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In This Issue

January 21, 2021
Volume 38 | Issue 38

NEWS

- 10 | **From victim to survivor to advocate**
- 12 | **Out actor Levi Kreiss goes to Hades**
- 18 | **An interview with author Xiran Jay Zhao**

08



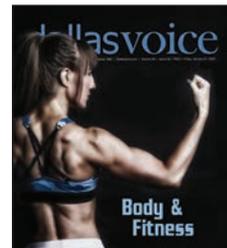
BODY & FITNESS

- 08 | **Electrolysis offers image uplift**
- 09 | **Working out safely during COVID**

12



ON THE COVER



BITES FROM OUR BLOG.....	4
VOICES.....	6
PLAN YOUR WEEK.....	25
ASK HOWARD.....	26
SCENE.....	28
MARKETPLACE.....	30

18



Personal trainer Heather Hunt (@fitbellychick)
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DFW Sisters canonize Betty White

The DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence gathered on Sunday, Jan. 16, at the Legacy of Love monument for the canonization of actor Betty White. The posthumous sainting came on the eve of what would have been White's 100th birthday. White, known for her humor and her love of animals as well as a successful career spanning decades, passed Dec. 31.

The ceremony included readings from the sisters, a stand-in for White and the performance of three "miracles." Following the ceremony, the Sisters migrated to Sue Ellen's and JR.'s for a celebration.

The event is available to watch on the DFW Sisters' Facebook page @DFWSisters.

— Rich Lopez

Texas' trans youth sports ban now officially in effect

It's official: Texas now, by law, prohibits transgender youth from participating in school sports on the team properly aligned with their gender identity.

Texas House Bill 25, passed by lawmakers last fall during their third special session of the year and then gleefully and hatefully signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott, went into effect this week, on Tuesday, Jan. 18. HB 25 is one of the dozens of bills attacking transgender youth that swept through multiple state legislatures in 2021.

Lambda Legal Senior Staff Attorney, Shelly Skeen noted, "HB 25 targets and attempts to further marginalize an already vulnerable student population by denying transgender kids the

many benefits and opportunities full and equal participation in interscholastic athletics provides. It not only excludes them from the leadership skills, teamwork, self-esteem, discipline, health benefits and camaraderie that sports offer, it also sets them apart from their peers each day at school, subjecting them to increased bullying and harassment, which is already all too pervasive in our schools.

"No student in our state, or anywhere, should suffer such unfair and unequal treatment simply because of who they are," Skeen added.

According to the Movement Advancement Project, Texas is now one of 10 states banning trans youth from participating in team sports.

Equality Texas calls the ban "cruel, dehumanizing, and harmful," and noted that just the debate over the ban alone, characterized by increasingly hateful and false rhetoric, created an increase in bullying, calls to suicide hotlines and physical assaults, not to mention the effect of the actual ban itself.

And the American Psychological Association has registered its opposition to such bans:

"Gender identity is central to how children and adolescents



The sainting of Betty White (Photo by Rich Lopez)

perceive themselves. Requiring transgender youth to athletically compete in a manner conforming with their assigned sex at birth is the same as banning them from athletic competition entirely. There is ample evidence that an opportunity for adolescents to participate in sports results in positive outcomes, such as better grades, greater homework completion, higher educational and occupational aspirations and improved self-esteem. Transgender youth should have access to the benefits of sports, just as other children do."

— Tammye Nash

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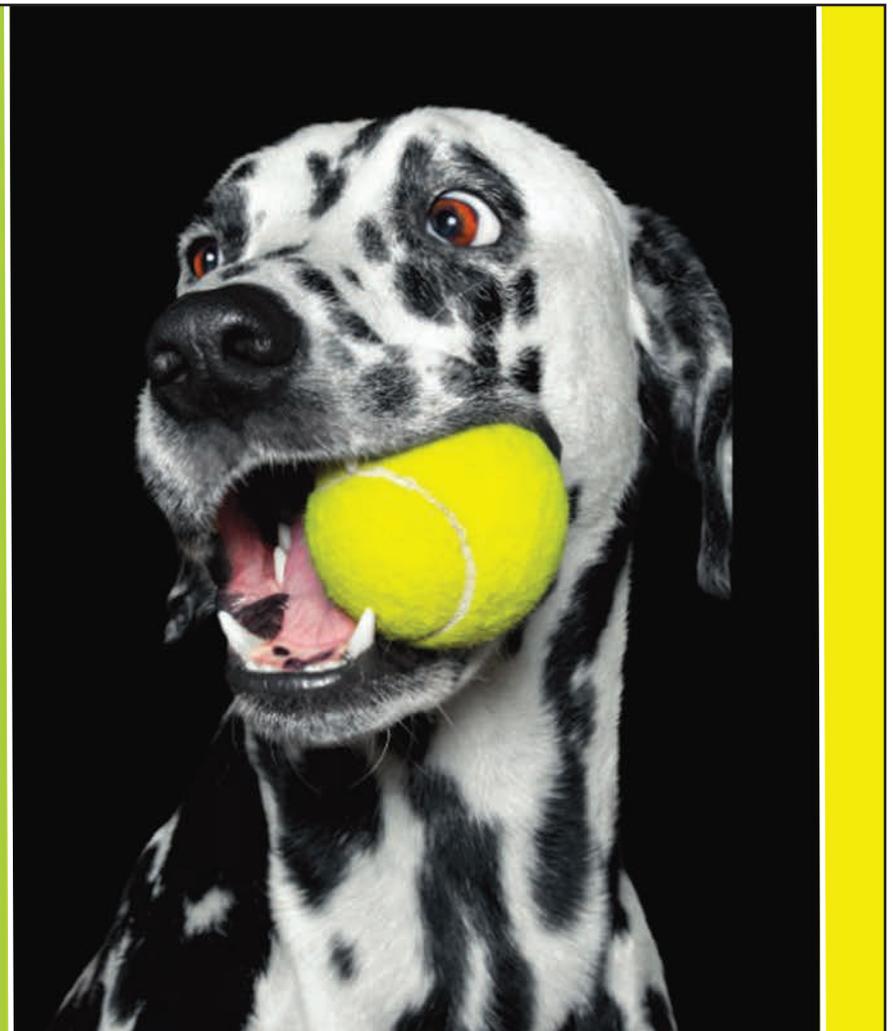
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Obergefell is running for the Ohio Legislature

Jim Obergefell, the named plaintiff in the marriage equality lawsuit that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, announced this week he is running for Congress.

Obergefell will run for the 89th House district that is currently held by a Republican. But the district lines are still under review. Last week, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled the newly-drawn maps violate the state constitution, which forbids partisan gerrymandering.

Obergefell made his announcement on Twitter, promising that "I will work hard every day to improve the lives of everyone in Ottawa and Erie counties and all of Ohio." His campaign website is ObergefellForOhio.com.

In 2013, Obergefell married John Arthur. Arthur had ALS and marriage was not yet legal in Ohio. So they traveled to Maryland on a medevac flight, married on the tarmac and returned home. After his husband died, Obergefell sued for his marriage to be recognized for estate purposes. Ohio refused.

Marriage became legal when Obergefell and others won their case at the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2015.

— David Taffet

S.D. Senate first chamber to pass anti-trans legislation in 2022

The South Dakota Senate has passed an anti-transgender sports ban bill, South Dakota Senate Bill 46, becoming the first chamber in the 2022 to advance discriminatory anti-transgender legislation. This comes after an historically bad 2021 session that saw a record number of anti-transgender bills introduced and passed across the country.

SB 46 passed out of the State Senate Affairs Committee on Friday, Jan. 14. On Saturday, South Dakotans gathered for six concurrent rallies across the state in protest of this legislation and other anti-transgender bills introduced this year. But the bill passed a full Senate vote on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

In 2021, after issuing a style-and-form veto of an anti-trans sports ban bill, South Dakota's governor issued two executive orders that effectively implemented the policy articulated in the vetoed legislation.

Human Rights Campaign State Legislative Director and Senior Counsel Cathryn Oakley said, "The South Dakota legislature has been rehashing the same conversation about trans youth participation in school sports for years and yet there still is no evidence that transgen-

der youth participating in school sports has posed an actual problem. These bills don't protect or empower girls and women — rather, they

perpetuate sexist stereotypes and try to turn teammates against each other. It is time for South Dakota to let kids be kids."

— Human Rights Campaign

Adoptable | ED SHEERAN



Meet **Ed Sheeran**, a 2-and-a-half-year-old shepherd mix looking to take a break from the limelight and find his new family. While he may not sing as well as his namesake, Ed Sheeran does have a lot of talent: He's a pro at catching treats, is a master at playing with toys and gives the best doggie kisses around. Ed also gets along with other dogs, so he'd love to meet some new potential fans. When he's not strutting his stuff, he's quite content to snooze in his bed to recover from his busy schedule. He's also eligible for a trial adoption so that you can bring him home and see him shine before you make things official. From Jan. 2-16, Ed Sheeran and all other dogs and cats at our Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center are only \$22 to adopt to ring in 2022. To meet Ed Sheeran, come visit him at our Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center any day between noon and 6 p.m.



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Terrorism by proxy?

There's really no difference between actual hostage takers and those who legislate hate

I first learned about the hostage situation at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville on Saturday, Jan. 15, when an out-of-state friend texted, asking if that was my synagogue and if I were OK. That was followed by a barrage of emails, text messages, tweets and Facebook posts.

As president of my temple, I tweeted out a message on behalf of everyone at Congregation Beth El Binah that we were praying for the safety of Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker and the other three hostages. And all I could think of was the misplaced rage on the part of the hostage-taker. No one in the Jewish community in the DFW area has done more to develop friendships with members of the Muslim community than Rabbi Cytron-Walker.

But terrorism and hate aren't logical. CAIR — Council on American-Islamic Relations — was clear on its position during the hostage situation, releasing

the following statement: "We strongly condemn the hostage-taking at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas. This latest antisemitic attack at a house of worship is an unacceptable act of evil. We stand in solidarity with the Jewish community."

And Muslim Advocates tweeted, "We are appalled by the hostage situation at Congregation Beth Israel and condemn this attack on a house of worship. We stand in solidarity with the rabbi and congregation. We pray for a peaceful end to this travesty and for the perpetrator to be brought to justice."

At this point we can only speculate why Beth Israel was the chosen target. Because it's in Tarrant County where Lady al-Qaeda Aafia Siddiqui is being held? Because it's remote, small and difficult to even find? Likely fewer people would be there than at Fort Worth's two large synagogues, therefore making it an easier target?

Who knows. But what I do know is that even though one of my synagogue's members is one of the loudest voices in the area on refugee rights, we don't get a pass when it

comes to terrorism.

Linda Evans represents Congregation Beth El Binah on the Thanks-Giving Square Interfaith Council. She is an assistant to Faith Forward Dallas and serves on the International Rescue Committee. Her work resettling refugees in the area has been tireless.

Linda has brought a number of Muslim refugees to Beth El Binah services. What a wonderful experience to meet some of our new neighbors while at the same time heartbreaking to hear their horrifying stories. As terrible as those experiences were, the evening always ended with hugs as we welcomed our new friends to Texas. They were safe now.

But are they really safe? One of the goals of terrorism isn't just to harm hostages. The target of Saturday's terrorist incident was every Jewish person in the DFW area. Every Jewish person in Texas worries, "Are we next?" Every Jewish person in the U.S. and around the world worries, "Will someone do a copycat event?"

And the terror spreads beyond the Jewish community. The Rev. Ann Willet, pastor of Northaven Church where my synagogue meets, has found that not everyone in Dallas is thrilled that her church hosts us, so she has added security.

I heard from the folks at Brite Divinity School; not everyone in Fort Worth cheers their welcome of LGBTQ divinity students.

I heard from the Rev. Neil Thomas of Cathedral of Hope



David Taffet
Senior Staff Writer

who deals with anti-LGBTQ hate as a daily routine in his job.

As anti-Semitic attacks rose to new levels over the past year, and murders of trans women of color rose to a new high last year, the number of anti-LGBTQ pieces of legislation filed across the country, especially here in Texas, also rose to a new high.

Instead of protecting those who are being attacked, legislators actually went on the attack. Governors, who should be protecting their citizens, gleefully signed bills targeting trans youth into law — including Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

To be classified a terrorist, you don't have to be the one taking hostages. Remember, bin Laden didn't fly the planes into the World Trade Center; he just organized the terrorist plot.

Legislators who wrote and voted for HB 25 didn't personally physically harm any transgender children. They just signaled that hatred of trans kids was justified. Abbott only signed HB 25 into law. But in doing so, he indicated to hate groups that the transgender community is a viable target.

The deaths of any transgender children in Texas, either by suicide or violence, will be on their heads. And that equates them with terrorists.

Is leadership possible? Republican former Speaker of the Texas House Joe Straus prevented any anti-transgender legislation from getting to the floor of the House. He said he didn't want the death of a transgender child to be on his head. He understood leadership.

Back to Congregation Beth Israel: While he certainly didn't ask for fame, now that he has it, may Rabbi Charlie use his unwanted new celebrity to continue to spread peace and to teach the rest of us through his friendship with members of the Muslim community. Maybe that lesson will rub off on the Texas Legislature, too.

David Taffet is senior staff writer for Dallas Voice. He is also president of Congregation Beth El Binah.



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the pandemic and finally embark on

THE ROARING '20S

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by recognizing and honoring the good old days of 2021!



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BODY AND FITNESS

After seeing its benefits for herself, Valerie Jackson created a career for herself in electrolysis and now has her own business

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Valerie Jackson understands the importance of having a good body image. Negative body image has been linked to eating disorders, anxiety, depression and low overall self-esteem. And as a transgender woman, Jackson knows how unwanted facial and body hair can magnify a negative body image and gender dysphoria.

When she started her own transition, Jackson said, one of her first steps was to seek out electrolysis for herself. When the opportunity came along for her to learn how to perform electrolysis herself, she jumped at the chance to start a new career and help other women the way she had been helped.

Then two years ago, while other businesses were being forced to shut their doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Jackson saw doors opening that allowed her to start her own business, Hair & Now Electrolysis. This week she talked with Dallas Voice about her journey.

Dallas Voice: When and how did you start doing electrolysis?

Valerie Jackson: The summer of 2012 was the beginning of my medical transition. One of my first steps in the process was to see an electrologist for permanent hair removal. Facial treatments were weekly to every other week, until the 2013 new year. In January, I was seeking new employment after experiencing some workplace discrimination. Finding a job was difficult, and I was unhappy with the credit industry as a whole. I knew I needed more of a change in my life, and I had made a new friend in my electrolysis technician. Her own professional grievances sparked the idea for my apprenticeship turned “partnership,” that would hopefully build a dream business.

Both unemployed now and searching for direction, that technician and I sat at a restaurant table while she taught me hand maneuvers with forceps. We made our lists of intentions, and we built an electrolysis clinic from the ground up! Our official start date was Nov. 4, 2013.

What kind of training and certifications are necessary to be an electrolysis professional? What certifications do you have? Are you required to do ongoing training and/or to get recertified on a regular basis? For electrologists in Texas, there are no licensing requirements to practice electrolysis. Some states do

require licensure. The Texas Association of Professional Electrologists helps new and experienced electrologists with information regarding local laws or regulations.

Joining TAPE also grants membership to the American Electrology Association. The AEA is a national association that has supported electrologists with high standards in education and ethics for over 50 years.

Each association offers a yearly continuing education conference, with credit towards maintaining certification. I attend state and national seminars every year to meet all standards and requirements. I have been a certified member of each association for at least eight years. Current certifications are posted in our studio.

What is the difference between electrolysis and laser hair removal?

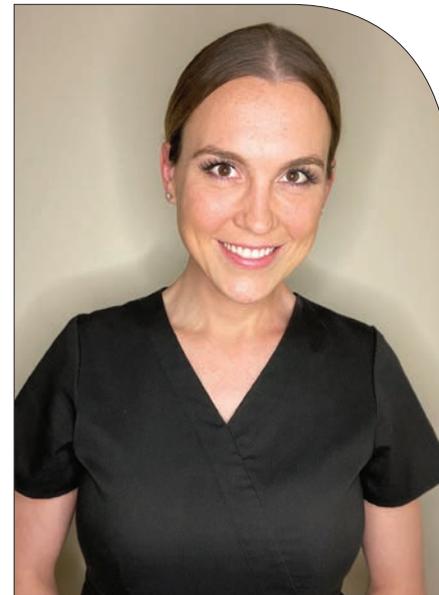
Electrolysis is the only FDA-approved permanent method for removing unwanted hair. In 1875, an ophthalmologist named Dr. Charles Michel invented a system to remove infected eyelashes from patients. Laser hair removal is a newer concept that focuses on reducing hair density. This treatment is beneficial in combination with electrolysis for large areas.

Electrolysis is safe and effective for all skin types and hair colors. Not everyone is an eligible candidate for laser treatments.

When did you decide to start your own business? And what made you want to own your own business rather than working for someone else? Tell me about what services Hair & Now Electrolysis offers.

Hair & Now Electrolysis was born during the beginning of the COVID-19 shutdown. The solitude gifted me an opportunity to make lifestyle changes to pursue even more of my dreams. My happiest moments are with my clients, doing what I love, and being without limitations allows my artistry to flourish.

We only offer electrolysis treatments at this time. We would love to be a destination for many aesthetic needs. Details matter.



Valerie Jackson

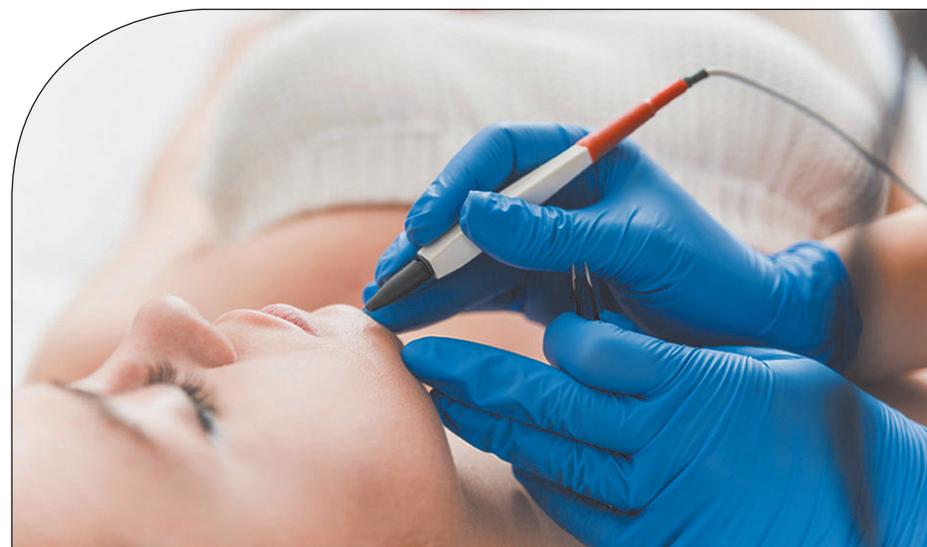
You started your own business, Hair & Now Electrolysis just after the COVID pandemic hit. How did that affect your business? How did you keep it going through all the shut downs and tough times?

After several delays, we officially opened our doors on July 16, 2020. Our business was in need of masks, gloves, sanitizers and cleaners to create and maintain a safe working environment. These items were hard to come by and often carried a heavy price tag. The manufacturer of our equipment is in Canada. Machine and product delivery was challenging with separate regulations and closures.

Great communication with vendors and clients has been one key to our success. Orders are placed in bulk to always have supplies on hand during moments of scarcity. Our first priority is always staff and client health!

You told me that your business is thriving, and that you have added staff. What made that possible in a time when other businesses are having to cut back and some have even closed? Education and adaptability helped the most in the beginning. I learned a lot! Now we have a cohesive team to maintain our momentum.

I believe the electrolysis industry may be lacking in properly trained and talented electrologists. It seems there are simply not enough technicians to meet the demand. The state and national associations focus each year on increasing our membership. We need more apprenticeship programs and schooling opportunities, especially in Texas. Many veteran elec-



WiL Turner

Pandemic **PUMP**

BODY & FITNESS

Where gym and germs intersect:

"The possibility of spreading germs and viruses is high under normal circumstances. Gym etiquette should be at the forefront of all our minds especially when in public spaces where multiple people are touching equipment, handles, doorknobs, stair rails and elevator buttons.

"By adhering to the standard general protocol of wiping machines and surfaces used, we all can minimize the spread of germs."

Exercise the brain:

"COVID-19 has separated us from our loved ones, our friends and one another. We are all emotionally and socially under stress. The best exercises or activities for dealing with stress are taking a stroll with a loved one or friend, meditation, yoga and listening to meditative music.

"In worse case scenarios, seeking the help of a therapist or wellness coach is strongly encouraged. AbleTo.com has great resources for those suffering from depression, anxiety or stress. In most cases, mental and emotional health support by professional coaches and therapists on the Able To team is covered by insurance."

Keep the immune system pumped:

"The best remedy is self-care. Our brains and bodies need rest —

especially during such stressful times. Naps are a great way to reset and decompress."

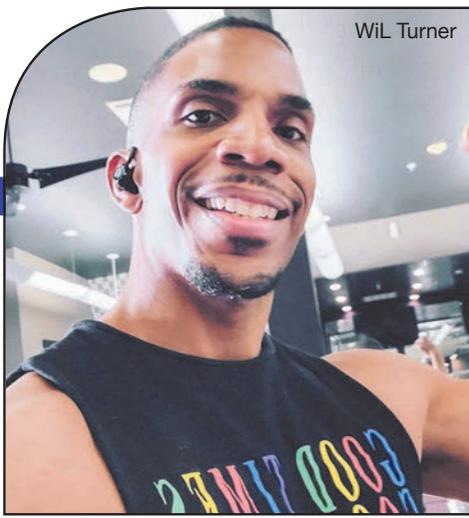
Daily dose:

"Our immune systems are also under attack, not only with the pandemic but with the weather and the flu, colds and allergies this time of year. A good multivitamin such as Centrum is a simple step to include in your habits and provides all the essential vitamins and minerals the body needs to boost the immune system and ward off illness. ZINC is another supplement to consider which is so good for the immune system."

Craft this concoction with a kick:

"Try this for immunity, health and detoxification: Make a tea with apple cider vinegar, lemon, honey, pinches of cayenne pepper, ginger, turmeric and paprika mixed with water to taste." ■

For more health tips from Turner, visit LivingWellWithWil.com.



Keep it healthy when working out your muscles and your mind

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

For a while there, things were getting back to some kind of normal. Retail was opening back up, and people could eat in restaurants again. People also headed back to the gym when home workouts weren't quite cutting it.

But we're still in a pandemic. Vaccinations, masks and boosters are helping to keep COVID at bay, but in a gym, the risk factors can increase. And now there's the omicron strain to deal with, and it has proven to be even more contagious.

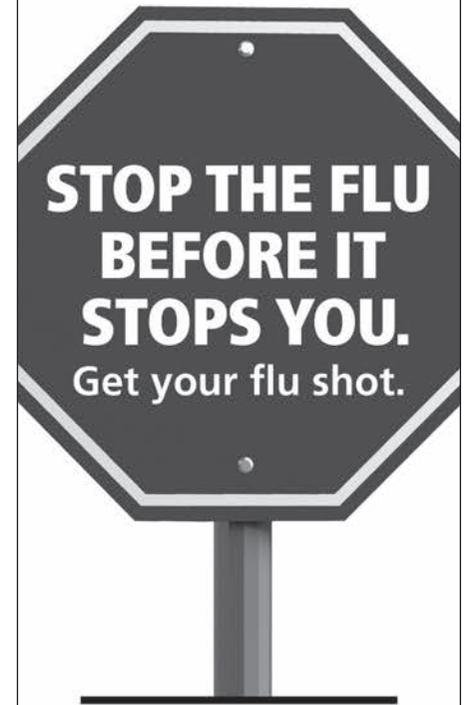
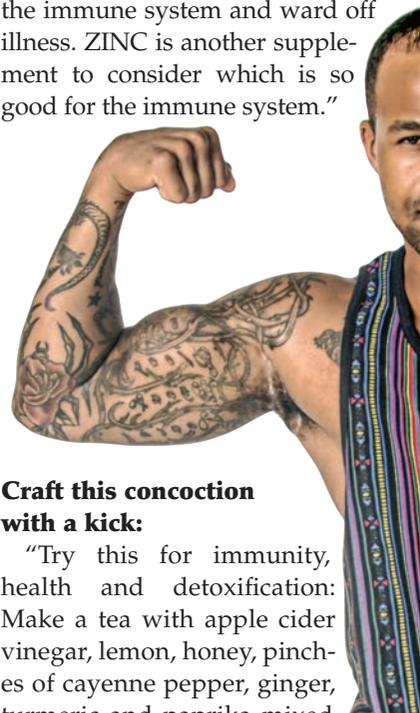
What's a gym bunny to do?

One local coach offered his tips on keeping just a bit safer in the gym where crowds are likely returning to fulfill their New Year's resolutions — but also on how to keep your mind healthy as well.

WiL Turner, a local health and wellness lifestyle consultant and proprietor of Living Well with WiL, discussed both some general tips and specific ones for both at the gym and in life.

Basic common gym knowledge:

"Given the spread of COVID-19, it is critically important to wipe machines, benches, attachments, cables, seats, handles and surfaces before and after using them. This includes your hands."



Getting sick can increase stress, medical expenses or time off from work or school.

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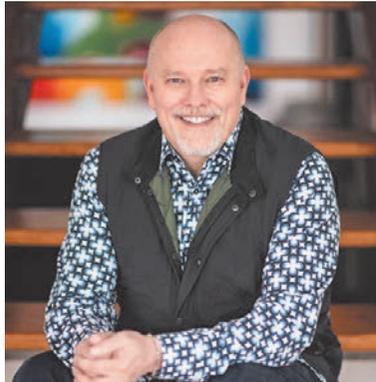
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From *victim* to survivor to *advocate*

PROFILE

Four men were convicted of assault, robbery, kidnapping and hate crimes that began with a Grindr contact; now one of the victims tells his story

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

Four men have been given sentences ranging from 11 to 23 years for luring men they met on Grindr to an apartment and assaulting, robbing and kidnapping them. Only one of the victims testified in the sentencing phase of the federal trials. This week that man told his story to Dallas Voice.

For his own safety, the man has asked that neither his name nor his photo be used. He will be identified here as he was in court: Victim No. 6.

Victim No. 6 had been talking for several days on Grindr to a man who identified himself as Cezar and said he was in his early 20s. The victim had recently moved to Dallas after losing his house to Hurricane Harvey and was staying with his sister. He had also just lost a close relative. Cezar was sympathetic and consoling.

"I felt safe," Victim No. 6 said.

The two men arranged to meet at a restaurant the evening of Friday, Dec. 12, 2017. But when Victim No. 6 got to the restaurant, Cezar texted him, saying that he was having car trouble and asking Victim No. 6 to pick him up.

But when Victim No. 6 arrived at the apartment to meet Cezar, a young man came to the car and said he was having trouble finding his keys and asked Victim No. 6 to come inside.

Victim No. 6 told the young man he thought was Cezar he was concerned that his car would be towed, since so many apartment complexes are very

strict about parking. So he didn't want to leave his car without a parking pass. Cezar went inside and returned with what he said was a pass. But Victim No. 6 realized it was only a blank piece of paper that had been folded.

That's when he knew something was wrong, Victim No. 6 recalled, and he sent his sister a quick SOS text including the address.

The man claiming to be Cezar "asked me to come in and relax," Victim No. 6 said. But when he entered, someone who was hiding behind the door hit him from behind, knocking him out. That man, who Victim No. 6 later learned was named Daryl Henry, also knocked out some of his teeth and bruised some of his ribs by kicking him. When he woke up, Cezar, whose real name is Daniel Jenkins, had taken his phone and was demanding the victim's PINs for his debit cards.

"I was told if I didn't cooperate, I would end up like the guy before me," Victim No. 6 said, adding that Jenkins was implying "the guy before him" was dead in the back bedroom.

So Victim No. 6 complied. And then a third man, Pablo Cenicerros-Deleon, wrote down the PINs, took the victim's keys and drove his car to a nearby ATM and took \$1,200 out of the victim's accounts.

Jenkins and Henry meanwhile dragged Victim No. 6 into the front bedroom where there were two men lying face down on the floor and a third was in the closet. A man later identified as Michael Atkinson was there, carrying a sawed-off shotgun and holding the victims hostage.

"What I didn't know at the time was someone had escaped on Wednesday," Victim No. 6 said.

That person, it turned out, had tricked the captors into believing that he didn't have PINs for his credit cards but that if they took him to their home, he would



BODY , From Page 8

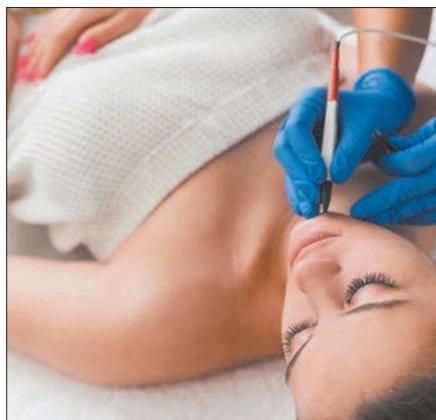
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Oh HELL!

BEYOND THE STAGE

Out actor Levi Kreiss goes to 'Hades'

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

One of the first things Levi Kreiss said for this interview was that he has “a long history with the Dallas Voice.” This is telling about the actor and singer — not only that he has a good memory, but that he reminds himself of the road it took to where he is now.

“You guys were there when I was part of that out-music movement at the time with Eric Himan and Ari Gold and others,” he said.

That was in the early aughts. Now, he’s gone from indie queer music artist to a Tony-Award-winning actor and on tour with *Hadestown* which opened in Dallas Tuesday at the Winspear Opera House as part of the Dallas Summer Musicals.

Winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards including Best Musical, *Hadestown* centers on the mythology of Orpheus and Eurydice and the relationship between King Hades and his wife Persephone. The show takes a turn into the underworld and back, and along the way is Hermes.

Kreiss talked by phone from San Antonio about his role as Hermes in the musical as well as his path as a queer artist.

Dallas Voice: First and foremost, congratulations on this tour. How is it being back onstage for you after the last two years we’ve had? Levi Kreiss: Being back in the theater, the thing I didn’t anticipate would be this collective rejoicing. That first show where I walked onto the stage and started the whole thing, the audience was applauding, and we all knew, “Holy shit, theater’s back.” That feeling was unbelievable especially since it wasn’t an option for two years.



Levi Kreiss is Hermes in the touring production of *Hadestown*. (Photo by T. Charles Erickson, courtesy of Dallas Summer Musicals)

What was your pandemic journey as an actor? In March 2020 I was on my first day of work on a new musical developing for Broadway. At the same time, *Hadestown* was on the radar. Then the time came, and we were sent home from the new show, and the tour was now in limbo. I had two great gigs lined up, and then they just got taken away.

How does this show in particular appeal to you? I love this score and what Anais Mitchell has done musically. And I love that she’s a fellow singer-songwriter, and then to expand on this quirky cool theater piece is amazing. I think at the core of its origins is what I really relate to and how I can plug into that and really give myself to Hermes authentically.

Is it fair to describe your character as colorful? The music has this kind of swag to it, and that’s the fun part. He gets all these songs that are kind of this Southern swampy attitude, which is kind of part of my own music. So it is vocally a joy to wrap myself around it and make it my own as Hermes.

Sure the show is based on mythology, but do you find a personal relation to your character? The thing I love the most is the message he’s trying to drive home. I’m surprised there hasn’t been an expansive conversation about his truth, but his philosophy is, “What is between your ears and behind your eyes is your reality until you change.” That, personally and privately, drives me to tell this story. There’s something super soulful about that message.

Personally, how? As a queer man, I find this true. I’ve been through some very significant pain — gay-bashed with a brick to the head, walked out of jobs, conversion therapy. I’m 12 years sober, so my ability to navigate through a character with emotional intelligence is there because I’ve had this life but didn’t fall to it. Getting through and rising above that makes me a better actor.

Shifting gears, you talked about this outlet covering your music here in the area, but you have another distinct Texas connection. Yeah, I

worked with Del Shores, and I literally fell into the arms of Del and Leslie Jordan. They helped me through that difficult time of going through major music labels. Once those labels found out I was gay, they didn’t know what to do. Del really told me to lean into and tell my story. Del and Leslie really surrounded me with love back then.

And then you worked together on *Southern Baptist Sissies*. My first month in Los Angeles, I ended up seeing the play, and it was about these guys in church finding a way to navigate religion and being gay, and as a little preacher Christian songwriter myself, I was in tears. He happened to be there, and that’s how we met. And then I went on to write a song for the movie and work with him.

Now here you are with a Tony award and a big show tour. Well, there is that. What a crazy life, and I’m just so grateful. ■

Hadestown runs through Jan. 30 at the Winspear Opera House. DallasSummerMusicals.org.



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write them a check. One of the captors drove the man to his home where the victim managed to get inside his house and lock the kidnapper out.

That victim called 911 and told police the apartment number where he had been held but could give only an approximate location. He didn't have the exact address but was able to tell police it was a maroon-colored complex. That information narrowed it down to two complexes, and Dallas SWAT had both locations under surveillance, watching the comings and goings of the residents.

Victim No. 6 wasn't the last person to show up: About an hour after he was taken hostage, he heard the door open again and heard Henry knock out the new arrival. After the new victim came to, Victim No. 6 said, he could hear the man pleading for his life before Henry and Jenkins dragged him into the bedroom.

Then Cenicerros-Deleon left again for the ATM. Police followed and arrested

him as he stole money.

Around 3 a.m., Victim No. 6 recalled, everything suddenly went quiet. Then he heard glass breaking, followed by a flash of what he described as the brightest light he'd ever seen as someone was yelling, "SWAT!"

The five captives were freed, but the captors had escaped.

The five victims were taken to the police station to give their statements and look at a photo line-up. Victim No. 6 said he was surprised his car was at the station but was told it was considered a crime scene. When he got the car back later, he said, it was covered in black dust from fingerprinting that proved Cenicerros-Deleon had stolen the car.

Victim No. 6 went through the pictures, but he couldn't identify anyone he saw — until he got to the last photo. He was certain that man, identified as Daniel Jenkins, was the person who had lured him to the apartment through Grindr.

Cenicerros-Deleon, the first of the cap-

tors arrested, bonded out of jail and immediately disappeared, presumably to Mexico, Victim No. 6 said.

Several months later, Jenkins was arrested. And soon after both Henry and Atkinson were also taken into custody. Victim No. 6 said he doesn't know if one of the other victims identified them or if Jenkins told police during an interrogation who else was involved. Then Cenicerros-Deleon was finally picked up when he showed up at his mother's home for Thanksgiving dinner in 2020.

Each of the four assailants involved took a plea deal. Henry, Cenicerros-Deleon and Atkinson were sentenced in June 2021, and Jenkins, whose attorney kept filing motions to delay, was finally sentenced in October 2021.

Victim No. 6 was the only one of the victims to attend each hearing and to speak in court. Because the four assailants took plea deals, there wasn't a trial, but Victim No. 6 offered a victim's impact statement during the sentencing hearings.

The others, Victim No. 6 said, told him, "I'm over it," and "I've moved on."

But "I didn't want these jackasses to ever be in a position to do this to anyone again," Victim No. 6 said.

Still, going to court to face his kidnappers terrified him. And Victim No. 6 got little help from Texas, despite the state having a victim's compensation fund. The state, the man said, treated him despicably.

But then the federal government took over the case and added federal hate crime charges to existing charges of kidnapping, robbery and assault. Once the feds stepped in, Texas responded.

Victim No. 6 had already replaced his car, but he needed oral surgery to replace the teeth he lost when he was beaten. And he needed counseling.

The counseling he got at first was awful, Victim No. 6 said. Rather than focus in on his trauma, the counselor began examining the man's relationship as a child with his parents.



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Therapist Jimmy Owen, who spoke with the approval of his patient, said Victim No. 6 progressed from victim to survivor to advocate. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

But the day before he was set to appear in court, Victim No. 6 called counselor Jimmy Owen. Owen, he said, “gave me strength to testify the next day.”

The delays in getting justice were traumatic but unavoidable. The date for the first court hearing had been scheduled for just weeks after the first lockdown forced by the COVID-19 pandemic. That lockdown, of course, delayed all pending trials.

Owen, who had his client’s permission to talk about the story, said there’s a

process for dealing with trauma. The first step is stabilization. He said Victim No. 6 was dealing with severe PTSD, but as they spoke, the man began processing what happened to desensitize him to the events.

“He still has triggers,” Owen said. And as he told the story, more than four years after his ordeal, the victim still got emotional at several points. He said giving the victim impact statement was empowering; it was a turning point. Victim No. 6 said he has learned to make the attack something that happened to him, to pull it to the side rather than seeing everything through the cloud of the event.

Owen said they’ve worked to decrease the shame and irrational guilt Victim No. 6 feels, something that many victims of crime have to deal with. But, the counselor said, in his eyes, Victim No. 6 is something of a hero, because throughout his ordeal, the man not only remained calm himself, he helped keep the other victims calm, preventing

even more violence.

Owen said he’s seen Victim No. 6 go from victim to survivor to advocate for other crime victims.

Victim No. 6 had advice for anyone using Grindr: Talk to the person you meet online for several days before meeting. When you do meet them, make it somewhere very public. Don’t go to someone else’s house, especially if you don’t know the person. And if you invite someone into your home, have a plan to defend yourself in case something should happen.

While the four perpetrators in this crime are each in federal prison serving their terms, Texas has decided to pursue state charges against them. Victim No. 6 said he won’t be participating in those trials, although his victim’s impact statement is recorded and may be used.

After giving his statement in court, Victim No. 6 ended by telling the judge, “For five years I was a victim. Today, I’m a survivor.” ■



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JANUARY	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday, January 6, 2022	6:30 - 9:30 P.M.	Bachman Recreation Center 2750 Bachman Dr., Dallas, TX 75220
Thursday, January 13, 2022	6:30 - 9:30 P.M.	Lake Highlands North Recreation Center 9940 White Rock Trail, Dallas, TX 75238
Saturday, January 22, 2022	3:30 - 6:30 P.M.	Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center 8701 Greenmound, Dallas, TX 75227
Thursday, January 27, 2022	6:30 - 9:30 P.M.	Exline Recreation Center 2525 Pine St., Dallas, TX 75215
FEBRUARY	TIME	LOCATION
Saturday, February 5, 2022	3:30 - 6:30 P.M.	Timberglen Recreation Center 3810 Timberglen Rd., Dallas, TX 75287
Thursday, February 10, 2022*	6:30 - 9:30 P.M.	City Hall - WebEx * 1500 Marilla, Dallas, TX 75201

* Redistricting town halls at City Hall will be available for virtual and in person participation and will feature ASL interpreters, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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Finding your VOICE

BEYOND THE PAGE

An interview with
NB author Xiran Jay Zhao

JONATHON MCCLELLAN | Contributing Writer
jonathonmcclellan@gmail.com

Have you ever gone into a bookstore and asked yourself, “What’s missing?” Maybe that’s because most of the books that are published were created by heterosexual, white authors. It’s as if the publishing industry never got the memo that there are many voices unaccounted for and that diversity is desperately needed.

But there has been progress, signs maybe that the industry is changing. It could be that what’s happening behind the scenes, in the decision rooms, are a microcosm of what’s happening around the world, too.

To better understand why it is so difficult to find queer or colored writers’ voices and why, often, there is an author default, I sat down with Xiran Jay Zhao, the No. 1 New York Times bestselling author of *Iron Widow*. Their experiences in the publishing world can offer insight into the ins and outs of publishing and what it takes to break the daunting barriers that only a few manage to get over.

Dallas Voice: As a first-generation Chinese-Canadian immigrant, what is the most impactful lesson you’ve learned about overcoming traditional norms in the publishing industry?

Xiran Jay Zhao: I learned that publishing presents itself one way; right now, publishing is all “Oh, we love diversity! We welcome diversity!” That’s the side they present to the public. But often-times, there’s a different conversation going on behind closed doors. It may be more difficult to break in than you would expect from how they present themselves. So, you have to learn how to deal with that and not let the disappointment crush you when it does hit.

You can’t let yourself be discouraged into abandoning the story of your heart. Barriers won’t come down unless you break them.

What is the best way an LGBTQ writer can break into a predominately heteronormative industry? Write a good story. Write the story that you want to read. That’s the most important writing advice that I ever internalized. Sometimes, as a writer, you get afraid of being self-indulgent. You get all these messages in your head — “You have to show and not tell” — but ultimately, it is fine to write the story that you want to read. Be self-indulgent.

What are some of the struggles minorities are still facing in publishing and the entertainment worlds? In the entertainment industry and the publishing industry, those at the top are still predominately cis-het white men. They control what gets bought and what gets the biggest share of marketing.

A lot of times, in modern publishing and the entertainment industry, they say they’re all about diversity but it’s just another marketing tactic to them. Diverse and marginalized creators get lumped in with other books or works of media by creators with the same marginalization, even though our stories have nothing in common except our protagonists’ identities. That can be really frustrating.

Then you also have the marketing people assuming that only people who share our identities will consume our works. That’s also frustrating. The

publishing and entertainment industries are still afraid to take risks.

Other than yourself, are there noteworthy examples of progress that you’ve witnessed in the same industries?

Yes, for sure. I could say it’s shady, but there are people who are breaking new barriers, such as Aiden Thomas. He’s the first trans author to hit the New York Times bestseller list with a story featuring a trans protagonist. That happened last year. He’s the author of *Cemetery Boys*. Also, there are a lot of new diverse books coming out. If you look at what [was] being published in 2021, it’s radically different than what was being published even five years ago.”

On Twitter you said to the world, “I am pansexual and gender queer (which is a whole lot of not caring about gender), and I can’t believe ‘I can’t tell if you’re a boy or a girl’ used to be hurled at me as an insult when it is clearly my strongest superpower.”

How has your sexuality and gender fluidity affected your career, and how is queerness a superpower? Since that tweet,

I’ve come to terms with how I’m more non-binary than gender fluid. I’ve spent many, many years trying to figure this gender thing out. Ever since I was young, I would immediately rebel against being gendered.



don’t like to be categorized. To exist in a world and be unapologetic about how you’re existing and how it defies other people’s expectations to conform is [a superpower].

Is there any advice that you could give to young people who feel that their dreams are unattainable because of their sexual orientation or gender identity? Be prepared for disappointment and heartbreak, but, still,

the world is changing. The industries are changing. Marriage equality has been achieved throughout all the U.S. If same-sex marriage is legal in the Dakotas, then you know that things are getting progressive. It’s slow, but you have to have faith. Stay true to yourself, because by the time you finish your great project, just maybe, the world will be ready for it.

Inasmuch as it has been a difficult road gaining equal representation in publishing, pioneers like Xiran Jay Zhao are showing us that equal representation is possible to attain. Perhaps the reminder that not everything is as it appears to be reveals to us that a much deeper inspection of our society and deep introspection is still required.

What we should expect should be no different than what we accept about ourselves and in publishing. ■

Be sure to be on the lookout for Xiran Jay Zhao’s latest novel, Zachary Ying and the Dragon Emperor, a middle-grade fantasy coming out May 3, 2022.

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BEYOND THE PAGE

'Behind Sacred Walls' tells one man's story of being raped by priests

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Michael Roberts comes from a religious Catholic family that never missed Sunday mass. And like hundreds of other boys who have come forward, he was abused by the priest at his church.

But Roberts' story of abuse by Catholic priests is a little different from others. He was a little older than most victims we've heard about; he was 17 when he was first raped. But, Roberts explains, he was a young and naïve 17 with no sexual experience.

The purpose of Roberts' book, *Behind Sacred Walls*, is to help other victims of abuse by religious figures, not to expose or punish those who hurt him. In fact, Roberts changes the names of his tormentors and never reveals the parish that protected his rapists.

Father Gregory, as Roberts calls him, began inviting himself to dinner with the family every week. Then he invited Michael on day trips. His parents were delighted that their favorite priest was taking such an interest in their son. They couldn't imagine he was grooming Mi-

chael for years of abuse.

When Roberts at first tried to get Father Gregory to stop, the priest told him, "Your family will never find out." And rather than distance himself from the family, the priest continued to ingratiate himself to them.

And Roberts thought his family would never believe that this kindly priest, who showed such rage in private, was capable of rape.

Years later, when charges are actually filed, Gregory was moved from one parish to another. Even once the case reached the Vatican, Gregory wasn't defrocked. Instead, he was hidden, Roberts said.

And when Roberts finally reported the abuse to the church, another priest who he thought was going to help raped him as well.

Roberts, who eventually escaped his predators, today lives in Massachusetts with his husband. He says that the actual number of victims of abuse by priests isn't known, although a report in 2019 indicates more than 20,000 victims were known to bishops from 1950 through 2018. Experts believe the actual number of abuse victims is much higher.

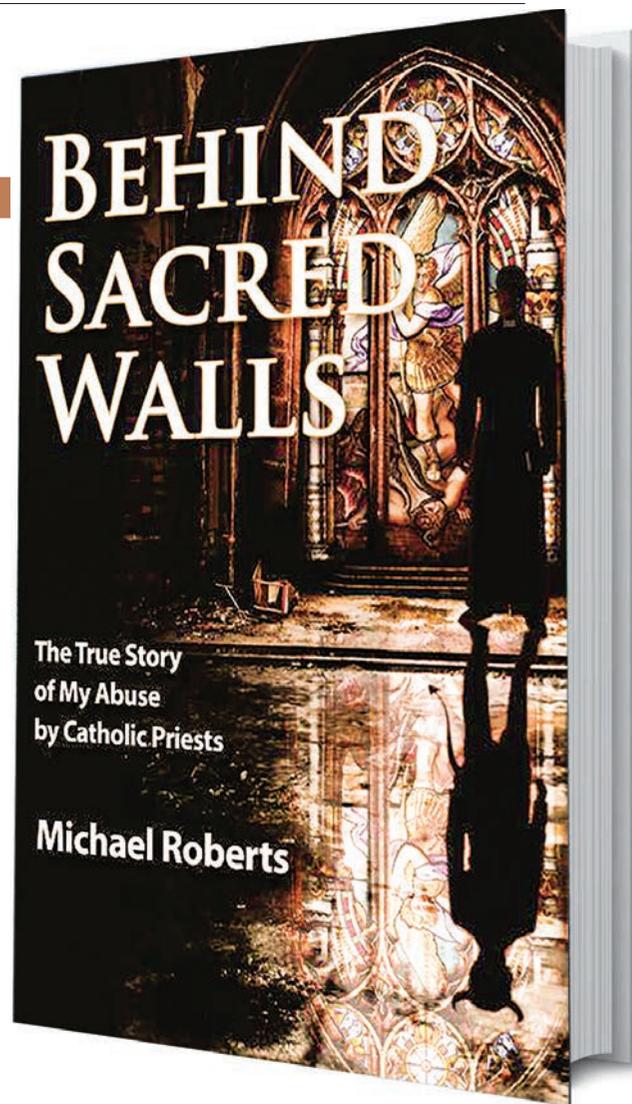
Of the 118,184 priests who worked for the church during that 68-year period, 7,002 were accused of abusing children, Roberts reports.

While Roberts reported his abuse much earlier, he said the average age of someone reporting abuse by priests is 52. Many don't report what happened to them because of shame and guilt.

Rather than being optimistic about

ending these assaults by pedophile priests, Roberts gives parents signs to look out for in their children. He says lashing out, irritable moods and depression are common among children who are being abused. Alcohol and drug use are often a reaction to dull the pain. The result may even be suicide.

SNAP — Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests — was founded in 1988 by Barbara Blaine, a woman who endured years of pain, depression and shame after being abused in eighth grade by a priest who taught at her school in Toledo, Ohio. Years later, when she finally reached out to the church for help and justice, the bishop in Toledo refused her pleas. So she began building a network of fellow survivors of abuse by clergy, and today SNAP is the largest, oldest and most active self-help group for clergy sex abuse victims, with more than 25,000 members and support groups meeting in more than 60 cities across the U.S. and the world.



According to SNAP, if you see child sexual abuse, have a reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse or believe your child has been sexually abused, call 911 or the local police immediately. You can also call the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-Child or visit the Child Help Hotline, where trained crisis operators staff the lines 24/7 to answer questions, and if necessary, show you how to report in your local area. ■

For more information, support or other resources, visit SNAPNetwork.org.



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Be a man

ON THE PAGE



Gomez' memoir rambles, but affably so

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER | Bookworm Sez
BookwormSez@yahoo.com

High-Risk *Homosexual: A Memoir* by Edgar Gomez; c. 2022, Soft Skull Press; \$16.95; 304 pages.

Here. Try this. It fits you, but the color isn't flattering. It's too long, too short, too tight, too loose. That's not your style, so try something else until you find the thing that looks like you. The perfect thing is out there.

As in the new book *High-Risk Homo-*

sexual by Edgar Gomez, when something's right, it's right. He was 13 when he figured out that he was a problem to be solved.

Edgar Gomez' mother had left him in her native Nicaragua with his tios, just for a while, because she had to return to Florida to work. He wasn't there without her for long, but it took years for him to understand that his time with his uncles was meant to make him more masculine.

In retrospect, he says, nobody wanted him to be a man more than he did. He wanted to be liked by other kids, and so he told lies in school to make himself stand out. He wanted his mother to see his love of pretty things and say that it was okay. He wanted his brother to acknowledge that Gomez was gay

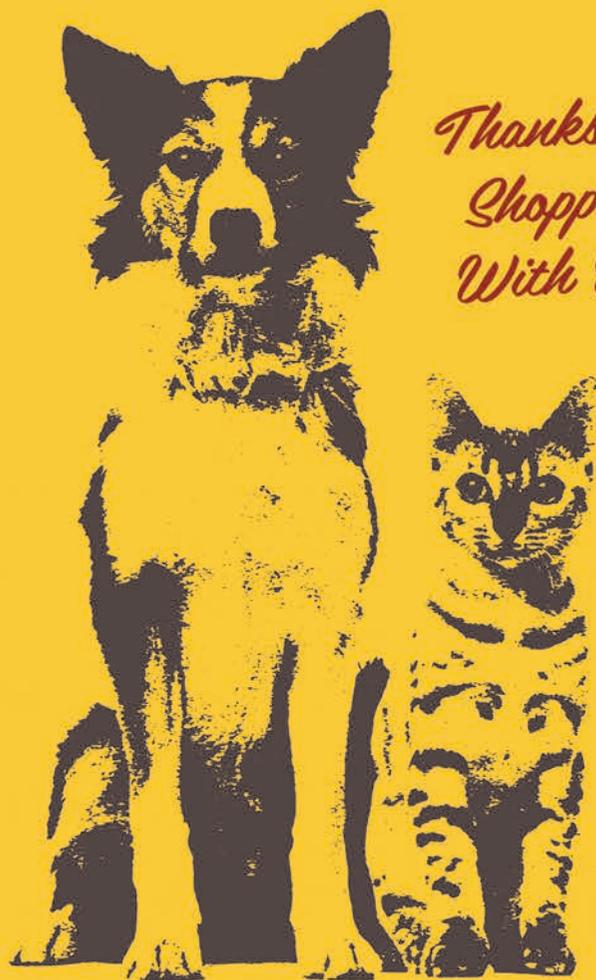
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SYMPHONIC
Sinatra

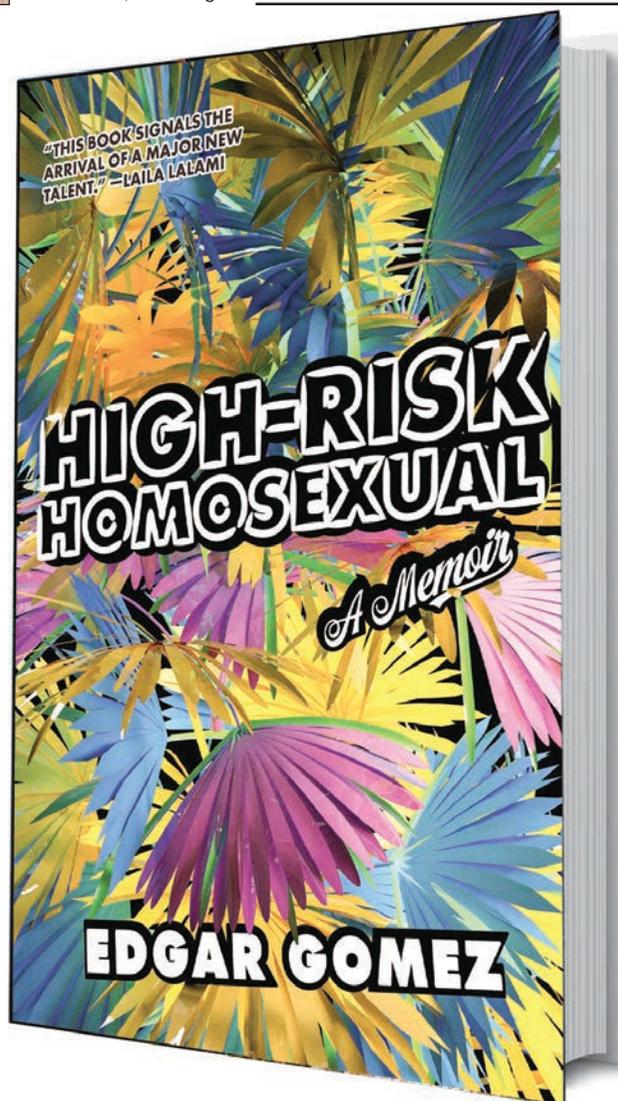
Starring
Brian Duprey

"HE'S GOT IT DOWN"
-NANCY SINATRA

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MAN, From Page 21



and still tell him that he loved him.

Instead, after his brother left for college, Gomez got his first boyfriend, a boy he came out to but who couldn't come out to himself. He was called names in school. He came out to his mother who freaked out about it. He befriended a drag queen, but "Princess" used him.

Things he wanted: A real boyfriend. Love. A ban on the stereotype of a macho Latinx man.

Things he still had, while in college: His mother and older brother. A tormentor-turned-mentor. A part-time job. His weirdness. His virginity.

Things he wanted to lose while in college: His room at his mother's house. His virginity, but that wouldn't happen until later during a painful one-afternoon-stand with a hot man who said he had a girlfriend.

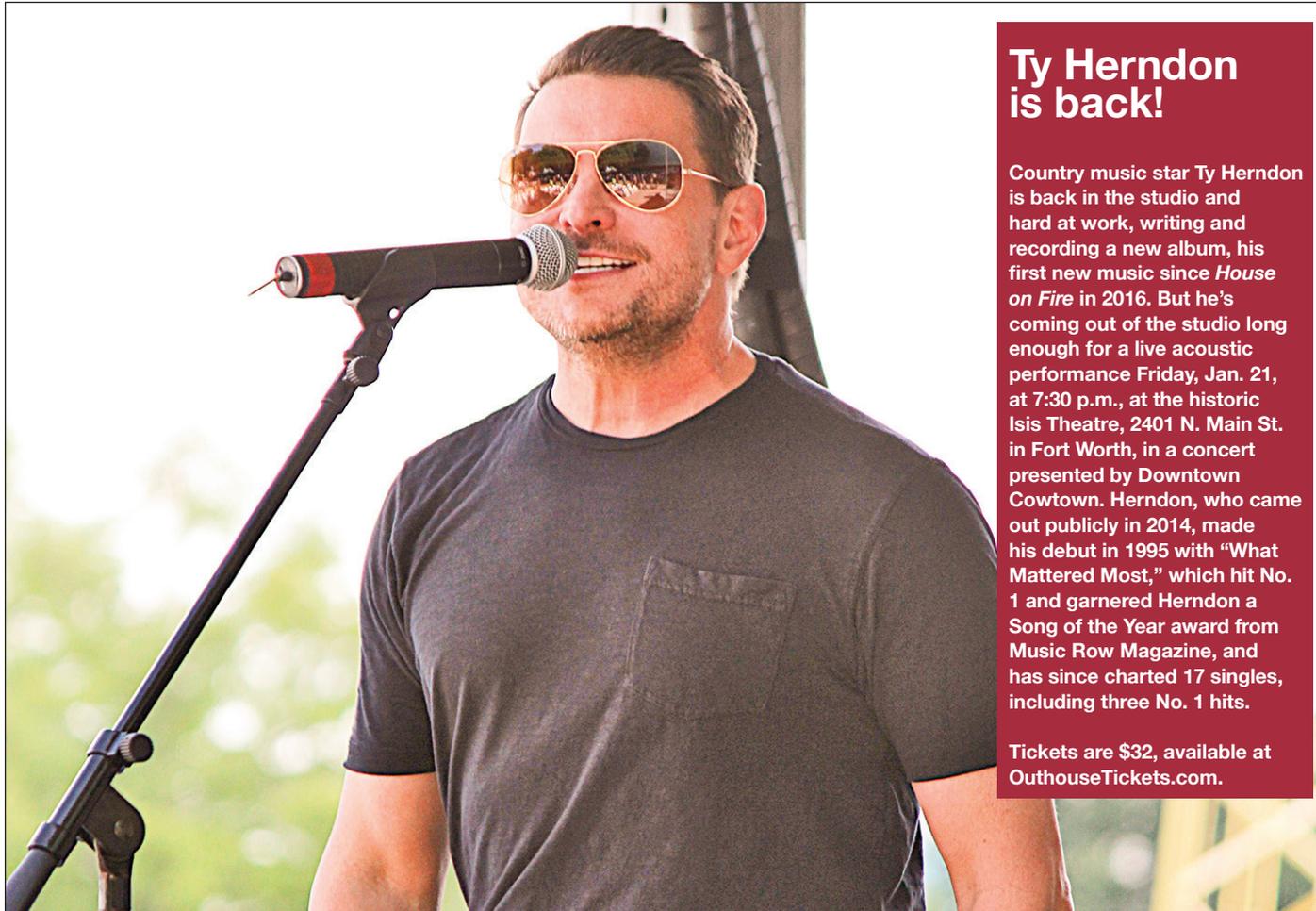
That hurt, both physically and emotionally. But like so many things at so many times, Gomez tried not to think about it.

If he never considered what he didn't have, he says, "I wouldn't miss it."

In a way, you could say that *High-Risk Homosexual* is a book in search of a point. It's really quite random and told (mostly) linearly but not quite. It has its high peaks but also low valleys. And you won't care about any of this because you'll be enjoying every bit of it.

Yeah, this memoir is good: Author Edgar Gomez's literary wandering makes it feel much like an honest conversation with readers. There are wince-worthy moments that allow empathy here and experiences that are unique but oddly ubiquitous that leave space for a sense of sympathy. There are passages that are so wistfully uncomfortable that you might squirm or start "snort-laughing" or want to stop a moment and just think.

And there's room for that, too, so take your time. *High-Risk Homosexual* is an affable book with just enough seriousness to make it worth a try. ■



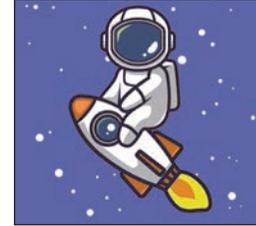
Ty Herndon is back!

Country music star Ty Herndon is back in the studio and hard at work, writing and recording a new album, his first new music since *House on Fire* in 2016. But he's coming out of the studio long enough for a live acoustic performance Friday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m., at the historic Isis Theatre, 2401 N. Main St. in Fort Worth, in a concert presented by Downtown Cowtown. Herndon, who came out publicly in 2014, made his debut in 1995 with "What Mattered Most," which hit No. 1 and garnered Herndon a Song of the Year award from Music Row Magazine, and has since charted 17 singles, including three No. 1 hits.

Tickets are \$32, available at OuthouseTickets.com.

GAY AGENDA

ROCKING WITH THE ROCKET MAN



Elton John released his debut album, *Empty Sky*, in 1969, and he notched his first hit single, "Your Song," from his second album, *Elton John*. Now,

52 years later, the rock-and-roll superstar is on the road with his "Farewell Yellow Brick Road Tour," coming to Dallas' American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave., on Tuesday, Jan. 25 and Wednesday, Jan. 26. The show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$69, available online at TicketNetwork.com.



NEVER FORGET

Between 1942 and 1945, the U.S. government sent about 120,000 Japanese-Americans to a total of 10 internment camps

in California, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Arkansas for no reason other than that they had Japanese ancestry. The incarcerations began after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941; the last camp, at Tule Lake, Calif., was closed in March 1946. The Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, 300 N. Houston St., presents *Courage and Compassion: The Japanese American World War II Experience*, which tells the story of the camps using images, audio, interactives and testimony. The exhibit runs through Jan. 12, and the museum is open Wednesday through Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors, military, first responders, educators and visitors with disabilities, and \$12 for students. Visit DHHRM.org.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

The Gay Agenda is now color-coded:

- Red for community events
- Blue for arts and entertainment
- Purple for sports
- Green for nightlife and
- Orange for civic events and holidays

■ Every Monday: THRIVE

Resource Center's THRIVE Monday Support Group for LGBTQ adults 50 and older meets virtually and is led by interns from the SMU counseling program. For more information on the support group and how to join, please send an email to THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org.

■ Weekly: Frontrunners

Running club for the LGBTQ community and allies of DFW. Meet at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays and 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays at the corner of Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard in Turtle Creek Park for a one-hour walk/run on the Katy Trail.

JANUARY 2022

■ Jan. 21: Ty Herndon

Downtown Cowtown presents Ty Herndon at 7:30 p.m. at the Isis Theatre, 2401 N. Main St., Fort Worth. Tickets at OuthouseTickets.com.

■ Jan. 25-26: Elton John

Elton John brings his Farewell Yellow Brick Road Tour to Dallas. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. at 8 p.m. TicketNetwork.com.

■ Jan. 27: THRIVE social event

Details to be announced by social committee.

■ Jan. 27-Feb. 20: Our Town

Thornton Wilder's classic play staged by Dallas Theater Center. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Tickets at DallasTheaterCenter.org.

■ Jan. 28: An Evening with Dog the Bounty Hunter

Against all odds, Duane "Dog" Chapman has turned his life around, going from ex-con to American icon. Wylly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

■ Jan. 29: The Life and Music of George Michael

A new immersive concert-style show that chronicles the journey George Michael had with music and his fans. The show captures the performance and sound with concert-style staging and lighting while telling his story through early music hits from Wham! and his illustrious solo career. Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St., at 8 p.m. TicketNetwork.com.

■ Jan. 30: Herb Alpert and Lani Hall

Herb Alpert and Lani Hall perform at the Wylly Theatre, 2400 Flora St., at 7:30 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

■ Jan. 30: Benjamin Appl

The Dallas Opera presents German baritone Benjamin Appl at 2 p.m. at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

■ Through Jan. 30: Hadestown

Dallas Summer Musicals presents the musical *Hadestown* at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

FEBRUARY 2022

■ Feb. 4-13: Matilda the Musical

Presented by Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. TicketMaster.com

■ Feb. 5: Disney Princess – The Concert

Disney Princess — The Concert is an 80+ city U.S. tour bringing together Broadway's Disney princesses to perform beloved Disney classics. The cast will perform more than 30 favorite Disney Princess and Frozen songs, including classics "Let It Go," "A Whole New World" and "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes." Fair Park Music Hall. Tickets at Ticketmaster.com.

■ Feb. 6-April 24: Sunday Billiards League

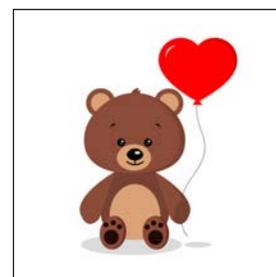
Sundays through April, Pride Sports Dallas presents the Sunday Billiards League from 3-6 p.m. at O'Riley's Pub, 8989 Forest Lane, Unit 120. Sign up at PrideSportsDallas.com.

■ Feb. 6-Jan. 15, 2023: Octavio Medellin: Spirit and Form

The first-ever museum retrospective for Octavio Medellín explores the evolution of his sculptural practice and his legacy as a beloved and respected teacher. Dallas Museum of Art.

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

Look for extended listings online at DallasVoice.com



DANCING BEARS

Liberty Lounge, 515 S. Jennings Ave. in Fort Worth, kicks off its monthly Bear Happy Hour and Tea Dance on Sunday, Jan. 23, starting at

3 p.m. There will be no drawings, no fundraisers and no cover charge, just a bunch of guys having a beary, beary good time. For more information visit [Facebook.com/Events/619769629318731/?ref=110](https://www.facebook.com/Events/619769629318731/?ref=110).

dallasvoice.com

Ask Howard

HOW TO DO THE WRONG THING RIGHT

Invasion of the acronyms

“Flurona, you made it! Come on in, sweetie. We ain’t much to look at — our lively little quiltin’ circle here — but we’re efficient, darn tootin’! Delta and Omicron, with great and humble pleasure, may I introduce you to Rona’s half-sister: Flurona’s joining us for the remainder of this winter’s cull.

We’re a DP tag-team here all the way through to spring, girls. You haven’t tasted joy til you’ve dosed them with an influenza/coronavirus double-penetration whammy! So many antivaxxers, too — never enough time to properly infect them all. My, but to be raised on such country moonshine as these earthling rubes. Oh, how I do love the smell of burnt-out ICU filters in the morning, when the calla lilies are in bloom!”

Listen especially closely to me now, all you entrenched antivaxxers out there, you who’ve neither received your annual flu shot nor been vaccinated against Rona: January and February are now your best chance ever to be DPd (Double-Penetrated) with both the flu and COVID simultaneously. It doesn’t require a great stretch of imagination to visualize February as the most jam-packed month of overflowing hospital emergency rooms yet.

As we enter our third year now in a row of globalized ennui, spiritless malaise and patriotic disenchantment, I’m going to venture way out on a flimsy limb here and say 2022’s bound to be the charm! We’re overdue a good hand. Contributing my own small efforts at spirit-lifting kinsmanship, I’ve decided to kick things off to a fresh, crisp January start here by running what’s now become an annual fan-favorite ASK HOWARD column tradition: The announcement of this year’s winners of Gayville’s Annual Invasion of the Acronyms!

Dear Howard here is going to impertinently presume that if you’ve hung in with me to this far, then there’s no reason for us to but peripherally re-examine yesteryear’s acronymic stumbers. I mean, unless you’ve been RVWing (Rip-Van-Winkling) in BFE (Butt-Fuck Egypt) for the past decade, then I’m going to assume that everyone’s quite familiar now with most the gay old acronymic glories: VGL (Very Good-Looking), LTR

(Long-Term Relationship), FWB (Friends With Benefits), LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual), LMAO (Laughing My Ass Off), ONYDMT (Oh, No You Didn’t, Miz Thang!), just to name a few of the holy stalwarts. And then, of course, there’s G.A.Y., which elevates the acronym up to its next evolutionary pedestal: G.A.Y. (Good As You) is actually what’s called a bacronym. Yes, child, all we gays stand courageously unified, every bit as good as you ... if not usually a whole lot better.

And on this note, let’s get gaily straight to 2022’s top three most-trending acronymic lollapaloozas.

Dear Howard: I’m confused about what BFE means. I see BFE in profiles a lot, especially from dudes who say they’re mainly “straight” but claim they also offer the Boyfriend Experience, immediately followed up by a list of what they won’t do in bed with another man — which is usually everything except for receiving oral. So, how does the Boyfriend Experience jibe with some asshole who makes it clear that I’m lucky he’s even permitting me to just shut up and suck him off to a happy ending? Am I missing something about what constitutes the Boyfriend Experience?

— J. Alfred Prufrock

Dear T.S.: Eliot: In paraphrasing your idol’s famously impotent own words, “Like a patient etherized upon a table, when the evening is spread out against the sky, let us go then, you and I” ... But, to where? And do what exactly, J. Alf, once we get there? Wallow in our sharing of the Boyfriend Experience? BFE, regrettably, is now little more than a zombie anagram. Its relevance long ago came and went. Yet, because it



sounds pretty without clarifying any real meaning behind it, BFE’s ghostly wraith still lingers. Originally, back when HIV was a guaranteed death sentence, to offer a stranger the Boyfriend Experience was sociopathic code for, “You’re being topped, bitch, minus a condom in sight. My status is my own business, none of yours. Just enjoy your breeding, and keep the whimpering to a minimum.”

Dear Howard: Is there a difference in the meaning of FF versus ff? I feel like I’m getting conflicting signals, depending upon whether the anagram appears in upper-case or lower-case. I’ve a particular fetish for sucking on toes with my mouth, not with my sphincter. Any enlightenment you could share?

— Tom Slenderfoot

Dear Splenderfeet: This twin-pairing of our alphabet’s sixth letter, like some sort of cancerous cell division, can be either benign or malignant to its devotees, dependent upon their tolerance and/or love of pain during sexual adventures. But, to answer your question, it’s the capitalized version (FF) that invites a grown man’s arm shoulder-deep inside one’s rectum; lower-case (ff) is the abbreviate-standard for foot fetish. Finally, too, comes a hybridized third alternate (Ff) often used (when it’s used at all) as a sort of all-inclusive, anything goes umbrella-term translation, into FILTHY as fuck, or, Filth-fucker (i.e., scat-friendly).

Dear Howard: During yesterday’s daily surf for my potential future husband, I somehow cast my nets across a virgin

gay acronym, so new that it’s not even Google-able yet! Would you happen to know what a QWN is? At first, I thought the dude was just text-spelling his name—QWN instead of Quinn. But, later, I thought maybe he really meant Queen, not Quinn. Is QWN the newest tramp-stamp for raging high queens?

— Sugah Babe-Bee

Dear Baby Shug: Not even close. Queer Wonder Nerd (QWN) is the newly-minted term representing those freaks caught in the cracks between wannabe otters, fame-hungry twunks and those hermitic obesity blobs congealed inside Grandma’s basement coaxing ossified troves of their antique comic books into cold-fusion thermonuclear warheads.

—Howard Lewis Russell

Need a phrase defined, an abbreviation clarified, or just a handy target to vent bile at? Lucky you! Forward your festering frustrations, vexations, hallucinations and heart palpitations to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and Howard may very well flatter you back.

— Howard Lewis Russell

We all ask ourselves questions, some even crazier than me, and some shall ride a gleam rocketships tiptop the Christmas tree! My gifted ones, send in brightly your 2022 dazzlers to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com.

this week’s solution

W	A	N	D	U	N	C	A	P	O	W	E	D		
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SCENE

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



Backstage at The Rose Room with Miss Gay America Pattaya Hart



BFF's Asia & Alyssa

Gaybingo

RESOURCE CENTER TAKES THE STAGE



Gaybingo, photos courtesy of Resource Center, Juan Verdeguer and Chad Mantooth



Kennedy Davenport, the golden goddess



Q Dominican Sanchez in Mr. Gay Lonestar USofA

Mavs Pride Night

DALLAS MAVERICKS CELEBRATES PRIDE

Dallas Mavericks honored their LGBTQ fans with the team's fourth official Pride Night event on Saturday, January 15 at the American Airlines Center.



Krystal and Dee



Kathy Jack and Lady Kennedy



Ellyse and Crystal



Melissa and Meagan



Arnold says PEACE



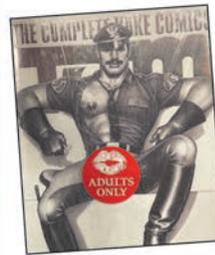
Shelly and Casey

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PUZZLE | Joan Said

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Solution on Page 26

Across

- 1 A fairy godmother waves it
- 5 Remove the top from
- 10 Got a little behind
- 14 Personal lubricant ingredient
- 15 Oktoberfest dance
- 16 Rainbow flag site
- 17 One of the Village People's outfits
- 19 Wolfson of Freedom to Marry
- 20 Start of what Joan said
- 21 More of what she said
- 23 Without a date
- 25 Kind of loser
- 26 Land of the cut (abbr.)
- 29 Unrefined metals
- 31 Boob
- 35 Like a straight line, for short
- 37 Mireille of "Hanna"
- 39 Prevent, with "off"
- 40 More of what she said
- 43 Joe Cocker's "You ___ Beautiful"
- 44 What Washington couldn't tell
- 45 From A to B, to Debussy
- 46 Worked hard
- 48 Got some dirt in the skirt, in "A League of Their Own"
- 50 Grounded fast flier

51 Peter Doyle's partner

- Whitman
- 53 Sulu's counselor on "Star Trek"
- 55 End of what she said
- 59 Joan
- 63 Subject of autoerotic fantasy?
- 64 Words from Cooper Anderson
- 66 WWII machine gun
- 67 Ted Casablanca's tidbits
- 68 "My Cup Runneth Over" singer Ed
- 69 Loose lady, in the land of Auden
- 70 "God loves everybody," to Jane Spahr
- 71 Oz visitor Dorothy

Down

- 1 "What ___ thinking?"
- 2 What there oughta be
- 3 Black, to Bonheur
- 4 Where the salami is hidden
- 5 Had anal sex with?
- 6 Sixty-nine and others (abbr.)
- 7 Crime-solving game
- 8 "Camille" screenwriter Zoe
- 9 Best Picture of 1970
- 10 "H.M.S. Pinafore" and more

11 Didn't go straight

- 12 It serves Tel Aviv
- 13 Say, "We're just friends..." perhaps
- 18 "Beatle Bailey" dog
- 22 Like Emma Donoghue
- 24 Italian seaport
- 26 The I's of Socrates
- 27 Stallion's sound
- 28 Direct elsewhere
- 30 Heart partners
- 32 Number of bulbs
- 33 High-tuition schools
- 34 Offer an apple to Adam and Steve?
- 36 Dropping from a will
- 38 Clown's pole
- 41 "Vertigo" actress Kim
- 42 Most queer, to straights
- 47 Bring out
- 49 Rub out
- 52 U.S. investment
- 54 Where to see Tom, Dick, or Harry
- 55 Hunter and namesakes
- 56 Take the mound
- 57 Nonheterosexual c onception
- 58 They were under Hoover
- 60 Isherwood's " ___ Camera"
- 61 Baseball great Hershiser
- 62 NASDAQ rival
- 65 Mrs., to Colette

1 OUT OF 7

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