs used as PrEP and PEP. Sanborn said, “We are incredibly fortunate to have highly effective medication that can not only treat HIV, but actually prevent someone from contracting it in the first place.”

The proposal would face more consideration in committee.

Sanborn has previously advocated for the Maine Insurance Code to be updated to prohibit the denial or limitation of life insurance coverage for people who take the medications. ■

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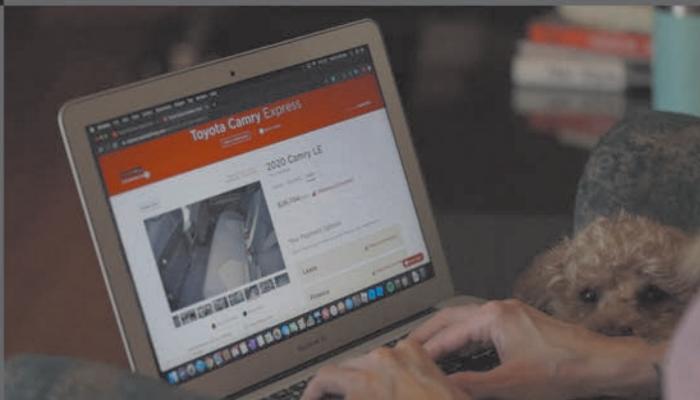
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TRANS, From Page 8



Texas state Rep. Dr. Tom Oliverson

Still, lawmakers around the country are persistent in passing such legislation. Mississippi recently signed the first bill barring trans athletes in school sports into law. While South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, a Republican who is eyeing running for president in 2024, killed a similar bill last month, she then signed two executive orders to accomplish the same goal. And on Wednesday, April 7, Arkansas became the first state to ban transgender medical care for youth when the Republican-led legislature overrode a veto by Gov. Asa Hutchinson, also a Republican. Hutchinson had called the bill an over-reach.

Not everything is bad for LGBTQ people in Texas; a few pro-equality measures have even gotten hearings. In fact, last month, three bills were heard in committee.

House Bill 73 by Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, which would bar what's called the "gay and trans panic attack" argument from being used in court, was heard in the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. It awaits a full vote

in committee. House Bill 191 by Rep. Diego Bernal, D-San Antonio, which would bar housing discrimination was also heard last month in Urban Affairs Committee and awaits a vote, while House Bill 1402 by Rep. Ann Johnson, D-Houston, to amend the James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act to include LGBTQ people, also got a hearing.

Two others supported by LGBTQ advocates were heard on April 6. House Bill 198 by Rep. Mary González, D-Clint, would amend the "Romeo and Juliet" law protecting consensual relationships between youth who are 14 years older and with someone within three years of their age. Only heterosexual couples are currently exempt; HB 198 would expand it to include same-sex couples. House Bill 1178 by Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, which would legalize needle exchanges, was also heard. A similar bill, House Bill 126 by Rep. Ina Minjarez, D-San Antonio, awaits a hearing in the Public Health Committee.

There's plenty of time for both good and bad bills to get hearings but it's tight. The session ends on May 31. ■



MYTHS From Page 10

media, eventually someone will click on it. An ally on the board said that if we do it on a regular basis, that starts to humanize us for people.

"It's about not just having it on these 'special days,' but all the time."

The campaign — often hashtagged #FaceTheFacts #StopStigma #TransLivesMatter — can be found on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter at @aboundingprosperity. Posts are crafted to dispel common myths about the transgender community, such as "All trans people are sex workers," and "All trans women have HIV." The posts then replace the myths with facts about transgender lives, often accompanied by photos of program participants.

The campaign works to shine a light on the stigma that can be so damaging for transgender people. One "fact" post states: "Stigma makes it harder for trans people to live. Stigma puts trans lives at higher risk for HIV."

The campaign also features videos by various program participants, including Kellie Durhal for whom Transparency is a haven. "I had known Naomi [Green] for a while. I'm from Detroit. I was looking for a way to feel like part of the community and meet new girls," she said. "Plus, I could navigate easier for services I couldn't get there."

Transparency works with local trans women of color on leadership and professional development, financial literacy, resume building, counseling and more. As the case manager, Reyes helps those who need it find hormone therapy, doctor/patient communication and even housing assistance.

"These are key components to the lives of transgender women," Green said.

Those services also include direction on name changes and gender marker changes, things that aren't easy to come by.

"Our names mean a lot to us so it's important to get that changed," participant and trans advocate Zimora Evans said. "We want to be addressed as we look."

Evans' video will be the last to be posted. It will go online on April 17. Evans also helped Green, Reyes and program assistant Chevell Gee with getting the program up and running.

"I used to work here, and I was in the beginning stages of all this. Let me just

say, we were stressed," she said.

Transparency has also been a safe space for Shawn White, a trans man who has found respite with his sisters at the program.

"First and foremost, Transparency has mentally and emotionally helped my confidence," White said. "I feel at home with my sisters here. I can get counseling whenever I choose, and they help me stay on top of my health."

Gee, who both works at Abounding Prosperity and participates in the Transparency program, echoed that sentiment. "The program has helped me to step outside of my box," she said. "I mean. I'm still stepping, but now I'm a little outside my box."

In a roundtable discussion for this piece, program participants discussed the challenges they face as trans people of color, but they also spoke of the cultural discrimination within their Black and Latinx families. Yet, with the social campaign where participants have revealed their stories on video, feedback has been positive.

"I had an amazing response," Durhal said. "I'm showing my vulnerability. People have been touched. That's reassuring to me that I'm doing the right thing and makes me wanna do more."

These discussions aren't new for the group, which hosts a virtual meeting called Chat 'n' Chews.

"We come together and share these stories," Green said.

Although the campaign ends next week, Green and Reyes remind everyone that they are here for the trans community always. Currently, the program serves 34 but is open to new participants who need any or all of Transparency's services.

"If you just want to be part of this family and need someone to talk to, that is here," Green said.

As with any nonprofit, funding and volunteers are always needed. But Transparency also encourages organizations, places of employment and those with any kind of sway to create spaces for trans people, especially Black and Latinx trans women.

"Oftentimes, it's us who have been left behind for so long," she said. ■

For more information about Transparency or to donate or volunteer, visit AboundingProsperity.org.



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- 4 Giovanni "Gio" Valderas

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- 2 Jesse Moreno
- 3 Sana Syed
- 4 Raha Assadi
- 5 Michael Fetzer

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- 2 Irby Foster

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- 1 Maxie Johnson
- 2 Lelani Russell
- 3 Matt Canto
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- 3 Gay Donnell Willis
- 4 Leland R. Burk
- 5 Mac Smith

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- 2 David Blewett
- 3 Elizabeth Viney

VOTE 2021

MAY 1, 2021 SPECIAL ELECTION AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF DALLAS

PROPOSITION NO. A

Eliminating the Requirement That A Member of a Board or Commission Created by the City Charter be Registered or Qualified to Vote.
Shall Chapter IV, Section 5; Chapter XV, Section 3; and Chapter XVII, Section 1 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to eliminate the requirement that a member of a board or commission created by the city charter be a registered or qualified voter?

PROPUESTA NO. A

Eliminar el Requisito de que un Miembro de una Junta o Comisión creada por la Carta de la Ciudad de Dallas sea Registrado o Calificado para Votar.
¿El Capítulo IV, Sección 5; Capítulo XV, Sección 3; y el Capítulo XVII, Sección 1 de la Carta de la Ciudad de Dallas será enmendado para eliminar el requisito de que un miembro de una junta o comisión creada por la carta de la ciudad sea un miembro registrado o calificado?

PROPOSITION NO. B

Eliminating the Requirement That a Member of the Civil Service Board be a Taxpaying Citizen.
Shall Chapter XVI, Section 1 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to eliminate the requirement that a member of the civil service board be a qualified taxpaying citizen?

PROPUESTA NO. B

Eliminar el Requisito de que un Miembro de la Junta de Servicio Civil sea un Ciudadano que Pague Impuestos.
¿Se modificará el Capítulo XVI, Sección 1 de la Carta de la Ciudad de Dallas para eliminar el requisito de que un miembro de la junta de servicio civil sea un miembro calificado que pague impuestos?

DALLAS COUNTY DATES / TIMES / LOCATIONS

April (abril) 19 – 23	Monday-Friday (lunes a viernes)	8a.m. to 7p.m.
April (abril) 24	Saturday (sábado)	8a.m. to 7p.m.
April (abril) 25	Sunday (domingo)	1p.m. to 7p.m.
April (abril) 26 – 27	Monday – Tuesday (lunes y martes)	7a.m. to 7p.m.

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David Taffet Senior Staff Writer ■ 125

Philip Burton Proofreader

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■ commUNITYvoices

Noem vs. Lil Nas X

S. Dakota governor worries about souls, but doesn't mind sacrificing lives

To create the right kind of atmosphere in which to write this column, I have all the lights off and am using a black background instead of a white one on my computer. I'm also burning a candle and listening to heavy metal.

Mind you, I have the lights off because it's 2 p.m. And I'm burning the candle because I made vegan mac and cheese for lunch and my wife hates the smell. (The candle is called "Holiday Sparkle" and supposedly smells like "Bright Sparkling Water, Sugared Citrus, Wintertime Jasmine and Creamy Sandalwood," but it really just smells like someone accidentally knocked into a perfume counter at Macy's and a random collection of bottles smashed onto the floor.) Also, heavy metal is legit my favorite kind of music, so I'd be listening to it regardless.

Still, let's pretend I'm opening myself up for Satanic possession or something. It freaks out the Christian right, and that's fun as hell.

Because it's time to talk about Lil Nas X and the video for his song "Montero (Call Me by Your Name)."

As I mentioned, I mostly listen to metal, so I have not closely followed Lil Nas X's career. All I know is that "Old Town Road" is very catchy, and that Lil Nas X is really fun to follow on Twitter.

Oh, and he's gay.

But even I, a middle-aged lesbian listening to Iron Maiden in the light of day, have heard about the recent controversy surrounding Lil Nas X's dance with the devil. In his video for "Montero (Call Me by Your Name)," a song about sex, he slides down a stripper pole into the depths of hell where he gives Satan a lap dance. To commemorate this feat, he commissioned a design company to customize 666 pairs of Nike Air Max 97s



D'Anne Witkowski

Creep of the Week

of a grand pair. (But don't worry, you can buy them for thousands of dollars on eBay.)

This got some people real mad. Nike, for example, has filed a lawsuit, since they didn't give the Satan Shoes their blessing. And then there's the negative reaction of South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, who you know has gotten tipsy and danced to "Old Town Road" at a wedding reception and has given her complete refusal to issue any kind of restrictions to stop the spread of COVID-19 in South Dakota.

Retweeting a photo of the shoes Noem wrote, "Our kids are being told that this kind of product is, not only okay, it's 'exclusive.' But do you know what's more exclusive? Their God-given eternal soul. We are in a fight for the soul of our nation. We need to fight hard. And we need to fight smart. We have to win."

First of all, if a product is limited, numbered and pricey, it is literally exclusive. You don't have to like, want or approve of the thing being sold for it to be exclusive. These shoes are essentially works of art.

Secondly, these shoes are not stealing anybody's soul. They're shoes. And Satan is pretend.

Perhaps Noem came down hard on Satan Shoes because conservatives are mad at her for not being mean enough to transgender people.

Like many states, South Dakota law-

makers have passed legislation to keep transgender women and girls from playing sports — a solution looking for a problem as there is no huge influx of transgender athletes dominating women's sports. But when the legislation reached her desk, Noem sent it back, asking for some tweaks. And that now has her critics claiming that she caved to the transgender agenda.

But who cares what they say — or what I say, for that matter. Because Lil Nas X's response to Noem is perfection: "ur a whole governor and u on here tweeting about some damn shoes. do ur job!"

Yeah! Except she is very terrible at her job. You'd think that someone whose refusal to act in any way to protect the people in her state from a deadly epidemic led to hundreds of unnecessary deaths would appreciate a little constructive criticism from someone who is actually really good at his job. But instead of "Thank you," Noem responded with a Bible quote: "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? — Matthew 16:26"

A good question! Especially for a governor who sat on her hands while people died but managed to get real fired up over an art piece sold by a Black gay man. One could even argue that she forfeited the souls of innocent people in order to score political points with extremists. Thankfully, she doesn't have the whole world, just South Dakota. But we are in a fight for the soul of our nation. We need to fight hard. And we need to fight smart. We have to win.

Now if you'll excuse me, I've got some eBaying to do, because it's never too early to get that Christmas shopping done.

D'Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBTQ politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.

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LNx



Lil Nas X accepts the award for top hot 100 song for “Old Town Road” at the Billboard Music Awards last October. As a gay Black rapper with a hit country-western song, LNx was already in outside the norm. His latest hit single, “Montero (Call Me By Your Name)” cements his outlaw status. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

Outlaw by default, celebrity by design

“Mister, don’t take this the wrong way, but are you gay or bi?” a student asked during the last minutes of class.

“Yes,” I answered without elaboration.

“Which one?”

I paused, then answered, “Why do you ask?”

“You just ... dress weird. Like, who wears a shirt like that?”

I looked down at my shirt. I was wearing a burnt sienna waffle knit with burgundy slacks, a business-casual outfit I felt perfectly respectable for work. Yet it seemed to my 13-year-old student a dead giveaway of a secret perversity.

In our ensuing dialogue, the student told me he had asked his art teacher the same question, and she had answered affirmatively. This surprised him; he could’ve sworn she liked guys. After all,



Rashid Eldoma
Contributing Writer

she liked bright colors and pastels!

You never know with girls, he told me, but not with guys. And he promised me he would

never turn gay. I told him he need not worry about turning gay; then I added ominously as the dismissal bell rang and he rushed out, “Unless you are.”

Sexuality is a topic I am loath to discuss with my students, yet they often bring it up. Queerness is something almost normal — except for those adults who frown on it. The children all know

someone queer, whether in person or through representation.

On the ground, though, reality skews one way: Girls are more open about their queer identities than are the boys. When it comes to the boys, I often have to rely on context clues — not dissimilar from my own middle school days.

The Overton window of acceptable behavior for men remains fixed vehemently rightward, discouraging homosexuality in a way it doesn’t seem to for women. It is not a surprising phenomenon: Female homosexuality can still cater to the male gaze, whereas male homosexuality challenges the heteronormative gaze, causing men to look away in either disgust or, worse, fear that they might like it.

They, too, might run out of the door the minute the alarm bell rings.

Take, for example, the recent controversy over Lil Nas X and his song “Montero (Call Me By Your Name)”

and, especially the video for the song. In the video, against hyperpop cacophony and simmering flamenco, Montero is seduced by the Biblical serpent and stoned to death for sodomy before pole dancing down to Hell and onto Satan’s lap. Then Montero breaks Satan’s neck and dons his crown, dark angelic wings bursting out of Montero’s back in the martini shot.

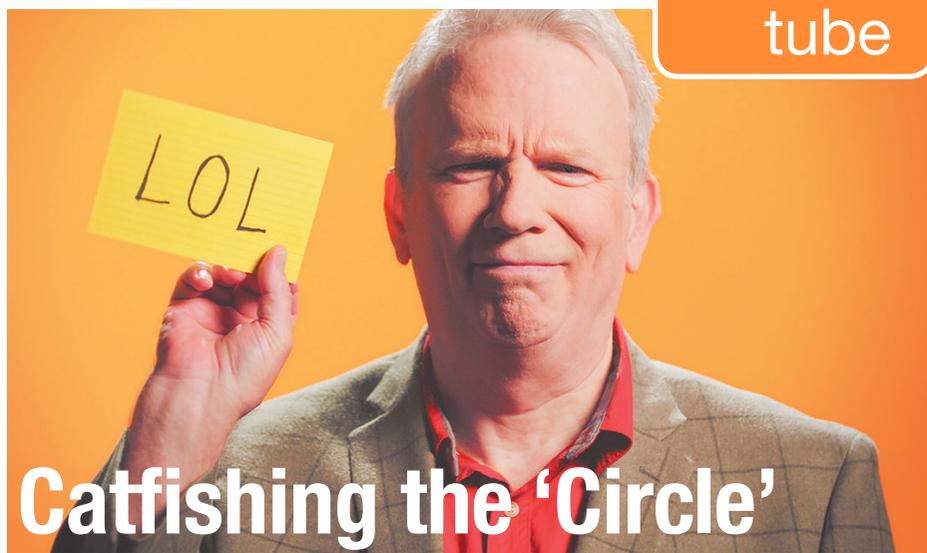
The video advocates finding power and agency, even in the ghettos society banishes you to when you are different. It is a message alluding to both Black empowerment and queer liberation. It is an overdue attempt to shift the Overton window leftward and normalize same-sex lust in pop music, a sentiment made explicit by the artist.

The video, of course, inspired a predictable rightwing backlash — all over a video whose sum parts I have seen before. Brendon Urie transformed into Satan in the music video for “Emperor’s New Clothes” six years ago; Miley Cyrus angered parents by dancing on a stripper pole during a performance of “Party in the USA” 12 years ago, and Nicki Minaj lap danced in the “Super Bass” music video released just a year later. And we haven’t even mentioned Netflix’ recent *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* series, in which a white girl literally becomes the queen of Hell.

“Montero” is simply a culmination of pop history thus far and its logical conclusion. Along the way LNx forces us to contend with the contradictions of that same pop history: its dark underbelly of racism and homophobia.

Complicating LNx’ situation is a unique intersection: the diametrical worlds of country and hip-hop, each with their own expectations of the 22-year-old artist from Georgia. Sure, it didn’t matter if Britney kissed Madonna or danced, scantily clad, with a boa constrictor. That was for publicity, canonized in the two decades since then as “iconic.” But a gay Black man kisses a CGI serpent (Aaliyah also famously played with snakes, might I add), and suddenly it’s not just about publicity, nor is it immediately iconic. It’s just notorious.

Precisely when the pop-star becomes not an abstract object of sexual attraction and admiration but someone whose identity is anathema to established



Catfishing the 'Circle'

Lee Swift of Dallas competes in Season 2 of "The Circle" on Netflix

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Is anybody really who they say they are anymore? And just how much do our preconceived notions of what a person is like — based purely on what we think we know about their gender or orientation or race or age — affect how we treat and/or react to that person?

These are the questions at the heart of the reality TV competition on Netflix called *The Circle*. And Dallasite Lee Swift is one of the contestants hoping to help answer those questions this time around.

The first four episodes of the second season of *The Circle* dropped on Wednesday, April 14, and four new episodes will drop each Wednesday until the finale on May 5.

The premise of the show is that eight contestants move into the same apartment building and "flirt, befriend and catfish their way" to the title of Top Influencer and a \$100,000 cash prize. But they never actually meet in person, interacting only through a social media app called *The Circle*. Which means they can choose to be whoever they want to be.

Lee, in reality, is a 58-year-old gay man from Dallas. But to the other seven folks in *The Circle*, he is a 24-year-old gay man named River. But how did a 58-year-old man end up in *The Circle* in the first place?

"My niece and nephew both also live in Dallas, and while we are all in lockdown and couldn't see each other in person, we started zooming and watching [the first season of *The Circle*]

together. And I became a big fan. It was mainly a way for me to connect with my niece and my nephew. And then in June last year, just as a lark, I went online and applied to be a contestant."

Lee said he filled out all the necessary paperwork then sent in a video introducing himself. Next thing he knew, he was getting the call that he had made the cut. At the end of September, after testing negative for COVID, "I flew out to start shooting. They quarantined me for two weeks, doing COVID tests every couple of days. They were very very cautious."

Then the game began.

"Looking at the timeline now, I can say yeah, we only filmed about two weeks," Lee said. "But you are on 24/7; it sure didn't feel like it was that quick."

Given the chance to be anybody he wanted, Lee said, he decided to play the game as a "catfish," someone who isn't who they claim to be. "I am a writer," he explained. "I have written under several pen names, and I thought, I have created characters before, I can do that now. So I did: I created a character, and I played the game as that character. It was a fascinating and, really, very emotional experience."

Lee said that, in real life, he grew up in a small West Texas town in the 1970s and '80s, at a time when coming out as gay was a very difficult and scary experience. "When I came out," he said, "it was at a time when the police would harass you, when you could lose everything."

But on *The Circle*, playing the game as 24-year-old River, he had the chance to come out all over again, and "it was really kind of neat to experience coming out in 2021, in a whole new environment." And the experience, he said, has left him feeling "very excited about our

■ **CATFISHING** Page 23

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ideals is when publicity crosses over to notoriety. The line in between is the sweet spot, keeping audiences on the edge of their seats, expectant. Britney rode that line in her ascent, embodying both the Madonna and the Whore from the onset of her 1998 debut single until crossing the threshold in 2007.

LNX has always similarly straddled that line of notoriety since his inescapable summer hit of 2019, “Old Town Road.” Until now.

The country-rap track was the first display of incongruence in his identity. Released late 2018, “Old Town Road” snowballed into a phenomenon by summertime — helped along by a feature appearance by Billie Ray Cyrus. Country stations didn’t know what to make of the song; Billboard pulled it off the Hot Country Songs chart at No. 19, all the while it peaked at No. 1 on the Hot 100 for a record-breaking 19 weeks.

Also worth noting: LNX came out while his song was atop the Hot 100, putting a further wrinkle in any support from Nashville and, with the constraints placed on Black masculinity, from mainstream rap audiences. Yet the song seemed to quench something, a

thirst hearkening back to famous country outlaws of bygone days.

“Waylon Jennings said to me, ‘Take this as a compliment,’ means you’re doing something great!” Cyrus tweeted on April 3, 2019, referring to LNX. “Only Outlaws are outlawed. Welcome to the club!”

And yet, I must ask: Why was “Old Town Road” considered outlaw? Certainly not because of its tame lyrical content. Something else was at play here.

The Overton window already hewn to the right, intersectional identities further limit acceptable social behaviors, pushing LNX into notoriety for simply existing, making him an outlaw simply by virtue of his Black and queer identities.

This is something he is well aware of, something he leans into, his persona bordering on satire and parody — defining features of Generation Z, or more broadly, internet humor.

Attempting to understand LNX’ success brings us back full circle to this next generation. The summer when “Old Town Road” reigned supreme, my younger cousins from the Philippines

loved the song from halfway across the world, outside the cultural context of either country or rap. It is worth noting the song initially gained traction on TikTok, the preferred social media app of the younger Generation Z, before its entry into the Billboard charts.

Only when I think again of this generation of children unafraid to ask their teachers about sexuality do I realize that, in that generation, the window is still widening.

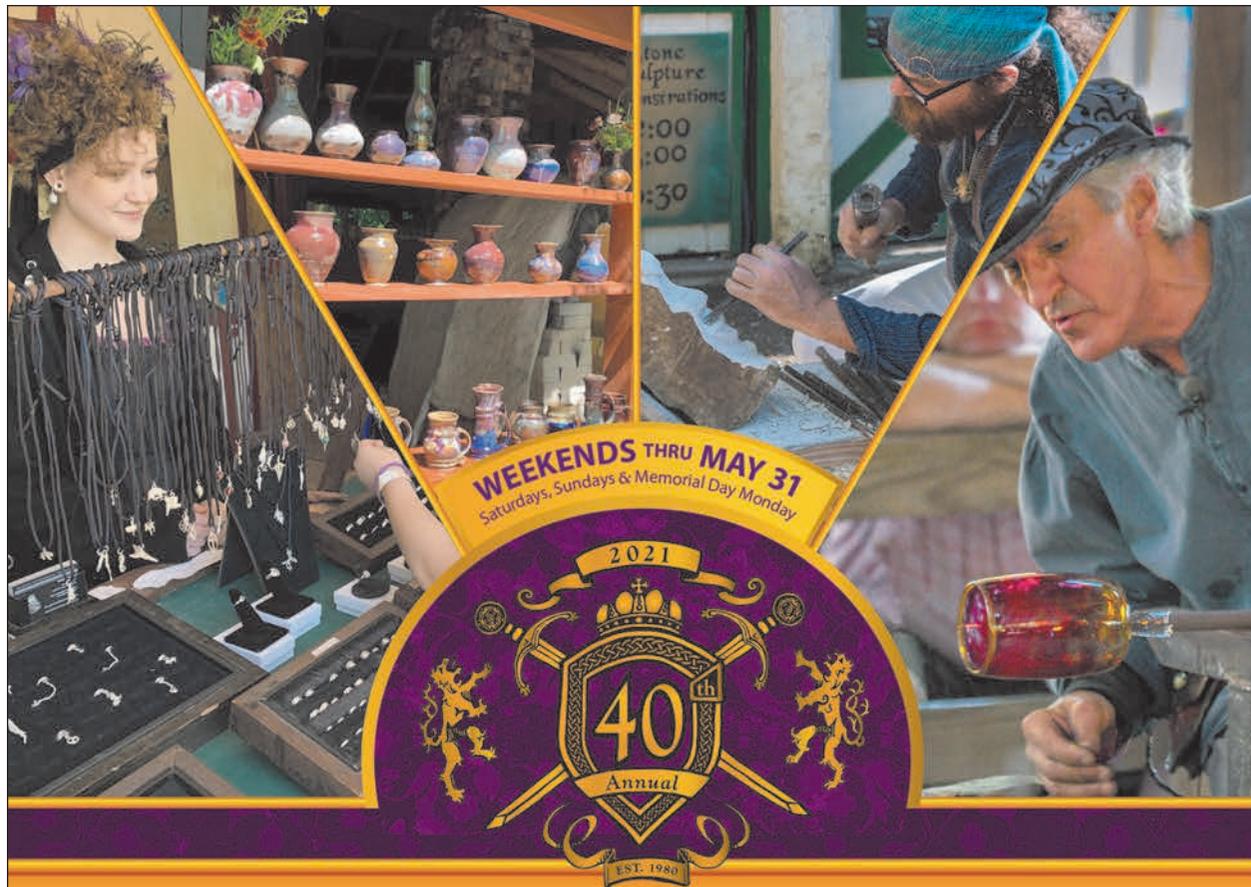
As of April 13 this year, two weeks after the release of “Montero,” LNX tweeted concerns about his song being taken out of streaming services — a claim echoed by his label Columbia but denied by Billboard shortly after, as the song sits atop the Global 200 for the second week. Regardless of the substance of his concern, LNX continues to court controversy to his benefit. Attention is money these days, and as a child raised by the Internet, LNX knows all too well how to play the game — an unsurprising and rather admirable fact to those of us born at the tail end of last millennium. ■

Rashid Eldoma is an educator in Arlington and an incoming law student at Texas A&M University School of Law in Fort Worth.

young people these days. My cast-mates were so open-minded. They don’t get bogged down with all the gender and sexual orientation issues. There wasn’t the homophobia I grew up with. People talk a lot about the downside of social media, but I see it as such a powerful tool for reaching out to the young people in our community, letting them know they aren’t alone.”

Even though he played the game as a “catfish,” Lee said he remained “legitimate in who I am throughout. Our beautiful rainbow comes in all ages and shapes and sizes and genders and creeds, and I think I helped people see that.

“I just hope I make Dallas proud. My husband, Stephen, and I have been together 33 years now, and I hope I make him proud,” Lee continued. “Stephen told me, ‘Whatever you do, don’t cry.’ But I cried anyway. Still, whatever I did, if it can help even one young person who is struggling and who feels alone, if it can help make them know there is hope, and there is happiness, then I am happy with that.” ■



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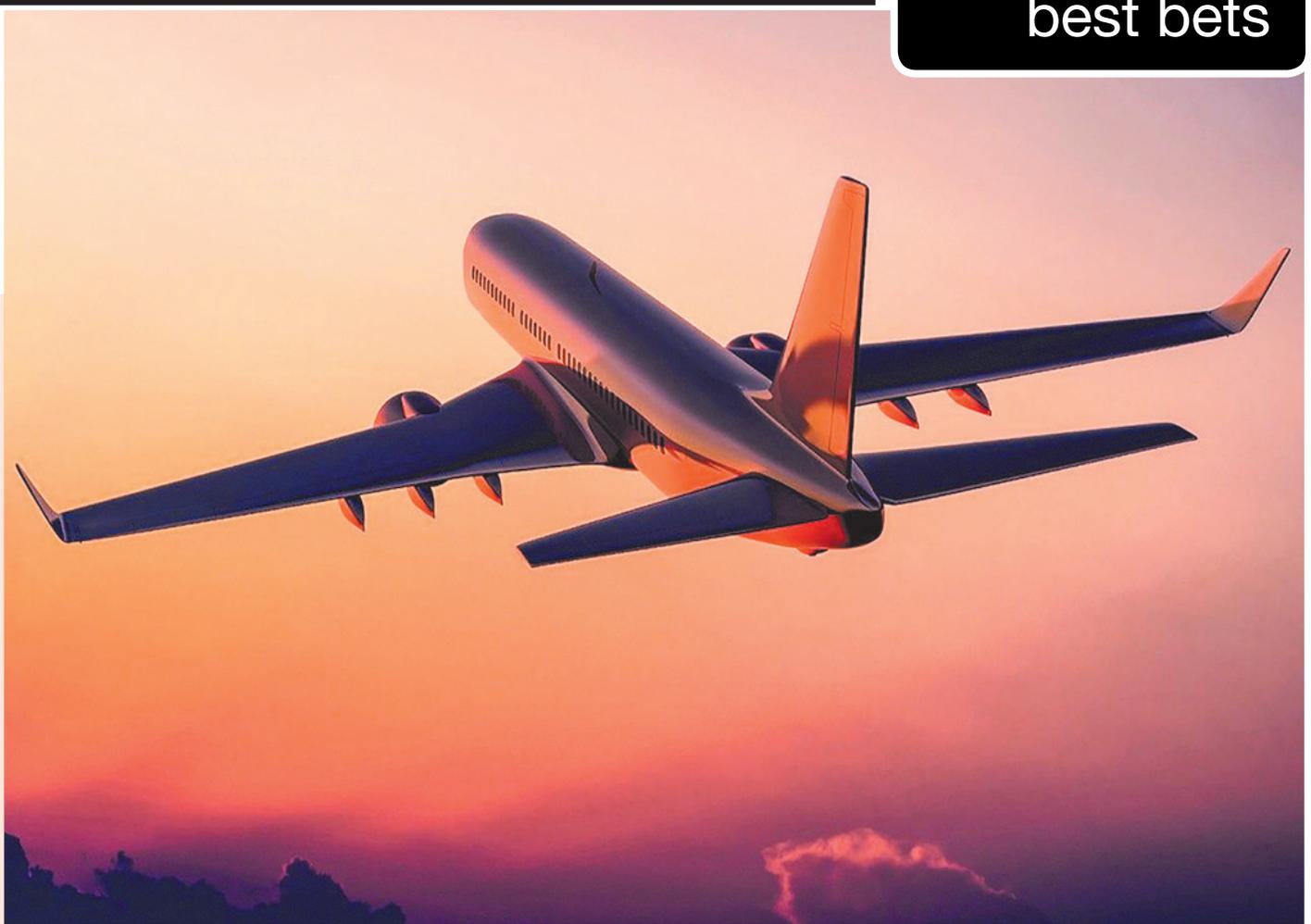
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FRI 04.16

Turtle Creek Chorale kicks off its 41st season with the virtual cabaret, "Leavin' On A Jet Plane," streaming on YouTube and Facebook, a performance featuring all your favorite chorale singers and Chloe Agnew. So grab a beverage, buckle up and prepare for takeoff with the Turtles. 7 p.m. online at [YouTube.com/channel/UC0ghG_1jRc7WIWVEODkDzEQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ghG_1jRc7WIWVEODkDzEQ) or on the TCC Facebook page; for information email info@TurtleCreek.org.



THU 04.22

Family Equality hosts LookingOUT: Together for LGBTQ+ Families, a virtual event to honor "where we've been and where we're headed as a movement," starring award-winning actor and singer Billy Porter, with appearances by Dan Bukatinsky, Alec Mapa, Jim Obergefell and Family Equality CEO Stacey Stevenson. RSVP at [Donate.FamilyEquality.org](https://www.donate.familyequality.org).



SAT 04.17

Easter may have already come and gone, but you can enjoy some eggs and check out some legs with the **Legs & Eggs Drag Brunch**, hosted by Raquel Blake and with special guests Pinche Queen, Ariel Diamond and Giscelle, and sounds by DJ Danny Dash Andrews. St. Francis Pub, 2555 Inwood Road, Ste. 143; doors open at noon; show starts at 2 p.m.; call 469-507-5759 for reservations.

Ask Howard

How to Do the Wrong Thing Right

Here's a cruelest-month, April bouquet to sniff, my little rainbow blossoms: Our global human population is now metastasizing by 200,000 freshly-hatched new inhabitants ... per day! Now — the excuses. As in, if you're 16 or older and still haven't received at least your first Rona-wilting shot by this point, why?

Since March 29, of the 22 million Texans over 16, virtually anyone can get vaccinated. You're living in America, remember? Where Joseph Biden is, thankfully, now president, and we have a surplus of vaccines. Plenty to go around. So, kiss the ground you walk on, kids, 'cause the quicker we all get vaccinated, the more President Biden's promised Fourth of July celebrations just might, indeed, be "back to normal" this year.

As every still-breathing human on earth well knows, in the course of but three months last year coronavirus sprang, tiptoeing through the tulips, from previous nonexistence to one of the world's leading causes of death — for a while, the leading cause. But the good news is, more than 100 million Americans have now received the vaccine. The bad news? The fringe far-right's brainwashing tactics remain a stunning success.

I asked my trainer the other day whether he'd been vaccinated yet — my straight trainer, who has a teenage son to support, mind you. Now, my building is still reticent to permit personal trainers back inside our gym; thus, for the sake of my trainer's own health, his son's and the full-time revival of his career, Travis needs to get vaccinated. Yet, Travis the 47-year-old trainer doesn't see it this way.

"Nah," he drawled, one spring afternoon out on the Katy Trail — as he stood 10 feet away, instructing me into another contorted yoga stretch. "Why do I need to get vaccinated if everybody else is? Really, I don't think anybody under 25 needs vaccinating, 'cause they don't get sick even if they do get COVID," he explained. "And I don't trust the vaccines anyhow."

You happy now, Ted Cruz? Some 20K pharmacies across freedom's great land shall begin administering inoculations soon — not that anyone in their 20s is remotely planning to get one. They've got far bigger monsters to conquer — like becoming famous. Oh, but to go viral!

Yes, I have seen the Fifth Horseman of The Apocalypse, and it is called Instagram. Speaking from experience, my own personal relationship with social media handily mirrors that which the CDC has adapted for COVID — stand at least 6 feet distance away from everybody, mask your



mouth to avoid spewing spittle and avoid your friends and family at all cost.

Brass tacks, I'm a social media hermit. To me, Instagram is just another of those hazy, interstellar black-hole popularity contests, something to be placed on the "Good Riddance to Bad Rubbish" anthropological shelf and promptly ignored along with its fellow-pickled, musty mutations: Snapchat, ClipChat, Twitter, Facebook, MyFans, MySpace, Friendster, etc., etc.

There is no more loathsome an aspiration than to be famous for fame's sake; hence, the stratospheric popularity of Instagram, an app that does absolutely nothing except perpetuate narcissism. A friend of mine, in faraway Britain of all places, recently stumbled across my nephew's Instagram page — my then-missing and feared-homeless (at best) 21-year-old nephew, as clinically psychotic as a Bjork album. Jeffrey Dahmer Jr. is my pet nickname for the astounding tot. The kid's Instagram pix are a veritable narcissist's cornucopia of devil-may-care mirth! All that's missing are heads in the refrigerator. Presumably, one would be hard-pressed to find anyone under the age of 30 anymore who wouldn't, oh, happily slaughter

their own family on live television just to be globally famous for a few minutes.

Celebrity runs the world nowadays. Perhaps it always did. This is where we are in this lovely spring of 2021, folks: Fame forever, at any price, even if it manifests a global grotesquery on the level of another Charles Manson in the making. There's no such thing as victims anymore. Victimization went out with Sharon Tate.

Indeed, Manson/Tate exemplify the perfect metaphor of what we've sunk to 50 years hence: The beautiful and the damned.

Useless factoid of the month: "Minks are the only animals known to be able to catch the coronavirus from humans and pass it back." That said, let's toss on a Black-glama stole and get helter-skelter right to it, shall we?

Dear Howard: I am a professional in my 30s trying to date, but I find myself at the same crossroads every time I meet someone. The hot ones are always half-wits; the intelligent ones are always homely. It is consistently dumb versus deep, and I can't deal with idiots. Should I start thinking about the future of my private life tomorrow as just something requiring compromising all my integrity today? Is to settle a given? I mean, how much longer must I play the field looking for potential marriage perfection? Is the intelligent Prince Charming out there? — **Dr. Hopewell**

Dear Doctor Well 'Ho: Sweetie, Mensa doesn't come in manwhore. Himbo doesn't come with a Harvard alma mater or diploma. As my father used to say, "You might as well marry a woman for her beauty as kill a bird for its song." My advice, doc? Date only the very smartest, most intelligent men you can find. Big deal if they have a few physical imperfections compared to porn stars. Hell, that's what plastic surgery is for! One can always repair the exterior. But remember, as the tee shirt says, STOOPID IS FOREVER.

Dear Howard: Is something wrong with me? I'm 17, going on 18 in a few weeks, and I'm the only dude I know still driving a jalopy who busses tables for an after school job. At 18, I'll be allowed to ascend to a "waiter" and make tips, with dreams of sometimes even getting to go home at zero-in-the-morning jangling a full hundred bucks in my pockets!

By comparison, everyone else my age that I know is rich already. They have fan pages and followers. They receive nice gifts and points from strangers directly deposited into their bank accounts for having to do little more than masturbate in their bedroom on camera, shoving bananas up their butts while their parents are sleeping. They don't drive hand-me-down Honda Civics. Why do I feel so mortified and awful by not happily helicoptering my hard-on for the world to drool over? —

Hologram Hal

Dear Hogwallow: On the subject of stolen youth, Hal, it's always an eternal line drawn in the sand of temporary penury versus pirated aspirations; after all, the only money-making expertise granted the young is flesh exploitation. Go to college, Hal. Be proud of the fact that the only people getting to see your erection are only those who turn you on. Trust me, that frozen banana the neighbor kid eats out of your ass for tickets to the Superbowl ain't gonna buy you shit 10 years from now, yet it's sure still gonna be out there somewhere on film for you to be turned down for a job — should anyone desire such handy ammunition.

In her anthem to hawked innocence, "17 Again," Annie Lenox trills, "All those fake celebrities/All those vicious queens/All the stupid papers/And the stupid magazines. Sweet dreams are made of anything/That gets you in the scene."

Just go get vaccinated, bois & girlz. Fuck carnal fame. Fuck instagramming one's upmanship, posing pointlessly as a supermodel. It's high springtime, my little minx, and the relief is infectious!

—Howard Lewis Russell

Have a comment or question for Howard? Send it to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com.

this week's solution

E	L	S	A	H	A	I	R	S	A	G	A	S
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Black Tie Dinner is thrilled to embark on another trailblazing year of fundraising initiatives to support the North Texas LGBTQ non-profit community. After 39 years and nearly \$26 million dollars raised for the North Texas LGBTQ community and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, Black Tie Dinner will celebrate its historic 40th Black Tie Experience presented by BBVA in 2021.

Join Black Tie Dinner as they digitally kick off the 2021 fundraising year on Thursday, April 29th at 6PM CST, live on Black Tie Dinner's Facebook page and BlackTie.org. Co-Chairs, Brad Pritchett & Terry Loftis, will be bringing you exciting Black Tie Dinner news, the announcement of the 2021 beneficiaries and other surprises highlighting Black Tie Dinner's mission to educate, empower & entertain.

Find out more by going to BlackTie.org!

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Play day at Scarborough Renaissance Festival on opening weekend (Photo courtesy of Bonnie Hamilton) Why so blue James?



Lulu feelin' thirsty at TMC



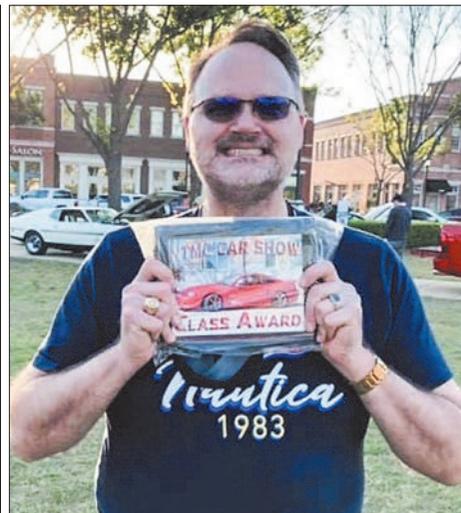
Tammy has been office manager for more than 17 years at Legacy,



Shepard doin' business at TMC



S4 coming soon?



Classic Chassis' Nathan is a winner!



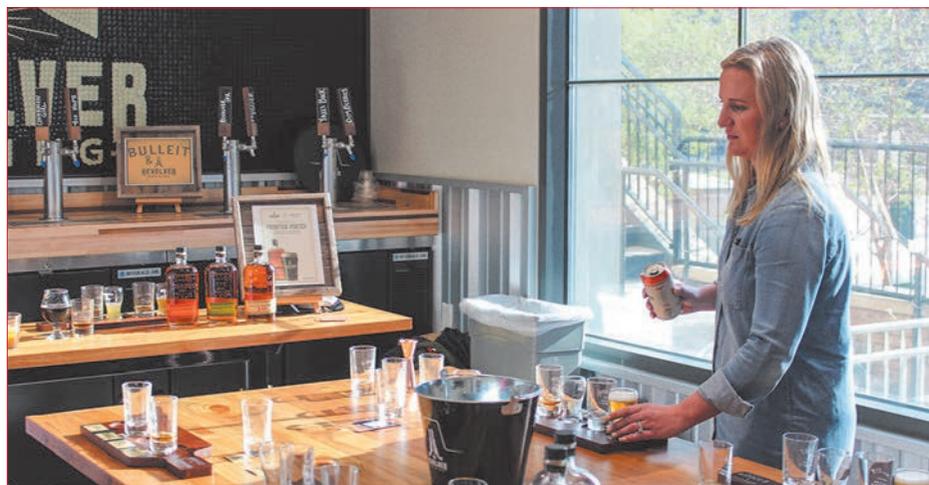
Jenni P and Jason at The Virgin Hotel



Josh and Mark look sweet at JR's



Greenbar Distillery and Ivy Tavern present a check to Black Tie Dinner



Agnes of WandaVision

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63						64					65			

Solution on Page 26

Across

- 1 Poet Gidlow
- 5 *Sodomy* musical
- 9 Heroic tales
- 14 Anderson Cooper's area
- 15 *All ___* (1984 Tomlin film)
- 16 Almost ready for the tooth fairy
- 17 Hopeless cases for Dr. Torres
- 18 Unbending
- 19 *Three Tall Women* writer
- 20 Milestone for a couple
- 23 Copland capability
- 24 Prefix with town
- 25 Hotel customer
- 27 Mistakes for Fosse
- 30 Made use of Scooby-___
- 36 Frida's wrap
- 38 Gambling city
- 39 Start of what Agnes said it would take for her husband to remember 20-Across
- 42 Home extension
- 43 Inserts a balled up hand
- 44 Brando's *Apocalypse Now* locale
- 45 Broadway composer Jerome
- 46 Boy Scouts sleep together here

47 Ellen DeGeneres

- and others
- 49 Derisive laugh
- 51 Hit the sheets with Agnes said
- 58 Weapon of Caesar's day
- 61 Not once, to Lord Byron
- 62 Go to and fro
- 63 Improvise, like Robin Williams
- 64 It can help you hold your liquor
- 65 Bargain sign at Barneys
- 66 Filmmaker Pier ___ Pasolini
- 67 Art Deco name
- 68 First mate's pair

12 Sailing the

- South Pacific
- 13 He may have crystal balls
- 21 Up on, with "in"
- 22 Most vocally homophobic, e.g.
- 26 Balkan dweller
- 28 Controversial word, when used after "sexual"
- 29 Greeted and seated
- 31 "___ at time!" (Twosomes only!)
- 32 Mores from which to deviate
- 33 Bone separators in the back
- 34 When to have sex
- 35 *SNL* alumna
- 37 Over and done
- 40 Cause of a run in a drag queen's hose
- 41 Washed-out
- 46 Pro ___ (acting)
- 48 Ukrainian seaport
- 50 *I want to be alone* actress
- 51 Glenn once of the Dodgers
- 53 Letter opener
- 54 Fool around
- 55 Like Dick Tracy's wrist radio
- 56 Church section
- 57 Does a head job?
- 58 Suck the energy from
- 59 *Palm Pilot*, e.g.
- 60 *Xanadu* band

Down

- 1 Come as far as
- 2 *Téa of Fun with Dick and Jane*
- 3 Former Steeler Lynn
- 4 Statistic for Sue Bird
- 5 Mr. Katz, in a Lanford Wilson play
- 6 Out and then some
- 7 Don of radio
- 8 Change labels
- 9 Buffy, for one
- 10 Letters on the Internet
- 11 Third persons in threesomes?

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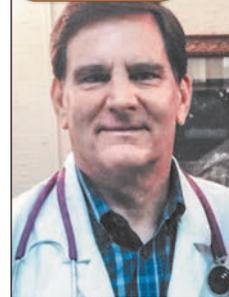


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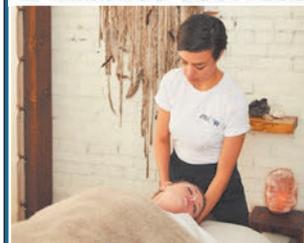


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