

Co-worker's presence makes potential suitor uncomfortable

DEAR ABBY: There's a girl I really like, "Torie," who has a certain enthusiasm for me that few, if any people, have had. I have taken her seriously, but she works in a store where there's a drag queen who makes herself look so much like a female that I find it disturbing. She often wears revealing clothing. As much as I like Torie, I do my best to ignore this co-worker when she's in the store. What do I do if I think the girl I like could be the one for me, but I'm wary of the company she keeps? -- **CONDITIONAL IN MARYLAND**



DEAR ABBY
Abigail Van Buren

AL: Start honestly analyzing what it is about Torie's co-worker that makes you "uncomfortable." Has she come on to you? Are you on some level attracted to her? Torie's co-worker is hurting no one by expressing (and dressing as) the person she is. If you haven't already, talk with Torie about this. She may be able to explain it to you.

However, if you can't be comfortable around the person, it will be time for you to move on.

DEAR ABBY: My son is 41 and a recovering drug addict. Currently, he's sober, but he believes he is in an online relationship with a famous actress who is 23 years old. He lives with me and has nothing. He works part time at a local grocery store and sends her money every week via a gift card or something of the sort.

I have tried everything I can to convince him he is being scammed. How can I prove this to him? I am not able to kick him out. He has nowhere to

go. He would be on the street. Please advise and help me. I need my life back. -- **MOM OF A MANCHILD IN THE EAST**

DEAR MOM: Famous actresses do not need gift cards from their admirers, so the chances are GREAT that your needy and gullible son is being scammed. The gift card is the tip-off. The next step for you would be to contact the police department in your community and ask for help in convincing your son he is being scammed. If "she" is scamming him in this way, it is probably happening to many others.

DEAR ABBY: My close friend (we are both in our late 50s) tells me her friends go into every intimate detail with her about their sex lives. She said they tell her everything. Every once in a while, she'll ask me about mine, but I feel this is a private matter between my partner and me. Am I wrong?

I feel awkward sharing this personal information because I'm sure her friends gossip. Our sex lives are undoubtedly different due to previous illnesses, etc. She even asks me if we have toys! Am I wrong to feel this way? -- **MODEST IN MASSACHUSETTS**

DEAR MODEST: You are not wrong. Not everyone is comfortable sharing the intimate details of their sex lives. If this woman is telling you about her own, as well as the preferences of her other friends, she can't be trusted not to share your information. The word from here is to keep your lip zipped.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



RAMBLINGS

Find Yourself @ the Library

Raise your hand if you know this is National Library Week. Don't feel bad if this is the first you've heard about it. It's something that only the nerdiest of library nerds have on their radar, which would be me (and to prove my point, I looked up the difference between nerds and geeks to make sure I used the correct term. Would a normal person have done that? Maybe, but probably not.)

The American Library Association chose "Find Joy @ the Library" for the theme of this special week. Which is apt, especially if you're in the lobby at the public library at the corner of 4th and Walnut at the end of story time when little ones race out to check out their stack of books and show off their craft projects. They do personify joy. Adults tend to be a bit more reserved, unless you spot a reader coming across the latest from their favorite author and yes, you can see the joy on their face. Actress/singer Lauren Ward hit the nail on the head when she said, "Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world."

But if the powers that be at the ALA had



Carol Ann Robb
Morning Sun Columnist

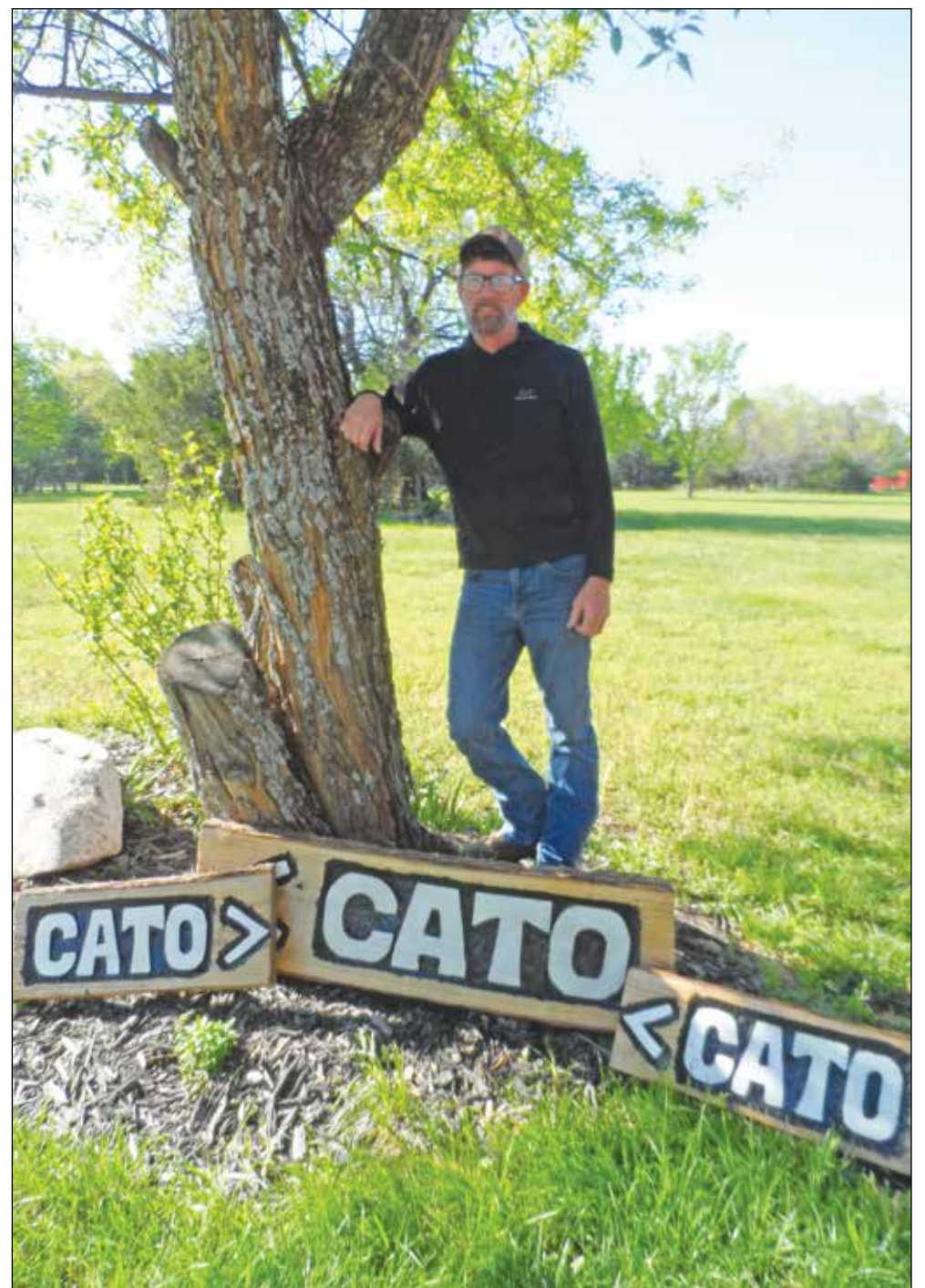
asked me—I do have experience as both library patron and employee, after all—I would have proposed a somewhat different tagline: "Find Yourself @ the Library." Every person who walks through a library's doors is looking for something different, something that is unique to themselves. Whereas I may enter with the purpose of finding a book that will transport me into a literary world, the person behind me may need a computer to compose a resume before applying online for a job. The lonely kid may show up after school, looking for a librarian who can find a book that speaks to their current situation. The library is a safe place where people go to find answers to any and all kinds of questions—no judgment, just workers behind the desks who want to help. Sometimes people go to the library just to see a

friendly face; that may be their only personal interaction that day.

But for me, the most important aspect of a public library is that it is open to all. There's no restrictions regarding race, gender, religion, or social status of its users; it is one of the very few institutions that caters to everyone. Andrew Carnegie receives a lot of flak for some of his business practices but deserves credit for his generosity towards the establishment of public libraries, including the historic building in our city. He stated, "There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration." True librarians embrace that credo, making sure everyone can find themselves represented in books found in their collections. There's a lot of truth in Ray Bradbury's quote, "I went to find me in the library."

If you're overdue for a visit (see what I did there?), perhaps it's time to find yourself @ the library in the coming days. After all, some of us think every week is Library Week.

New signs lead to Old Cato



Through a 2025 grant from Community Foundations, the Cato Historical Preservation Association has got some new signage pointing the way to the historical village. Chan Cliffman of Fort Scott (pictured) painted the new signs. COURTESY / CATO HPA

KITE

CONTINUED FROM 1A

owns the Pitt Discount Liquor and Discount Smoke Shops in Pittsburg, and his brother, who owns the Dairy Queen, have been generous supporters of their adopted home.

The brothers are dedicated to supporting their community by donating school supplies and bicycles for kids and supporting local charities.

Patel is expecting clear skies on Saturday with more than 500 people anticipated to

arrive. And you never know who's going to show up.

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**701 N. Locust (P.O. Drawer H)
Pittsburg, KS, 66762**

The Pittsburg Sun — Established July 11, 1915

Published Tuesday through Saturday, except on all U.S. postal holidays.

The Morning Sun USPS 434-180 is published Tuesday through Saturday by Pittsburg Publishing Company LLC, 701 N. Locust, Pittsburg, KS 66762. Periodicals Postage Paid at Pittsburg, KS 66762. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Morning Sun, PO Box Drawer H, Pittsburg, KS 66762

Lobby hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
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