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The original fame monster

Boy George talks about his past, present and future in the public eye

By Rich Lopez, page 8

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WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com

Twan McGary joins Normal Anomaly Initiative



The Normal Anomaly Initiative this week announced the appointment of Twan McGary as program manager, the organization's first permanent staff member for its newly-opened Dallas branch. McGary has been an advocate for Black, queer visibility and representation. He is the founder of Trust the Process and is a content creator "who uses his voice and platform to break barriers and help everyone find pathways to live fulfilling lives." As program manager for Normal Anomaly, he will "lead initiatives aimed at empowering individuals to actualize a new normal, free from societal constraints, as well as facilitating peer support groups."

— Tammye Nash

Red Sox suspend Duran for anti-gay slur



Boston Red Sox outfielder Jarren Duran was suspended without pay this week for two games after he "uttered an anti-gay slur at a fan" Sunday, Aug. 11, during the Red Sox' game against the Houston Astros, according to ESPN.

The suspension was issued by the Boston team and Major League Baseball, and began with Boston's game Monday, Aug. 12, against the Texas Rangers. The Red Sox said that Duran's salary from the suspension will be donated to PFLAG.

According to ESPN, it was during the sixth inning of Boston's 10-2 loss to Houston Sunday at Fenway Park that Duran "turned around in the middle of an at-bat and said to a heckler, 'Shut up, you fucking faggot.'"

Duran, 27, issued a statement Sunday night apologizing for using "a truly horrific word" in responding to the heckling fan.

— Tammye Nash

Uptown Players, The Dallas Way announce matching grant challenges

Two DFW LGBTQ organizations this

week announced matching grants by philanthropist James Williams: The Dallas Way, an organization preserving the history of the DFW LGBTQ community, announced a \$50,000 Matching Grant Challenge on Tuesday, Aug. 13, and on Thursday, Aug. 15, Uptown Players announced the launch of its \$125,000 Fund Our Future Matching Grant Challenge.

Williams will match every dollar donated to Uptown Players through North Texas Giving Day on Sept. 21, up to \$125,000, and he will match every dollar donated to The Dallas Way through the end of the year, up to \$50,000.

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It's "Clear The Shelters" time in North Texas; through Tuesday, Sept. 10, all animal adoptions are free of charge. Visit SPCA.org for more information.



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— Dallas Voice staff

New Mpox strain declared public health emergency in Africa

Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, has been declared a public health emergency in Africa by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 2022, an outbreak of a milder mpox virus that spread through sexual contact affected mostly gay men in Europe, Australia and the U.S. A new, more deadly strain has been spreading in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has reported 13,700 cases this year including 450 deaths.

The virus has spread to neighboring countries including Burundi, the Central African Republic, Kenya and Rwanda.

Symptoms include fever, headaches, swellings, back pain and aching muscles followed by a severe rash, which can be painfully itchy and leave scarring. In most cases, mpox will clear up on its own after three weeks. Vaccines are also available, but not usually administered until after exposure. Plans are for 10 million doses of the vaccine to be sent to central Africa to stop the spread of the virus.

The virus can be spread through sexual contact or through contact with someone infected through openings in the skin. It can also enter the body through the eyes, nose or mouth.

— David Taffet

OBITUARIES



Terri Stone died on June 27, 2024, after a brief illness. She was 60. A memorial service for Stone will be held Aug. 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive.

A fixture in the arts community, Stone taught at the Creative Arts Center. She was also involved in the White Rock Lake Artists Studio Tour and curated exhibitions at the Bath House Cultural Center. She was a jovial, gregarious and eccentric woman who adored her dogs and had a wicked sense of humor, and she was widely known for her warmth and ability to connect with people.

During her more than 30 years in the advertising industry, Stone worked on campaigns for American Airlines Group Inc., the American Heart Association, The Coca-Cola Company and Frito-Lay. Jim Fuqua hired Stone to work on food industry campaigns when he owned

Fuqua Eyre more than two decades ago.

Stone was also known for exploring her creative boundaries. She branched out into music over the years and found her instrument in the ukulele. That she could do that well surprised no one who knew her.

There are things that people often say when they talk about Terri Stone — that her creativity seemed to be endless, that she was a prankster, that her artistic skills knew no bounds. While she harnessed her sketching, painting and other creative skills to fashion a successful career in advertising, Stone found her artistic identity as a sculptor. In an interview with Dallas Voice in 2001, she told a reporter that after welding her first piece, she thought, “This is it! This is what I want to do from now on.”

Over the years, Stone made artwork for public spaces, including firehouses in Dallas and the dog park in Deep Ellum. Her pieces range from large, abstract steel structures to small works made from car clutches, wheels, bicycle parts, and other found objects.

Vance Louis Hines, a cherished member of the Dallas, Texas LGBTQ community, passed away on Aug. 11, 2024. Born on June 20, 1943, in Southampton County, Va., to Canolious V. Hines and Marie (Clemens) Hines, Vance was the youngest son in a large family. He graduated from West Orange High School in New Jersey in 1961.

Vance embarked on his journey in the banking sector in New York City, where he served with Arab Bank as an esteemed banker until



his retirement in 1998. He then relocated to Dallas to enjoy life. Vance loved dance music, old movies, champagne and caviar. Over the years, he was also a generous donor to Black Tie Dinner and Texas Pride Impact Funds.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and sisters. He is survived by his sister, Dr. Marie Miczak, and numerous beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition, he is survived by his special friends Dr. Karim Harati-Zadeh, Jackie Ovalles and David Carlson.

A memorial service will be held in his honor at First Baptist Farmers Branch, 13017 William Dodson Parkway in Farmers Branch, on Friday, Aug. 23. Visitation will begin at 2 p.m., followed by the service at 3:30 p.m.

Those whose lives were touched by Vance are invited to share their memories and upload photos to his memorial page.



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The 2024 choice: Build up or tear down

Inclusion only threatens bigots

Permit me to begin with some positive messages: The Washington Post reports, “Trump’s presidential bid has the support of only half of his Cabinet.” A T-shirt reads, “Voting prevents unwanted presidencies.” Simone Biles tweets, “I love my Black job” after her thrilling Olympic gymnastics comeback.

James Baldwin, whose 100th birthday was Aug. 2, wrote that “ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.” And here we are with an ignoramus seeking to replace the American presidency with a dictatorship, aided by many who should know better but are intoxicated with the prospect of power.

The Trump phenomenon is a blend of know-nothingism, bigoted appeals and theft. If every news cycle becomes a question of how Democrats will respond to his latest mud-slinging — such as by obligingly refuting his claims about Kamala Harris’s birth certificate — we are playing on his ground.

If we let a lying sociopath be the arbiter of authenticity, we are surely lost.

Trump says millions are crossing our southern border in an invasion, but border crossings have actually gone down. But how can there be any illegal border crossings if he built his much-touted wall as he has claimed?

And if an invasion is underway (instead of a migration, which is a different thing), why did he kill the border security bill?

It may be a blessing that Trump cannot help blurting out stupid and vicious things that play to his diehard supporters but turn off everyone else.

Democrats have newfound energy and enthusiasm, thanks to a young and gifted candidate who was ready for her moment. Her opponent, meanwhile, appears convinced that people with multi-racial backgrounds are a rarity, despite his running mate J.D. Vance having biracial



Richard J. Rosendall
Contributing Writer

children.

Some Trump supporters have reprised his Obama-era birtherism by suggesting Harris is ineligible to run for president because

her mother came from India and her father from Jamaica. She, however, was born in Oakland, Calif., and is every bit as American as Trump.

Film director Ryan Coogler is also from Oakland. The final scene in his movie *Black Panther* is set there, though it was actually shot across the street from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, whose pastor is Sen. Raphael Warnock.

Life is a series of connections. That scene in *Black Panther* features King T’Challa, played by the late Chadwick Boseman, who was proud of his fellow Howard University alum Kamala. She is

a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, founded at Howard in 1908.

Trump, however, thought it was smart to question Harris’s blackness in an interview at the convention of the National Association of Black Journalists. His intended audience was doubtless his supporters who love seeing him “stick it to” people they hate.

Vance later called Harris a chameleon, despite having changed his own name three times and having reversed his harsh criticism of Trump.

Harris showed leadership last February by holding private meetings with the German chancellor and the Slovenian prime minister at the Munich Security Conference to win their help with the complex prisoner exchange carried out on Aug. 1.

By contrast, Trump offers empty boasting. He has no use for diplomacy. He filters everything through his self interest rather than the national interest. His idea of leadership is a plan to fire all federal employees who do not swear loyalty to him instead of the Constitution.

Instead of ignoring Trump or letting him control the debate, Democrats need to make the case for the values and traditions they are defending and upholding.

One is the First Amendment “right of the people peaceably to assemble,” which Trump would violate by using federal troops to suppress protesters.

We are a diverse people, despite Trump’s assumption of whiteness as a standard. Contrary to his portrayal of diversity as a threat, it is a source of enrichment. There are countless examples of contributions made by Black people — from doorknobs to inoculations to music. Trump can perhaps be credited with innovations in grifting.

We do not have to accept that for one group to advance, another must suffer. Indeed, the discussion of multiracial families illustrates that there are no firm borders between groups.

Too many people fail to distinguish the ginned-up dramas called “reality TV” from the radical program to reshape our country represented by the Heritage Foundation’s Project 2025. If we share Lincoln’s determination “that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the Earth,” we must defeat the real threat to our republic, which is coming from within. ■

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On Stands September 13

By George

MUSIC NOTES

Fame is no monster for queer icon Boy George

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

In this world of TikTok influencers and YouTube singers, fame is the game. There are the notions of fame meaning you are recognized or have your picture taken all the time. There are the perks and clout and, of course, the dollars.

But being famous can be a double-edged sword. It's a sword that Boy George has learned to embrace and use to his advantage.

George has been in the public eye since 1982, beginning as the front man for '80s British pop band Culture Club when they debuted with the album *Kissing to be Clever*. The album yielded three top 10 hits, including the No. 1 single "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me."

With an eye-catching look and blatant queer vibes, George caught the attention of the public fast. But he kept that attention with a mix of both talent and fearlessness.

As his career progressed with both highs and lows (the band's break up, drug abuse, a solo career), George's fame was firmly set.

And he did it the old-fashioned way: He earned it.

These days, George is on the road playing his biggest hits along with some deep cuts and new tracks. Co-headlining with '80s contemporaries Squeeze, the tour stops into North Texas at the Pavilion at Toyota Music Factor on Aug. 28. Before he heads back to the United States for the tour, Boy George (nee George O'Dowd) talked with Dallas Voice from his home country of England to discuss his own fame and why it's just easier to be a nice guy than being a celebrity.

Dallas Voice: First, thank you for giving us time to chat with you. To get right into it, you are tremendously famous and have been for a long time. As you've lived with it, how do you embrace it



now? Boy George: I love this question. I really enjoy it now, and I've sort of changed my mind about it in the last 10 years or so. I think I've really changed my relationship with fame.

What's different now? What I find is that I've removed the anxiety of being in public, especially after something happened or however I look — dressed up or not. Now, whatever I look like and did or do is fine. And people don't care. There were so many times I wasn't looking great. When they see me, they mostly want a photo, and I've learned to really, just be nice to them. Be nice to everybody. It's not that fucking complicated.

Did you feel like you had to be some sort of persona before? Well, there were many times I was just uptight. And as I've gotten older and happier, I'm less uptight now.

You know, what's really good practice is being on Broadway. You meet people after the performance, and you're spent, but they stay there to meet you.

Well, let's talk about Broadway. You just did a stint as Harold Zidler in *Moulin Rouge!* this spring. How was that experience, because the casting sounds spot on for that character? I wanted to push myself and do more acting. I wasn't doing that before, and I'm 63 now. Why



say "no?" I really enjoyed it, and I plan to come back to the show. I think I need to explore more things more often.

Your last experience with Broadway was the Tony-nominated *Taboo*, the musical you wrote and Rosie O'Donnell produced here in 2003 about the New Romantics era of the late '70s, early

'80s in England. Despite a successful run in the U.K., it had a challenging time here, with just 100 performances. Have there been any thoughts to revisiting that? I'm in the process of rewriting it. I want to bring it back in a different way. It needs to be even more taboo! Back then, it was a different climate, and there was pressure to dumb it down. I think now, Broadway is much more bold and tolerant so I can have fun with it and be bold and brave as well.

It's interesting you want to explore acting when really, Boy George is your creation. Yes. I created Boy George, and I have this obligation to Boy George. I've dismantled him, and I am him. But I just want to be happy and be the best Boy George for me and for fans.
Going back to the fame thing: When you

meet another famous person for the first time, do you shake hands and introduce yourselves or is there a commonality that allows you to be immediately familiar? So many famous people are weird, and I learn that the more I meet. Because I've been in that anxiety as well. Sometimes, I tend to be more open with another famous person, but really, famous people are just people.

You're coming back to Dallas with this tour and with some iconic songs. How is it to tour and relate to these classic Culture Club tracks now? Well I'm not in love with Jon Moss now, singing these old songs. [Laughs] I love playing live, and this is my first solo tour in maybe 15, 20 years. I'm having fun, though, and bringing out some obscure Culture Club songs, my solo work and fun covers.

It's always exciting to go out on stage and win over the audience, because people don't know what I'm gonna do and I do everything. I have some staples, but I don't do the same thing every night. I don't begrudge singing the hits. I really enjoy it and I think it's really impossible to go onstage and not put joy out there. People dance and cry, and it all feels emotional but also joyful.

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Money Talks

THE MONEY ISSUE

Lea Landaverde's journey to financially empowering herself and others

KAMILA VARGAS-GONZALEZ
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For Lea Landaverde, conversations surrounding finances are taking place across states, Lyft rides and even her home. It seems inescapable, but she welcomes and even initiates those conversations with no complaints.

"I honestly feel responsible for [people's] financial well-being," she said.

Landaverde is a queer Latina wealth activist, a content creator and the founder of the Riqueza Collective, a financial educational platform for BI-POC, LGBTQ people and women that encourages building a healthy relationship with money.

"Finances have felt intimidating, and the goal with what I do and the content that I create is to help empower the next generations of wealth builders," Landaverde states.

For the wealth activist, riqueza — or wealth — is more than how much money one has in the bank; it's about having the ability to commit to building a healthy relationship with money.

Landaverde holds 10-plus years of experience as a wealth manager, investment banker and personal finance consultant. She holds a presence in the



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Lea Landaverde



Seeing her own parents' struggle to be successful inspired Lea Landaverde to start The Riqueza Collective

financial industry and plans to continue and develop that presence.

The decision to pursue this profession has a weighty significance, and it came to be for a reason: She is the daughter of immigrants. She is the daughter of entrepreneurs. She is a first-generation daughter.

Landaverde has watched her parents navigate the United States for the first time looking for a chance to offer a better

life for the family. While there were successes, there were also lots of struggles to overcome.

A young Landaverde observed both of her parents' faces crinkle in confusion as she tried translating documents for them. She listened as her parents reluctantly stammered out that they were experiencing foreclosure on their home and losing their landscaping business

during the 2008 recession, and she saw them rebuild their life and business, making it stable again.

"I learned a lot about being resilient," Landaverde explains. "I took it into my hands to understand what it is to have money, invest and start a business. That's when I started to take business and finance classes that led me to the path I'm on now."

Her journey of learning how to handle money started with putting herself through college.

"I was always the only Latina, the only woman of color or queer individual in the room, and, honestly, that pushed me and ignited a fire within me to be that person that I wanted to see in the room," Landaverde says. "I've used my knowledge, my experiences to empower the people. And I wish I could have seen that in my experience, but it wasn't there."

Landaverde continued to miss having a community of queer and Latina women behind her as she joined the finance workforce. Her identity and experiences influenced her career choice, and it was something that could not be ignored. Landaverde sought to unify her queer,

Latina identity and background with her work.

"I didn't want to be either more queer here or more Latina there," Landaverde affirms. "It's both of who I am."

The Riqueza Collective started out as a business consulting side hustle. But it quickly transformed into a full-time gig for Landaverde when she realized she could focus on representing and educating marginalized communities. Her business grew into an accessible financial education opportunity that aligned its mission with her community's needs.

"The most rewarding thing about running [Riqueza Collective] is being able to see the shifts that people make in their lives in order to be financially empowered," Landaverde said. "I've seen people get out of debt. I've seen people save for emergencies and have a good safety net. I've seen people start businesses after working with us.

"I've seen so much impact within people through this work."

For more information on Riqueza Collective, visit riqueza.co or follow them on Instagram @riquezaco

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THE MONEY ISSUE



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DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Dallas business owner Mark Rado will soon spend another week in New York City learning everything he can about the balloon business before returning to Dallas to open his new store. “We’ll be the first [Balloon Kings] franchise location,” Rado said.

He explained that Balloon Kings started in New York on Broadway at 80th Street then expanded to a second location across the Hudson River in Englewood, N.J.

“What makes us unique,” he said, including himself in the Balloon Kings growing network of shop, “is we have a storefront.”

He explained customers can come in and select from an assortment of balloons to create arches, bouquets and garlands in all sizes of balloon décor. Customers can come in and select colors and customize, he said. And the store will deliver seven days a week.

“We’ll work with restaurants for balloon drops for larger events,” he said, adding that he expects to work with ho-

tels and other catering facilities to make all sorts of parties — from weddings to bar mitzvahs, anniversary and birthday bashes and company events — more festive. You might even see some of his arrays in the upcoming Pride in Dallas parade on Cedar Springs Road.

Rado's new store is located on Haskell Avenue near Central Expressway, across from Target. As a new franchise opportunity, Rado said he was working with a franchise consultant who introduced him to the company.

This isn't Rado's first entrepreneurial attempt. He's also the owner of two The Now Massage shops in Dallas — one on Lower Greenville, a block north of the Granada Theater, and the other on Lemmon Avenue, a block from Whole Foods.

"What I liked about both companies is they disrupt, challenge the status quo and give people another option," he said.

Comparing The Now Massage to other massage chains like Massage Envy, he said the other chains are more clinical. Enter one of his shops and you'll escape Dallas.



"It's like being on a beach in Tulum," he said. "The Now Massage gives you a sensory experience."

And Balloon Kings offers customer service rather than just having customers order off of a website. "There's a creative element," he said. "Customers have a more positive experience."

Rado said all of his previous experience has built to the opening of his latest venture.

He grew up in Omaha, Neb., and at-

tended Babson College in Boston, majoring in economics and entrepreneurial studies.

Since then, he has worked as a buyer at Filenes and then at Macy's in San Francisco and New York. About 16 years ago, he moved to Dallas where he was the global brand manager for one of Fossil's product lines and was vice president of business development.

"Every position I've had, I've run a business," he said. "When I left Fossil, I decided to run my own business. All my experiences have come together — I know the retail side, the wholesale side, marketing, financial."

His company is showing steady growth. In 2020, he signed his first franchise agreement, and he opened his first The Now Massage in 2021. The Lemmon Avenue location opened in 2023.

He said his biggest decision this year was whether to open a third massage location or open something new. With a third location, he'd extend his reach in the massage market. With a new brand, he could stay in the same area and draw

from an existing customer base.

New brand won out, and he's expecting an early September opening. His kickoff, however, is Aug. 26 exhibiting at Partyfest at Market Center Hall. The trade show is for the Dallas-Fort Worth area professional event planning industry.

Then on Sept. 5, he'll have booths for both Balloon Kings and The Now Massage at the Katy Trail 5K. And he's working

with the Cedar Springs Merchants Association, doing décor for the Met Gala at S4.

With all of these events, how does he keep the businesses running?

"I'm more the driver of the business," Rado said. He has a manager and staff in each retail location, and he concentrates on the marketing and finances. ■

Balloon Kings will be located at 2408 N. Haskell Ave. The Now Massage is at 3614 Greenville Ave. and 4428 Lemmon Ave.

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STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing writer
StevenCraigLindsey@gmail.com

Unless you spend Labor Day Weekend in New Orleans, you're missing out on one of the craziest queer events in the nation: Southern Decadence is around the corner, so put down your needlepoint, release your inhibitions, and book a flight to NOLA, ASAP.

Living in Texas increases the odds that you've been to the multi-day party worthy of the Greek god Dionysus (last seen at the Paris Olympics, if you recall). But for those unfamiliar, here's the CliffsNotes version of the high homo holiday.

Founded in 1972 as a small gathering of friends, Southern Decadence has grown over the decades into one of the highest-attendance events in the city. Since 2000, it has weathered cancellations due to hurricanes, tropical storms and pandemics, yet it always bounces back to celebrate the uniqueness of the LGBTQ experience.

Unlike Pride, this adults-only gathering offers people a chance to let loose and have fun simply for the hell of it. Dozens of events for everyone from lesbians to daddies unfold from Aug. 29-Sept 2.

Though certainly an LGBTQ-inclusive event, Decadence has always attracted a majority percentage of gay-identifying men. Personally, my husband and I have lost count of how many times we've been a little easy in the Big Easy. (We blame Pat O'Brien's potent hurricanes.) This year marks at least our 20th Southern Decadence in our 31 years together.

Some people — even within our community — take issue with the event's unapologetic parade of carnal desires



Southern Decadence: One of the craziest, queerest events in the U.S. (Photos by Barrett DeLong)

and overindulgence. Still, Southern Decadence has never failed to evoke a sense of pure, unadulterated happiness and belonging.

It's entirely possible to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience there totally sober, too, taking in all the sights, sounds and flavors of the city. Choose your own adventures and go at your own pace. Simply because they offer yard-long margaritas on every corner doesn't mean you need to drink them all.

Where to Stay

Dozens of hotel options in New Orleans welcome queer people with open arms, but this year, no single property comes close to embracing the spirit of Southern Decadence like Virgin Hotels New Orleans. Like our Dallas location, rooms at the New Orleans property offer luxurious comfort and impeccable design. Click on the hotel's dedicated Southern Decadence page (virginhotels.com/new-orleans/southern-decadence) to discover multiple exclusive events, including a rooftop party with the Halloween New Orleans gang (another

vacation-worthy event), a Dolly Parton-themed drag and burlesque brunch, Saturday and Sunday pool parties, and a Labor Day Southern Decadence Tea Dance. Rooms start at \$182/night.

Where to Eat & Drink

If we've been to New Orleans 20 times for Decadence alone, then my hubby and I have been to the city itself at least 50 times. So, we're always searching for tried-and-true places to stuff our faces (a very different prospect now that the bathhouse has closed.)

Fried chicken will always be a hotly debated topic in New Orleans, but our favorite discovery in recent years is Coop's Place (coopsplace.net), where a seat at the bar gets you fantastic service and to-die-for breasts and drumsticks.

For po-boys, head right to Parkway Bakery & Tavern in Mid City (parkway-poorboys.com) and sit at the bar there, too, to avoid the long lines.

Queer-owned Alma Date Night Diner (eatalmanola.com) offers Honduran food and a chill escape from the rest of the madness.



For a non-drag brunch, try Tujague's (tujaguesrestaurant.com), the second-oldest restaurant in the city where brunch was actually invented.

Where to Party

New Orleans has more than 14 LGBTQ bars, so challenge yourself to a drink at each throughout the weekend. Whether you're looking for jock strap lube wrestling at The Allways Lounge (theallwayslounge.net), porn stars, go-go boys and dance hits at Oz New Orleans (ozneworleans.com) or a stiff Rose Kennedy with a Hat (vodka soda with a splash of cran and a lime) at the oldest continuously operated gay bar in the U.S., Lafitte's (lafittes.com), you're guaranteed to meet some outrageous characters and create memories to last a lifetime — if you don't black out first. ■

For more information, visit SouthernDecadence.com and NewOrleans.com



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HISTORY



Vander Clyde went from Round Rock around the world and back again.
(Photo courtesy CircusesAndSideshow.com)

Vander Clyde was the
daring young queen on
the flying trapeze

BARTEE HAILE | Special Contributor
SPECIAL TO THE MEXIA NEWS

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column is reprinted from The Mexia News, courtesy of the author.

The unique and fascinating life of Vander Clyde ended where it started, his birthplace of Round Rock, when the celebrated star of the trapeze and high wire died by his own hand on Aug. 5, 1973.

"The first time my mother took me to the circus in Austin, I knew I would be a performer," Clyde once said of the big-top experience that gave him his calling. "From then on, I'd work in the fields during the cotton-picking season to earn money in order to go to the circus as often as possible."

Hour after hour, the youngster prac-

ticed "walking" an imaginary high-wire — his mother's clothesline in the backyard. Confident he was ready for the real thing, he answered an ad placed by the surviving half of an acrobatic duet called the "Alfaretta Sisters."

For a 14-year-old boy, Clyde was exceptionally well-developed and coordinated. He aced the audition in San Antonio and agreed to fill the vacancy left by a recent death in the family despite his employer's unusual condition: "She told me that women's clothes always make a wire act more impressive and asked me if I'd mind dressing as a girl."

"I didn't, and that's how it started."

After a successful apprenticeship as an Alfaretta, Clyde moved on to "Erford's Whirling Sensation." In this one-trick-pony of an act, he and two other performers hung by their teeth from a spinning contraption.

In 1919 Clyde soloed under the stage name "Barbette." "I do wire walking and perform on the trapeze and flying rings," the smooth-talking self-promoter never tired of explaining. "These feats are merely incidental to the surprise which is sprung at the end of the act."

Clyde's convincing female imperson-



Vander Clyde as Barbette.
(Photo via CircusesAndSideshow.com)

ation, complete with expensive gowns and feathered headgear, had the audience believing he was indeed a woman. Then he suddenly shattered the illusion by removing his wig and striking body-builder poses that showed off his muscular and undeniably masculine physique.

Four years on the vaudeville circuit led to a European tour managed by the William Morris Agency. “Barbette” was a sensation wherever “she” went, but it was in Paris that Clyde’s alter-ego attracted a devoted cult following.

The French frenzy was due in large part to the rave reviews of artist Jean Cocteau, who in a 1923 letter to a friend in Belgium wrote, “Next week in Brussels, you’ll see a music-hall act called ‘Barbette’ that has been keeping me enthralled for a fortnight. The young American who does this wire and trapeze act is a great actor, an angel, and he has become a friend to all of us.”

However, things did not go quite as well for Clyde in London. After he was supposedly caught in a “compromising position” with another man, an allegation never proved, his contract was cancelled, and he was banned for life from England.

Clyde weathered the scandal with no serious damage to this career. He continued the “Barbette” masquerade in Eu-

rope and the United States, including regular appearances in the major cities of his native state of Texas.

Under the heading “Thrilling Acrobat,” a reporter for the Dallas Morning News gushed in June 1927, “Barbette, who has rightly been termed ‘a sensational European novelty,’ opens with a gorgeous splash of color, emanating principally from the beautiful gown employed. For the first few moments it appears as though one were going to witness a style show, but once Barbette gets into action, all else is forgot-

ten.”

At the peak of his popularity, a fall, pneumonia, polio or a bizarre combination of the three brought about Clyde’s unexpected retirement in 1938. He needed surgery and a year-and-a-half of rehabilitation just to walk again, but there was not much the doctors could do for the constant pain.

On the bright side, Clyde’s extraordinary talent did not go to waste. He worked as artistic director for Ringling Brothers and other circuses and choreographed several all-women trapeze acts.

As a motion picture consultant, he supervised the circus scenes for *Till the Clouds Roll By* (1946) and *The Big Circus* (1959) and taught Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis the finer points of female impersonation for the 1959 comedy *Some Like It Hot*.

Orson Welles tapped Clyde’s creative genius for the circus scenes in his Broadway musical *Around the World*. Even Disney was willing to overlook his risqué past in exchange for the aerial ballet in *Disney on Parade* in the late 1960s.

Following a tour of Australia with the Disney road show, Vander Clyde wandered back to Round Rock — not in a nostalgic return to his roots but to live with his sister. After more than three decades of intolerable pain, he took a fatal overdose of prescription pills in the summer of 1973. ■



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OUTDOORS From Page 15

have big expenses. To proceed, I am open to investors and donations to see this fully realized," Luna said. "I have a business plan to get there, to have Dragonfly open and be the best it can be."

Of course, for those familiar with Israel Luna's films, he has a penchant for camp as well as camping. Naturally, he had to have themes for his cabins.

"We already have themes of Glitter Unicorn. We have the Hobbit House. We have the Love Shack with an actual 'tin roof, rusted.' My favorite one is our Shady Pines cabin," he said.

Luna has launched the campgrounds website as well for reservations. For opening weekend, he will cap attendance at 100, but there are still reservations available.

This all hasn't been without some drama. Luna's well aware that he's in a conservative small town, and he's said that rumors have swirled that his campgrounds are a sexually-oriented business. However, he's done his due diligence in securing the proper permits and reading over city regulations with legal



Getting the swimming pool ready for the opening weekend at Dragonfly Texas

assistance.

By all accounts, he said, he's good.

"I've heard we are nicknamed 'Sodom and Gomorrah' already," he said. "I do have a feeling something might happen,

maybe with demonstrators at our soft opening this week. But everything is by the book, so we are well within our rights."

His vision — which he has outlined for

Dallas Voice before — remains the same: "I think when we get older as gay men, we feel like the community forgets you. I saw that with some good friends, and I wanted to have a place of community for them to belong — for me to belong to," he said.

"I'd love to retire and be surrounded by nature all the time. But still, my vision is for this to be a place for all ages to come together."

Well, all ages 21 and up, since the campground operates with a private membership.

Luna has often operated in a male-only space through his Naked Yoga sessions and nudist groups. But it's far less about the lack of clothing and more about the safety he says.

"I think it's important to have an escape from the city life and bring back a touch of the flower children vibe," he said. "We take nature for granted; I think a space like this is needed for men, and it's a space I'm most familiar with." ■

Visit DragonflyTexas.com for more information.

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Dragonfly Texas, the new LGBTQ campground in North Texas, offers a first look at the campgrounds with a men-only weekend retreat Aug. 16-18. See listings for details.



■ **Every Wednesday: THRIVE**
Resource Center's THRIVE Wednesday Support Group for LGBTQ adults 50 and older meets from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Resource Center Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road, and is led by interns from the SMU counseling program. For more information on the support group and how to join, send an email to THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org.

AUGUST

■ **August 16-18: Dragonfly Texas**
Dragonfly Texas hosts a men-only camping retreat weekend to offer a sneak peak at the campground which will hold its grand opening soon. Visit DragonflyTexas.com to book your spot now.

■ **August 17: Gaybingo**
The Resource Center hosts this event each month from 6-9 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets go on sale at 3 p.m. the Wednesday following each Gaybingo event at MyResourceCenter.org.

■ **August 17: 'Roman Holiday'**
DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence host a Roman-themed party benefitting the DFW Sisters' Homeless Backpack Campaign at Dallas Eagle, 525 S. Riverfront Blvd., at 9p.m.

■ **August 17: Create Your Own Terrarium!**
Fern Connections hosts this fun event from 3-5 p.m. at Energy Gardens, 3116 Commerce St., Ste. C. Visit the Events page on FernConnections.com for information and tickets.

■ **August 18: Noche Vaquerx**
Back by popular demand, this event takes place at Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, from

4-9 p.m. Visit TXLatinoPride.org for more information.

■ **August 17-November 18: 'Frida: Beyond the Myth'**
Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St., presents *Frida: Beyond the Myth*. Tickets go on sale at DMA.org July 13.

■ **August 20: Up & Out: LGBTQ Caregiver Support Group**
Up & Out is a welcoming supportive group for LGBTQ caregivers who are currently caring for anyone 50 and up. This is a virtual event from 6-7:30 p.m. RSVP at CSP@TheSeniorSource.org.

■ **August 20: Business Exchange Network: Oak Lawn**
North Texas LGBT Chamber hosts this networking event for chamber members in the BEN program from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Landmark Restaurant in the Warwick Melrose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave. Visit LGBTChamber.com for information on how to register.

■ **August 21: Business Exchange Network: North Dallas**
North Texas LGBT Chamber hosts this networking event for chamber members in the BEN program from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Sidecar Social, 5100 Belt Line Road in Addison. Visit LGBTChamber.com for information on how to register.

■ **August 22: Business Exchange Network: Cedar Springs**
North Texas LGBT Chamber hosts this networking event for chamber members in the BEN program from 9:30-11 a.m. at Street's Fine Chicken, 3857 Cedar Springs Road. Visit LGBTChamber.com for information on how to register.

■ **August 22: Business Exchange Network: Plano**
North Texas LGBT Chamber hosts this networking event for chamber members in the BEN program from 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. at Del Frisco's Grille Plano, 7200 Bishop Road. Visit LGBTChamber.com for information on how to register.

■ **August 22: GLFD Happy Hour**
Join GLFD (Gay & Lesbian Fund for Dallas) from 6-7:30 p.m. for Happy Hour at Hamburger Mary's, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, #101. Visit GLFD.org for more information.

■ **August 23: 'RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars Live'**
Get ready to see cast members of *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 9* take the stage at Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 1st Ave. Tickets go on sale May 17th at 10 a.m. at Ticketmaster.com.

■ **August 24: 'Un-Tux: Drag for a Cause'**
Black Tie Dinner hosts this drag fundraiser at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Visit BlackTie.org for more information and tickets.

■ **Through August 24: 'Imposter! Hypocrite! Tartuff!'**
Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth, presents *Imposter! Hypocrite! Tartuff!* Tickets and showtimes are available at CircleTheatre.com.

■ **August 24: UCLE's 'Grand Duckies Ball'**
The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents The Grand Duckies Ball: A Mystical, Magical, Dirty, Nasty Christmas, from 5-9 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 525 S. Riverfront Blvd. Hosted by Grand Duke Reign 49 Bob Oxford and Grands Dukes-for-Life Reign 46 Pup Sol and Pup Yami and emceed by Empress 44 Kodi St. John and Empress 15 Lottie Dah.

■ **August 25: 'Country vs. Disco Roulette'**
United Court of the Lone Star Empire hosts this ultimate showdown between country and disco from 4-7 p.m. at TMC, 3903 Cedar Springs Road. Visit the event page on Facebook for more information.

■ **August 28: Same-Sex Partner Grief Group**
Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month on Zoom and in person. Contact Richard DeKnock for details at tastefullyrichard@gmail.com.

■ **August 29: New Member Showcase**
North Texas LGBT Chamber hosts this event for new members to meet and network at Bella Luna Event Hall, 11834 Harry Hines Blvd., Suite 101, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Visit LGBTChamber.com for more information.

■ **August 29: Queer Professionals Network Fort Worth**
Meet fellow LGBT business owners and professionals at Hotel Dryce, 3621 Byers Ave. in Fort Worth. Visit LGBTChamber.com for more information.

■ **August 31-October 5: 'Harvey, Stallings, Wenzel'**
A three-person exhibition featuring the works of Danna Ruth Harvey, Kendall Stallings & Jeff Wenzel is on display at Craighead Green Gallery, 167 Parkhouse St. Visit CraigheadGreen.com for more information.

■ **August 31: Met GAYla**
Pride in Dallas presents the second annual Met GAYla at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. More details to come at MetGayla.org.

■ **August 31: Mix & Mingle**
Join Fern Connections as they host this social event at Toasted Coffee & Kitchen, 5420 Ross Ave., #180, from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. Visit the Events page on FernConnections.com for tickets and information.

Have an event coming up? Email your information to [Mathew Dominguez at Mathew@DallasVoice.com](mailto:Mathew@DallasVoice.com) by Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

Look for extended listings online at DallasVoice.com



Nippy Peakes and Marsha Dimes host Black Tie Dinner's *Untux: Drag for a Cause*, Aug. 24 in The Rose Room. See listings for details.

Ask Howard

HOW TO DO THE WRONG THING RIGHT

Surviving, thriving
and celebrating

August has always been my favorite month. What I love most about this month is that, throughout the entire northern hemisphere, August is always August everywhere. No matter where one lives or wherever one travels this time of year, one always knows what to pack. August also just happens to be the month in which I met my husband, the love of my life. In fact, on Aug. 18, he and I will have been together for 30 years ... Whoa!

Where did it go? How did we become AARP members? I don't feel one bit different than when I was 25. How cruel a joke is that?

Even for Straightville, 30 years together is an impressive milestone. In Gayville, it's practically a miracle. Hell, that I'm even still ambulatory, considering the era I lived through, feels nothing short of preternatural, if not outright thaumaturgic!

None of the other fellow blonds I once knew — of my own age, gender and sexual persuasion — can still lay claim to mailing addresses. They disappeared in the first wave. To the very last, all the blonds died first: the dazzler kind, vivacious, fearless and flirty. Why, those of my ilk who lived to see the new century and its new miracle meds are now rarer than even unicorns.

Nary one of my other NYC buds made it. I'm the sole survivor. I couldn't begin to surmise why.

Certainly my lifestyle practices did me no favors. After all, it wasn't until 1982, the year I turned 20, that AIDS was even officially given a name. Barely was it even a blip on the CDC radar, and not until 1985, when I first moved from Alabama to New York City on the ludicrous pipe dream of becoming a successful writer did I even peel open my first condom wrapper. Maybe that's what saved me? Shortly afterwards, all my gay friends back in Birmingham began biting the dust.

Still, safe sex was not exactly prioritized. At least not until October of '85 when Rock Hudson died. Somehow, that was the game-changer. In Manhattan,

overnight, all the gay bath houses suddenly chained their doors. Gay bars emptied, and, on Christopher Street one, could hear your voice echo.

But for my scarred generation, it was already too late. Every day, for what ultimately stretched into a hopeless 20 years, my tribesmen would wake up wondering if that slight tickle in the back of their throat or that little cough was the harbinger of the beginning of their end.

The final two decades of the 20th century were grim years indeed for those of us whom, through an unfortunate draw of youth's sexual straw, happened to be attracted to our own same gender. Blindly, we wandered a minefield through the dark, wincing at screams of the luckless, wondering when our turn would come. I knew of no one who thought of AZT as anything more than exactly what it was — a killer placebo hoax.

What does one do without hope? Assume a miracle will happen. At least that was my personal playbill. And so that's what happened. The miraculous appearance of protease inhibitors sliced through the darkness, at last. And arm-in-arm with my mate of equally blessed fortune, we strode out of the killing fields into the light, eyes blinkering, only to discover that when at last the sun shines again, it even shimmers.

Because, what do you know! Marriage equality — the impossible dream — sud-

denly turned reality. The wilderness years were over, wedding bells a-ringing!

And here we are back in mid-August. Rifling through a box of old papers the other day, I stumbled across a rather (in retrospect) cryptic email from my now long-deceased mother, dated Dec. 5, 2002. Mom always refracted a sort of benevolent witchiness about her — Endora mixed with Auntie Mame and a swirl of Aunt Clara — which I took totally for granted.

"Dear Howard, I do not know where you will be farming [I see some dark ages ahead] or on

what scale, but the world will change before you are 80 and you will be able to afford 'some good land and a lot of it,' as Daddy always said. You can play lord of the manor in your dotage. Love, Mom"

Uhm, come again? I've still decades to go yet before 80, yet Mom sure hit bulls-eye already on all accounts.

Mom adored nothing more than meandering about the paths of her Alabama backyard flower garden at sunrise. She'd come back in, sparkling of morning dew, dandelion fluff and a stray spider or two in her hair, and a radiant aura would sometimes backlight her face — my cue to inquire, "Anybody special out in the garden this morning, Mom?"

"Well, son, I saw Mom again just now (my dead grandmother) out by the firecracker tree. Howard, she's not solid anymore like she used to be. She's startin' to turn, I dunno, chiffon-like. She'll probably fade away forever before too

much longer now."

Draping the hook of her cane over a drawer handle, she then coyly dropped her bombshell: "Oh, and I saw who you're going to spend the rest of your life with, too." My spine started tingling. "Really, Mom? And who would that be?" Tossing a pinch of salt over her left shoulder, she trilled, "You haven't met him yet, but he's coming. Soon, too. He'll be wearing a navy blazer and a gold Harvard signet ring. Oh, and he's Eskimo." Dousing my sandwich with more Mrs. Butterworth's, I conjectured, "And riding six white horses he'll be a-comin' 'round the mountain when he comes?"

Later that sultry summer, back in New York City, I almost didn't attend yet another Bright Young Things party. I seem to recollect this one being hosted by my friend Bret. They all sort of blended together 30 years back, and the very last thing I expected that mid-summer's night was to fall in love at first sight. In NYC for just the evening, my man stayed another four — a former Harvard graduate, who hailed from northern Alaska. Always, August will be my favorite month.

— Howard Lewis Russell

Men, send your September queries in to: AskHoward@dallasvoice.com. He may even answer one or two.



this week's solution

N	A	S	T	A	C	R	E	S	W	H	A	M	
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PUZZLE | Wicked Words

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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Solution on Page XX

Across

- 1 First of the Democratic ass drawers
- 5 Eva Gabor's *Green* ____
- 10 George Michael's old band
- 14 Court records
- 15 Where bulging pecs are
- 16 "Hi" to Ricky Martin
- 17 Depilatory brand
- 18 Smiling Dwarf
- 19 Crystal balls, e.g.
- 20 Start of a quote of Mary Kate Morrissey, of *Wicked*
- 22 Taking care of business
- 23 Long, in Hawaii
- 24 Uey from WSW
- 25 Responds like welcoming thighs
- 26 More of the quote
- 30 Swank, but not Hilary
- 31 Nemesis of Tinkerbell
- 32 Heston in a chariot
- 33 Rubber stamps
- 36 Gomer's mail service
- 39 Roomy vehicle
- 42 Avoid premature ejaculation
- 43 Uncommon, to Nero
- 44 Shaft worker
- 46 Stated openly
- 48 More of the quote

- 52 Part of a Madonna bra
- 53 Show and tell
- 54 End of the quote
- 57 Straights on the Kinsey Scale
- 58 Guiding beliefs
- 60 Drop ____ (moon)
- 61 Lois portrayer of *Lois and Clark*
- 62 Top priorities
- 63 Wolfson of Freedom to Marry
- 64 Finland's queer rights org.
- 65 More like the *Family Stone*?
- 66 Sanford portrayer Foxx

Down

- 1 Half of Mork's good-bye
- 2 Perfect serves from Billie Jean
- 3 Pittsburgh work area
- 4 Skin decorations
- 5 Masseuse's target
- 6 Rubbed the wrong way
- 7 Express discontent
- 8 Contents of tiny cups
- 9 Lid problem
- 10 Cheer for Goldberg?
- 11 Charlotte cager
- 12 Like a white whale

- 13 Sail supports
- 21 Dwelling, to the von Trapps
- 25 Crude material
- 26 Newspaper publisher Adolph
- 27 *Chim Chim Cher-ee* locale
- 28 Reuben bread, usually
- 29 ____ *King this afternoon!* (Dickinson)
- 34 Antony's partner in a Shakespearean play
- 35 Mattachine Society name
- 36 Sensitive thing to strike
- 37 Be a parasite
- 38 Sonny, to Chaz
- 40 Head problem
- 41 Lammy winner Donnelly
- 43 Prominent cock
- 45 Lions and Bears, but not Tigers
- 47 Remote target
- 48 Paces in races
- 49 Zellweger of *Chicago*
- 50 Head off
- 51 Julianne of *The Hours*
- 55 Where to find a Russian river, once
- 56 Bankroll
- 59 Business card no.

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