

# A festive 'Tuna' surprise!

New sets, new costumes, same ol' Texas wit

Jaston Williams says small-town life is getting more gay-friendly

■ STAGE, Page 18

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# LGBT Person of the Year: Joel Burns

Fort Worth's gay City Councilman put an 'everyman' face on the issue of bullying and teen suicide — and the world took notice

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

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Joel Burns had enjoyed his share of viral videos, from Susan Boyle to pets who appear to play piano. But he never suspected he'd become one. But last October, that's exactly what happened. The Fort Worth councilman, who is openly gay, was moved by a string of teen suicides across the nation, many as a result of anti-gay bullying.

But one in particular hit home: The death of Keith Harrington who, after attending a Norman, Okla., city council meeting, took his own life in despair.

"I wrote it all that day," Burns says of the speech he delivered on the evening of Oct. 12. "Tuesday at lunch I wrote it and read the first draft of it [live at the council meeting]. Had I had any inkling that this would go the way it did I would have tightened it up. But it has a rawness to it."

Indeed it does, as Burns recounts, for 12 fascinating minutes, a never-before-discussed incident in his youth where he was bullied.

It brought Burns to tears; it brought everyone watching at City Hall that night to their feet in applause.

And though it happened at the same time as the "It Gets Better" campaign was expanding, that was not Burns' intent at all.

"No, it was not one of those," Burns said last week from his council office. "I hadn't seen any of them but had read Dan Savage was doing something like that. My comments were first and foremost made at City Council; that they got uploaded to YouTube was secondary.

"I knew that what I was saying was being recorded and it might be used in the future — maybe at a high school in the district I represent — but not what it became."

And what it became, simply, was a sensation: 2.5 million views on the main YouTube posting alone, with thousands upon thousands more in follow-up posts, comments and links by others ... not to mention excerpts broadcast nationally for weeks on MSNBC, The Today Show, Ellen DeGeneres, CNN and hosts of other media outlets.

## Everyman

For a while this fall, you almost couldn't escape the name and face of Joel Burns — even if you weren't gay or from North Texas.

■ BURNS, Page 10

**A TEXAS STAR** | Fort Worth Councilman Joel Burns speaks about the importance of anti-bullying legislation during a press conference Dec. 13, in Austin calling for passage of such a measure during the upcoming session of the Texas Legislature. Dennis Coleman, executive director of Equality Texas, said Burns' Oct. 12 speech on his personal experiences being bullied put a face on the issue to which everyday people can relate. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)



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## Making the holidays brighter for PWAs for nearly 20 years

Idea for organization began when Rodd Gray was helping install bubblegum pink carpeting in an apartment at Revlon House

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

When Home for the Holidays began in the early 1990s, the idea was simple: They raised money to send persons with AIDS home to be with their families for Christmas.

Most of the early tickets purchased were one-way tickets, used by many to go home to die.

The idea came to the group's founder and president, Rodd Gray, when he adopted an apartment in Revlon House, one of AIDS Services of Dallas' apartment complexes in Oak Cliff. While he was helping install bubblegum pink carpeting in the apartment, Gray became friendly with the apartment's resident. He said all that this friend wanted to do was go to see his family, whom he hadn't seen in 18 years.

The Revlon resident died before Gray was able



Rodd Gray

to raise the money to send him home, but he was determined to help others see their families.

AIDS Services of Dallas President Don Maison  
■ **HOME**, Page 8

# Razzle Dazzle a done deal for 2011

Pub crawls, a street festival, an AIDS fundraiser, party buses, more will be part of weeklong party

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

The return of Razzle Dazzle Dallas means North Texas will have a June Pride celebration. The five-day event begins June 1.

Scott Whittall, president of the Cedar Springs Merchants Association, said the June 1-5 dates were chosen, in part, to not conflict with Pride weekends in Austin and Houston.

The event begins on a Wednesday with a special edition of the Cedar Springs Wine Walk.

Thursday, June 2, will feature a pub-crawl. Shuttles and party buses will leave from Cedar Springs Road to visit different bars off the strip. The Brick and BJ's have already committed to participate. Other bars are expected to join as planning continues through the spring.

Each stop will be about 45 minutes and feature specials and a VIP area for those who purchase special tickets for the week.

"The purpose is to introduce people to the bars off the Cedar Springs strip," Whittall said.

The fifth annual Metro Ball held at S4 will become part of Razzle Dazzle Dallas as the Friday event. The fundraiser is staged by and benefits the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, which

works with nine area agencies as a funding source of last resort to help individuals with emergency situations.

Tickets are expected to be \$25 on line and \$35 at the door. Crystal Waters headlined last year's ball that raised \$37,000. In 2011, the evening will include a silent auction and dance party.

Representatives of GDMAF, Inc., which stages Metro Ball, attended the first Razzle Dazzle organizational meeting to make sure there were no conflicts in dates.

"I expressed my concern to the committee," said GDMAF President John Cooper-Lara. "But it made more sense to focus Metro Ball as the primary fundraiser for the weekend."

By the end of the meeting, not only had Metro Ball become one of week's signature events, but also Cooper-Lara signed on as co-chair of Razzle Dazzle Dallas.

"We're excited to be part of a week-long celebration," he said, hoping the community-wide effort will raise even more money for GDMAF this year.

When Metro Ball ends at 10 p.m., an after-party will be held at a different venue.

Saturday begins with a street festival — from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — that will highlight the Cedar



Scott Whittall

Springs merchants. Participating stores will have sale tents. Booths for artists and non-profits will be part of the day's activities.

The main event will be Saturday night from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Cedar Springs will close from Reagan to Knight streets. Whittall said they were exploring closing even more of the street.

A main stage near Reagan Street will feature a national headliner and a variety of bands and entertainment. A stage near ilume will present a national DJ. A third stage in the middle of the block will also have a DJ keeping the party lively.

A sponsored VIP tent near Hunky's will include a free cocktail of the evening and food provided by two area restaurants.

Sunday ends the five-day festival with a mini pub-crawl, afternoon t-dance and check presentations.

Whittall said the group plans to work with the Dallas Convention and Visitor's Bureau and promote Razzle Dazzle nationally.

When Razzle Dazzle Dallas last took place in 2003, it was billed as the 26th annual event. That dates the first one to 1978. Don Maison, who served on the board from about 1985-90, said he remembered it beginning as fundraiser for the Dallas Museum of Art. At the time, the museum was located in Fair Park and had just announced a new building downtown.

As AIDS took hold in Dallas in the early 1980s, Razzle Dazzle quickly changed its focus to raising

■ **RAZZLE**, Page 8

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### Calling out Kay

About 10 people gathered outside Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's Dallas office on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 21 to protest her vote against the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

The protest was organized by GetEQUAL Texas, the state chapter of the national LGBT direct action group, and similar rallies were held outside Hutchison's offices in Austin, Houston and San Antonio.

Wielding signs, bullhorns and a rainbow-colored American flag, the Dallas protesters chanted "Shame on Kay!" and "Retire, Kay Bailey!" as they stood on a grassy median along the service road near her 11th floor office in the Hotels.com building at 10440 N. Central Expressway.

Despite Hutchison's vote against DADT repeal, the bill passed and would be signed by President Barack Obama on Wednesday. But the protesters weren't in a celebratory mood.

"This is just the beginning," said Marlin Bynum, a 47-year-old former preacher who came out as gay five years ago. "We still need ENDA. We've still got to repeal DOMA. This is just the beginning. In fact, I don't know if the fight will ever end."

At the end of the rally, a representative from Hutchison's office, Byron Campbell, came down to meet the protesters, who handed him two signs on which they'd written personal messages.

"Eighty percent of this country supported the bill," GetEQUAL board member Mark Reed-Walkup told Campbell as he handed him the signs.

"We e-mailed, we called her," Reed-Walkup told Campbell. "She asked for a study, the study came back positive, and then she still voted no. We're extremely disappointed, and we'll be back."

"I appreciate this," Campbell responded. "Thank you very much, and thank you for your time," Campbell said before quickly going back inside.

Reed-Walkup said GetEQUAL, which formed earlier this year, is just beginning to organize chapters in all 50 states and likely will become more active in Texas in 2011.

"We'll continue to hold our elected leaders accountable," he said.

To watch video from the rally, go to <http://bit.ly/dW71K3>.

— John Wright

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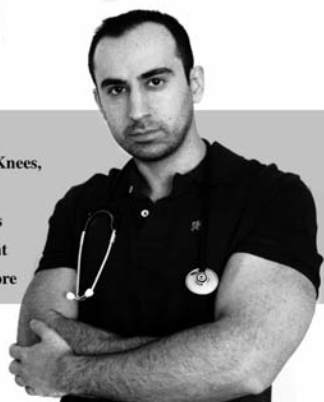
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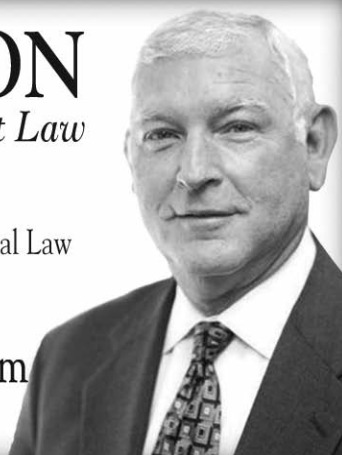


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## localbriefs

### CoH plans Christmas Eve services

Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ will hold five Christmas Eve services beginning at noon Friday, Dec. 24, with "A Shopper's Christmas Eve" in the Interfaith Peace Chapel. Shoppers can buy gifts in the Sources of Hope gift shop, have their packages wrapped and worship during their lunch hour.

The Children and Families Service, with sing-alongs, puppets and more begins at 5 p.m., followed at 7 p.m. by Mass en Español in the Interfaith Peace Chapel.

Traditional candlelight communion worship services will be held at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Services are free and open to all.

### Sadlek wins MTAR award

The MetroTex Association of Realtors has announced that Mark Sadlek from Republic Title is the 2010 Affiliate of the Year award winner. The announcement came at MTAR's annual awards and charity event.

Sadlek has served on the MetroTex board of directors and is a MetroTex Leadership Academy Graduate, currently serving on the Leadership Committee.



Mark Sadlek

He also serves on the Human Rights Campaign's Board of Governors and as co-chair of the Federal Club. He co-founded and

chaired Leadership Lambda Inc. in Dallas and has done planning and fundraising for Design Industry Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA).

"I have been amazed with Mark's dedication to MetroTex this year," said 2010 MetroTex President Kay Weeks of Ebby Halliday Realtors. "His contributions to our organization reflect his professionalism and devotion to the real estate industry."

MetroTex has honored one of its affiliate members with this award annually since 1982.

### Pavillion holds Stocking Stuffer drive

The stocking stuffer benefit for Legacy Founders Cottage hospice continues through Friday, Christmas Eve, at Barbara's Pavillion in Oak Cliff.

Patrons are asked to donate gifts to fill up the gigantic stockings at the bar and then donated to the Founders Cottage. Wish list items includes paper towels, Lysol, coffee, gift cards for groceries, disposable adult diapers (medium), cleaning supplies, hard candy, trash bags, Ziploc bags, disposable tableware, wipes, non-powdered latex gloves, games, etc.

Barbara's Pavillion also has Christmas stockings on hand that patrons can purchase and decorate, with proceeds also benefiting Legacy Founders Cottage.

### Stonewall Denton elects officers

DENTON — Stonewall Democrats of Denton County, now completing its third year, has elected new officers for 2011.

Eloy Machuca of Flower Mound was elected as the second president in the chapter's history. Outgoing founding President John McClelland did not seek re-election.

"I was honored to have lead this chapter and in becoming the first openly gay elected official in the county in my final year," said McClelland. "Our members put a lot of faith in me. I felt it was the perfect time to get some new blood on our executive board."

Joining Machuca will be Vice President

■ LOCAL BRIEFS, Page 10

### ONE Church in new location

The ONE Church, the only LGBT-affirming Apostolic Pentecostal church in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, now holds services each Sunday at 6 p.m. at Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St.

The church also holds prayer service each Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., followed by Bible study from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., also at Resource Center Dallas.

Tuesday Night Fellowship is from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Buffalo Wild Wings on Lemmon Avenue at Douglas Avenue.

For more information go to the church's website at Dallas1Church.org.

## pet of the week / toocan sam

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## ■ texasnews

### HOME

From Page 4

said ASD has residents taking advantage of Home for the Holidays again this year. Gray said in recent years they have been sending 70 to 100 people home annually.

Over the years, the program has expanded from its original goal of sending a couple of dozen people home at Christmastime. They still send people with a full AIDS diagnosis but with no money to travel home to see their families, but the program is now year-round.

The group has also covered cremation expenses for those with no family to take care of them and they have shipped bodies home.

"We also bring a family member here so they're not by themselves," he said.

In the beginning, a travel agency helped with the airline contacts and tickets by waiving commissions and negotiating discounts. When travel agencies disappeared, Gray said they had to make those contacts themselves.

"We belong to AA Rainbow," he said. "We have a code we use for a discount."

He said that Southwest Airlines has been helpful as well.

Some tickets are paid for with donated frequent flier miles.

"Greyhound gives us free tickets," he said. Those are useful especially for people traveling to rural areas within a few hundred miles.

"We've even done Amtrak," he said.

This year the organization got a big boost when it was accepted as a Black Tie Dinner recipient. The \$21,000 check they received from the dinner was the biggest infusion of cash in the group's history.

The original fundraiser, Miss Charity America, is still going strong.

Impersonator Frank Marino from the La Cage show in Las Vegas did fundraisers for the group at Village Station twice in the mid 1990s. The first show brought in \$8,000. An art auction at Jack's Backyard in 2009 contributed more than \$5,000 in three hours.

Last Saturday, the Hidden Door hosted what Gray called an evening of entertainment, cookies and sales of light bulbs for the tree that added \$1,200 to the coffers.

### RAZZLE

From Page 4

funds for the first North Texas AIDS organizations, such as Oak Lawn Community Services that closed in 2000, and the AIDS Resource Center, now known as Resource Center Dallas. One year in the 1980s Razzle Dazzle was held at the old Dallas auto pound on Inwood Road where a UT Southwestern building now stands. Searchlights directed people to the abandoned facility.

Maison recalled having to repair the roof of the shed and call Dallas Power & Light to run more electricity into the site.

Fair Park was a frequent site of the event. In different years it was held in the Hall of State, Tower Building and Centennial Building.

Maison said the year Razzle Dazzle was held

"That will send four people home," Gray said. But Gray said that Black Tie Dinner meant more to his group than just the money.

"We acquired two new board members from Black Tie," he said. "And two others are interested in the group. We didn't expect our relationship with Black Tie to grow so quickly."

He was astounded at the amount his group received and at the presentation event was in tears as they were handed the oversized check.

"We don't have to turn someone down now who needs to go to Africa," he said.

Recently, the group sent someone to Zimbabwe. Before leaving for the airport, she got a final dialysis treatment, plenty of pain medication and then boarded the plane for her long trip home.

Gray said that travel arranging involves more than just buying the ticket. The group makes sure the traveler has a way to get to and from the airport. Gray has shuttled a number of people to DFW and Love Field for their trips home.

One recipient was afraid to fly so they spent time explaining the experience to her.

He explains to them that they need to pack light, preferably in a carry-on bag if they are strong enough to manage that. But if bags have to be checked, they need money to pay to check them.

Gray said that board members often just put tickets on their own charge cards. They know they'll get paid back when they raise the money.

Sending people home for the holidays seemed like such an obvious idea that he looked for others doing the same thing in other cities so they could exchange ideas. But he never found a similar group.

"We're the only group like this in the world," he said. "We looked to find someone to share advice."

Gray's been raising money as Patti le Plae Safe for almost 25 years. He'll continue doing it, he said, even if they have to wheel him out on stage in a wheelchair and he's getting booed, because every dollar raised helps someone, he said.

"Nothing can replace the feeling of handing someone a ticket and saying, 'You're going home for the holidays,'" he said.

For more information, visit [HomeForTheHolidaysTexas.org](http://HomeForTheHolidaysTexas.org).

downtown in the Convention Center was costly. Market Center Hall and an abandoned building in the West End and the Bomb Factory in Deep Ellum were other venues before Razzle Dazzle moved to Cedar Springs Road in the 1990s.

In its last year, Razzle Dazzle featured the Village People who performed on an outdoor stage in Caven's paid parking lot. Although the street was blocked off, many people entered without paying. The event lost money and Razzle Dazzle Dallas disbanded.

This year's event should be well funded as it combines resources from a number of groups. Whittall said Ben E. Keith has already signed to be the presenting sponsor and other businesses including ilume and the Melrose Hotel have already agreed to be sponsors.

The new website will be live in January.



# Death

**Heather Morrison**, 45, died Wednesday, Dec. 15. She was a proud and active member in the LGBT community and a member of the Cathedral of Hope where she had served as the facilities and operations manager for many years. She also played in the CoH orchestra, where her amazing talent on the trumpet could be heard on many solo occasions. Additionally, Morrison was very proud to serve as the assistant conductor and the director of Jaz-zful Noise.



She carried her passion for music to her next position at Texas Health Resources Presbyterian Hospital Dallas where she had recently been promoted to security supervisor. Morrison started a choir and within the first few months, she had 60-plus members who loved and admired her. She was also loved by the hospital staff.

While Morrison was at the hospital, a high level administrator paying respects said, "If we had a vote on the favorite employee, out of the 6,000, Heather would win!"

Texas Health Resources has officially renamed the choir to The Heather Morrison THR Choir. She was so loved by THR that they have honored her with an engraved brick in the THR Memorial Garden.

Morrison's life will be celebrated in a service at her home church, Cathedral of Hope. It will be a service filled with the music that she so loved and used as a platform to share her love of life and her love of God. A date has not been set at this time. For information, e-mail CelebrateHeather@gmail.com.

Also at this service, in honor of Morrison, Donald D. Campbell, the funeral director and assistant funeral home manager at Moore Funeral Home in Arlington, will participate. He can be reached at 817-804-2423 or Donald.campbell@sci-us.com. He has been a blessing and a fount of information in this difficult time. Information important to the final wishes of our loved ones will be available as well as notaries. If you would like to receive an e-mail copy of these documents to have ready to be notarized, please e-mail CelebrateHeather@gmail.com with the subject line "Legacy." The family hopes it will be one of Morrison's legacies, that wishes be honored and loved ones be acknowledged.

Morrison was preceded in death by her father, Thomas Aaron Morrison; and grandparents, John and Mary Mitchell and Charles and Mary Morrison.

She is survived by her loving partner,

## SANTA'S HELPER

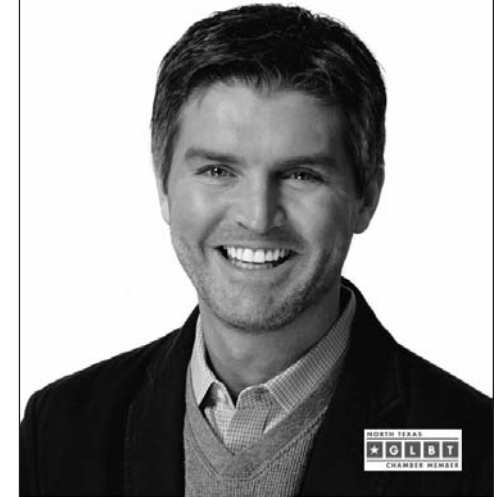


**GIFTS A-PLENTY** | Steven Graves of Steven Graves Insurance Agency gets ready to deliver the more than 40 gifts he donated as part of the Leather Knights' Angel Tree Project. "We wanted to make sure that everybody had a happy Christmas. This community gives to us so much, and we wanted to give back," Graves said.

Annabelle Bowden and step-son Christian Bowden; her mother, Jane Mitchell Morrison; brother, Matthew James Morrison and wife, Tina; sister, Kelli Ann Fredericksen and husband, Donovan; nieces and nephews, Chris, Andrew and Lauren Fredericksen, Ally and Lee Morrison and Chrysse Morrison Leach; one great-nephew, Jamie Leach; numerous loving members of her family of choice and many, many friends. ■

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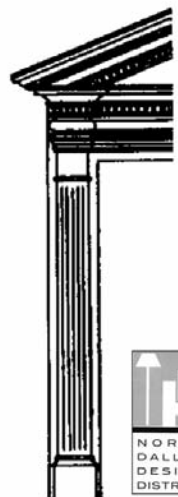
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Eloy Machuca

**LOCAL BRIEFS**

From Page 6

Courtney Medina of Flower Mound, Treasurer Tod King of Lake Dallas and Secretary Stacey Langley of Denton.

"Our new officers are representative of our chapter being male, female, Caucasian, Hispanic, gay, straight and bisexual," said Machuca. "Stonewall is intended to fight for everyone." Stonewall Democrats of Denton County has been instrumental in holding a Pride Weekend in the city of Denton, organizing rallies for the Prop 8 rulings, providing scholarships for community organizations and promoting progressive Democratic candidates.

**Estate-planning seminar set**

Attorney John McCall and Sparkman Hillcrest Family Service Director Ron Boson are sponsoring a free estate-planning seminar on Jan. 2 at 2 p.m. at Oak Cliff Coffee in the Bishop Arts District. Complimentary coffee and refreshments will be served. Seating is limited so call 214-942-1100 to reserve a seat.

**BURNS**

From Page 1

And his was a face that people could relate to, a fact that gave his message even more weight with many.

State Sen. Wendy Davis of Fort Worth — who represented District 9, which Burns now represents, before stepping down at the start of 2008 to run for the Senate — called Burns "a uniquely capable public servant" to whom people can relate easily.

"I would say that he left his ego at the door when he entered public office, but he never brought it with him at all, actually," Davis said of Burns. "He is down to earth, genuine and sincere about everything he does. It is rare that he enters a room, a restaurant, a neighborhood gathering, where he is not received by warm hugs."

She continued, "The people that he represents understand that he cares about them, and they care about him in return. He has an actual 'relationship' with the people that he represents, which is, unfortunately, rare in political leaders. Though his warmth and humor endear him to people, he is loved more because he is a leader who is not afraid to stand strong for the issues he cares about."

Burns' everyman appeal resonates beyond the boundaries of District 9, and that's what gave his speech such impact around the country, said Dennis Coleman, executive director of Equality Texas.

"The thing about [Burns' speech] is that he is a very likeable person," Coleman said. "The thing that made it resonate with people so strongly is that he is an everyday person doing a very public job."

"There are a lot of celebrities who have talked about bullying and suicide. But this was someone from a small town in Texas who was talking about his personal experiences, talking to his colleagues about what he had been through. There was gen-

uine feeling to it."

Burns' speech that night during the council meeting was not something planned in advance and worked on by speechwriters or aides. The councilman decided only hours before to speak out, and scribbled his remarks down during his lunch hour.

And it was that sense of immediacy and personal conviction that made it stand out, Coleman said.

"His speech was very raw. It was very honest. That's an interesting thing to see from a public figure," Coleman said. "And the timing was perfect. He tied it to something that was very personal, and he tied it to something that was very 'right now;' he tied it to the death of the young man who committed suicide after hearing so much hate at a city council meeting [in Oklahoma]. All those elements made it very, very real for a lot of people."

The LGBT community could have hardly chosen a better spokesman if it had tried. Smart, handsome, articulate and sincere with a soft but authoritative Texas voice, Burns exudes gay Pride in its most prosaic incarnation.

Where mainstream media often portrays gay culture in stereotypes, Burns showed a face that Middle America may not have seen before. And that presence as a role model is what made him the effortless choice as Dallas Voice's local LGBT Person of the Year.

While Burns himself is local, the reach of his message proved to be national, even international. But as he did it, Burns had little idea what it would become.

"I got up the very next morning and went on with my life the way I normally would," Burns said. "I had two back-to-back appointments starting at 8 a.m., then I came home. J.D. [Angle, Burns' husband] was sitting in the bed when I came back from speaking to the gay-straight alliance at UT. He said, 'You know you've got 5,000 people who

■ **BURNS**, Next Page

■ BURNS, From Previous Page

have viewed this since it was posted at 5 a.m.’

“Before I left at noon, I got 1,000 Facebook ‘friend’ requests. I remember thinking, ‘Oh my God — how did that happen?’”

The story of how the video made it to YouTube is a strange one. All of Fort Worth’s council meetings are recorded and streamed live on the Internet. Chris Hawes, the WFAA reporter covering Fort Worth city hall, had already posted her story for the day but continued to watch the stream. When she saw Burns’ confessional recollection of childhood bullying, she dropped the story she’d already filed and went live. But Burns was not available.

“We had another five hours worth of council meeting that night,” Burns said. “I was busy with zoning cases.”

Burns learned of the report and stepped out of the meeting long enough to warn his parents that a story about bullying and teenage suicide would be about him. “I said, ‘There’s some content that comes from a very personal standpoint.’”

“I knew when it aired — right after, both my phones blew up. Todd Camp [ironically, Dallas Voice’s first LGBT Person of the Year last year] was texting me saying ‘What are you gonna do with this? Will you put on YouTube?’ I said, ‘Yes eventually.’ He said, ‘No, you need to do it now. I will come up to City Hall and do it for you if you’ll just get a copy to your council aide.’”

Camp and Kyle Trentham finally got it uploaded at 5 a.m., Wed., Oct. 13. Before the day was over, Burns had spoken to CNN, CBS and scores of other outlets. He was soon on a flight to New York City for appearances on *The Today Show* and other programs.

Then *Ellen* called.

The whole experience ended up being “kinda strange,” he said. “Walking down the street in Portland, Ore., someone said, ‘Hey, are you the dude that cried?’ On the street in New York City [a day after the story broke], people would stop me and ask if I was from Texas.”

There have been other surreal moments. At the beginning, Burns was surviving on few hours’ sleep, traveling constantly and doing interview after interview.

“Honestly, during the interviews on *Today* and *Ellen* there was such a crush of activity, I was probably not as present for that experience as I should have been,” he said. While waiting in the wings of DeGeneres’ show, “I thought, ‘Holy crap! I am about to meet Ellen! I hope I’m able to speak English.’”

But far beyond the celebrity it brought him was the gratification of affecting so many lives in concrete ways.

“The experience of talking to the kids and various people who have e-mailed me is the best part,” Burns said. “A couple weeks ago, I got an envelope that said nothing but ‘Joel Burns, Fort Worth, Texas’ — no postmark or return address. Inside was a torn up piece of paper and a note that said, ‘This is the remains of the letter I left for my roommate to find with my body. After seeing your video, I burned all but this piece. You saved my life.’”

“All of the e-mails were uniformly positive. My dad was worried — he said, ‘You need to get a security system and lock your doors,’ but honestly, that hasn’t happened. Walking on the set of *Today* is slightly unnerving, but no one’s threatened me or scared me. It’s kind of hard to be for bullying and teenaged suicide.”

Hard, but not impossible, as KLIF shock jock Chris Krok proved. He assailed Burns for wasting councilmembers’ time with his story and “lying” by referring to Angle as his “husband.”

Krok also affected a lisp mocking Burns’ tearful

monologue. Burns says, so far as he can tell, Krok was the only person to actively attack him for the speech.

“He was trying to capitalize on it, to get attention,” Burns said dismissively. “He was doing what he could to draw attention. But he’s the only one I’m aware of. There were supposed to be protests at City Hall but that never materialized.”

Burns opened his speech that night by acknowledging that he could be torpedoing his future in politics. But he felt that bringing attention to the issue of bullying and teen suicide and sav-

ing maybe even one life was worth it.

And the risk he was taking didn’t go unnoticed. Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief, speaking after Burns at that Oct. 12 council meeting, said it plainly:

“I have witnessed a lot of things over my 30 years of public service ... but I have never seen anything as courageous as what I saw tonight,” Moncrief said to Burns. “Obviously, you spoke from the heart and you touched every heart in this room. No matter how big and tough you are, that

■ BURNS, Page 12

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Joel Burns, left, and his husband, J.D. Angle

### BURNS

From Page 11

touched you, in some shape, form or fashion."

While some critics, like Krok, said the council meeting wasn't an appropriate forum for Burns' remarks, Moncrief, in his response that night, insisted otherwise.

"It is something that needs to be addressed," the mayor said. "Young people, especially, are entitled to a chance—a chance to enjoy a childhood, a chance to enjoy looking forward to the next challenges in their life. It is only through people like yourself, who will speak out from experience—not from reading a book, not from watching a movie—from experience, [that change will happen]. Experience] is always the best teacher. It teaches those lessons way down deep.

"And it takes a special courage to reach down deep to pull those things out and express them. I thank you for what you said and I thank you for how you said it," Moncrief told Burns.

And people obviously have taken note of that courage and responded to help create the change Burn called for. In fact, earlier this month, Davis prefilled a bill in the Texas House of Representatives to create a comprehensive statewide approach to bullying in public schools. She credited Burns' speech with being the impetus.

"I am proud to have filed a bill in the Texas Legislature that attempts to have a positive impact on this issue, and I am particularly proud to do this in response to Joel's personal story and the awareness he raised in all of us regarding teen suicides that occur as a result of bullying," Davis said.

And Coleman said Equality Texas is proud to be able to work with Burns to get Davis' legislation passed. In fact, Equality Texas invited Burns to go to Austin on Dec. 13 to speak at the press conference during which the organization launched its efforts to pass the anti-bullying bill.

"As the statewide organization, having someone who can put a face on this very serious issue was important for us, and we feel it was very appropriate to have [Burns] at the press conference. But we didn't invite him to participate as a councilman from Fort Worth. We invited as Joel Burns to participate as a Texan who himself experienced bullying when he was growing up," Coleman said.

While many people have focused on the changes Burns' speech has made in others' lives, Burns acknowledged that what happened that night and since has changed his life, as well.

"I am a little more mindful of some things that others would perceive as bigger picture stuff. Instead of getting hunkered down in resolving our pension crisis or fixing our budget for next year, it kind of pulls you up a little bit out of the [minutiae] of everyday life.

"You hear these stories and it fills me with, I don't know what to call it, contentment? It has instilled a sense of who I am at 41 that was not present to prior to the 12th of October. It makes me much less afraid. Whatever happens, happens. If I don't get re-elected [in May], I know now I've had an amazing life—a lot better than many others out there."

And his video has made life a lot better for countless others, too.

Senior Editor Tammye Nash contributed to this report.



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# Obama signs DADT repeal



**HISTORIC DAY** | Gay former Marine Sgt. Eric Alva joins Reps. Nancy Pelosi, Steny Hoyer and Patrick Murphy, and Sens. Harry Reid and Susan Collins in watching over President Barack Obama's shoulder as he signs repeal of DADT into law. (Patsy Lynch/Philadelphia Gay News).

Republicans' last-ditch effort to derail repeal fails; president praises efforts of those who worked to end ban on openly gay servicemembers

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service  
lisakeen@mac.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Following a dramatic and eloquent speech, President Barack Obama on

Wednesday, Dec. 22, signed the legislation that will launch the repeal of a 17-year-old law prohibiting openly gay people from serving in the military.

"This is done," he said, looking up and slapping his hand on the table, and the crowded auditorium of an Interior Department building erupted with cheers and applause.

The historic ceremony took place less than 24 hours after Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's 11th hour action to try and

■ REPEAL, Page 14

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**REPEAL**

From Page 13

make implementation of repeal much more difficult and time-consuming failed.

According to a report on Politico.com, McConnell tried to introduce an amendment to the annual defense authorization bill that would have required that implementation of “don’t ask, don’t tell”) not take place until after the four service chiefs certify that it could be done without negative consequences for military readiness.

The DADT repeal legislation Obama signed requires certification by the president, the secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

According to Politico, McConnell attempted to add the amendment by unanimous consent, but Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., a champion of the repeal measure, objected. Lieberman’s objection effectively blocked the amendment from being considered without first getting the consent of at least 60 senators.

The president was greeted with a roar of cheers and applause after he was introduced by Vice President Joe Biden at 9:13 Wednesday morning. As the president greeted many special guests on stage with him, the crowd began to chant, “Yes, we can,” a prominent slogan of Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign.

When the president reached the podium, he smiled and called back, “Yes, we did.”

**online exclusive**

Look for more coverage of the repeal of DADT and Wednesday’s signing ceremony online at DallasVoice.com

“I am just overwhelmed,” said President Obama, beginning his prepared remarks. “This is a very good day, and I want to thank all of you, especially the people on this stage.”

He then told a story about a soldier who fought in the Battle of the Bulge in the Belgian mountains against the Germans in World War II. The soldier, Andy Lee, put his own life in peril in order to scale a ravine and rescue a fellow soldier, Lloyd Corwin.

Forty years later, Lee let Corwin know he was gay.

“He had no idea,” said President Obama of Corwin, “and didn’t much care. Lloyd knew what mattered. He knew what kept him alive.”

Obama also told the story of a young female servicemember who gave him a hug on arriving in Afghanistan several weeks ago, when the president made a visit to the troops. The woman whispered in his ear, “Get don’t ask, don’t tell done,” said the president. “And I said to her, ‘I promise you I will.’”

With the signing of the bill Wednesday, President Obama has also fulfilled a long-standing promise to the LGBT community overall, a feat

that is prompting widespread praise, even from gay Republicans.

“He made this a priority,” said R. Clarke Cooper, executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans group. “He was sincere and correct about making this a priority.”

Cooper, a former servicemember, had a front row seat during Wednesday’s ceremony.

Cooper said the ceremony was a “very emotional” one in the auditorium and that “there were definitely many tears of joy” in his eyes and in the eyes of other former servicemembers discharged under the DADT policy during the past 17 years.

The president acknowledged the tenacious work of numerous individuals during Wednesday’s ceremony, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Whip Steny Hoyer, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Republican Sen. Susan Collins, and the bill’s sponsor Rep. Patrick Murphy.

NBC News Washington Bureau Chief Mark Whitaker, speaking on MSNBC shortly before the ceremony, said it was House Majority Whip Hoyer whose idea it was to take DADT repeal language out of the annual defense authorization bill — which was being filibustered by McConnell, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and most Republicans — and put it into a special standalone bill in the House last week.

The House passed that bill on Dec. 15 on a 250-to-175 vote and sent it immediately to the Senate, which approved it Dec. 18 on a 65-to-31 vote.



SLDN board member Dave Guy-Gainer

The president also singled out Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., in the front of the auditorium, for having “kept up the fight” in the House.

Speaking to MSNBC’s Lawrence O’Donnell Tuesday night, Dec. 22, Frank characterized the Congressional vote to repeal DADT as being “comparable to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.”

“It is an enormous move forward,” said Frank.

Also on stage for Wednesday’s ceremony was Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen and Staff Sgt. Eric Alva, an openly gay Marine who was the first servicemember wounded in the Iraq War.

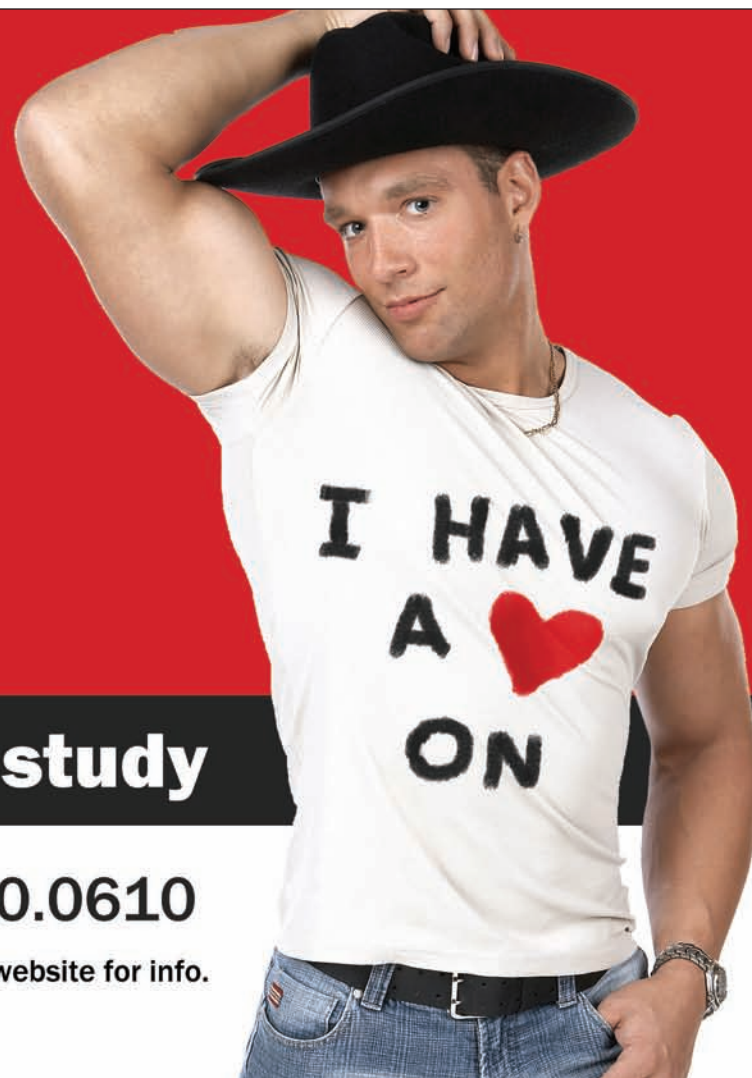
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# National CoC honors North Texas business, leaders



**WINNING SMILES** | North Texas Gay and Lesbian Chamber President Tony Vedda, from left, American Airlines' George Carancho, Fort Worth Councilman Joel Burns and Burns' husband J.D. Angle attended the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's awards dinner, where the North Texas chamber, American Airlines and Burns were all honored.

NT gay chamber, Burns, American Airlines bring home awards

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

When the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce gave six awards at their national dinner in November, three of them came to North Texas leaders and businesses.

The North Texas Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, gay Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns and Fort Worth-based American Airlines all brought home awards.

The NTGLCoC was named Chamber of the Year. Growth, member services and leadership development were cited as reasons for the award. NTGLCoC Board Chair Derrick Brown and President and CEO Tony Vedda were cited for their leadership.

The award had been announced earlier in the year but the award was presented at the group's national dinner, with more than 800 people in attendance, at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

"It was a very good night for North Texas," said Vedda.

Burns won the NGLCC/American Airlines ExtrAA Mile Award. Past winners include NAACP Chairman Julian Bond and tennis legend Martina Navratilova. The North Texas Chamber gives its own ExtrAA Mile Award and presented it to Burns earlier this year for his work following the Rainbow Lounge raid.

The national chamber presented the award to him "for courageously sharing his own struggles and desperation as a gay teen during a recent city council meeting in response to the recent epidemic of LGBT youth suicides and bullying."

American Airlines was named Corporation of the Year by the national chamber. That award honors companies that are committed to expanding economic opportunities for LGBT-owned businesses.

"It's well deserved," said Vedda. "But it's no surprise to us that they would be recognized. They received our first Corporate Ally award in 2006. We're thrilled to have them as a major supporter of our organization since we started in 2005."

The airline has also recently received similar awards from three other groups committed to diversity.

"American actively focuses on identifying minority, women-owned, LGBT and other diverse small businesses as potential suppliers," said John MacLean, American Airlines vice president for purchasing and transportation. "These awards increase awareness of the importance we place on supplier diversity and our efforts to ensure that our supplier base reflects our customer base."

Manager of Supplier Diversity and Business Strategies at American Airlines, Sherri Macko, was named Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year from Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Supplier Development Council and Advocate of the Year by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Texas for the second time.

Macko, who is also from the Dallas area, serves on the board of the NGLCC Procurement Council.

The local chamber is accepting nominations for the 2010 Business Excellence Awards. Those honors will be given at the North Texas Chamber's sixth anniversary dinner in March. Rebecca Covell, who won the 2009 Business Person of the Year award, and Burns are the honorary co-chairs of the event. ■

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# DADT is dead. But opposition lives on

Marshal vows legislation to keep gays out of Virginia's National Guard; Graham threatens to block START treaty ratification in revenge over repeal of DADT

I was wrong. I was very skeptical of the chances of getting “don't ask, don't tell” repealed in the lame duck Congress, yet they did it. Yes, Hardy, there is a Santa Clause!

The vote for repeal, which was slightly bipartisan (eight Republicans voted for repeal), was a great holiday surprise. But what comes as no surprise is the vehemence with which opponents vow to fight on, even after they have lost on this one.

Already the voices of hard-core homophobes are chiming in. Virginia Delegate Bob Marshall says he will introduce legislation to prevent openly gay men and women from serving in the Virginia National Guard.

Hatred, especially hatred of LGBT people, dies hard.

Further west, Sen. John McCain, one of the most vocal opponents of the repeal, still laments its passage.

“I hope that when we pass this legislation that we will understand that we are doing great damage. Today is a very sad day,” McCain declared.



Hardy Haberman  
Flagging Left

Meanwhile, Lindsey Graham is leading the charge for Republicans to block the new START treaty ratification in retaliation for the repeal of DADT. Apparently in Sen. Graham's eyes, keeping gays out of the military is more important than nuclear disarmament.

Like I said, old hatred dies especially hard. And then there is Marine Corps commandant, Gen. James Amos. Anyone who watched the debate in the Senate was most likely surprised at his strident opposition.

“I don't want to lose any Marines to distraction. I don't want to have any Marine that I'm visiting at Bethesda with no legs be the result of any distraction,” he said before the vote.

I guess Gen. Amos figured that Marines are just too delicate to serve next to gay troops, or at least to know which Marines are gay and which are not. I have to wonder how much further his career will go now that the law of the land has changed?

Additionally, some evangelical chaplains have voiced their worries that they will no longer be able to preach. A Pentagon report stated, “Some of the most intense and sharpest divergence of views about ‘don't ask, don't tell’ exists among the chaplains.”

Most of these concerns are that chaplains would no longer be able to preach that homosexuality is a sin. This little problem is particularly confusing to me since for centuries they have been able to reconcile killing the enemy in battle with the whole, “thou shalt not kill” thing.

Luckily, some chaplains — like retired chaplain Col. Jerry Rhyne — feel differently.

Rhyne has counseled gay troops who struggled with their sexual orientation for years. In an interview with CNN he said, “For me, it was very disheartening. I tried to bring them hope and encouragement to live their life to the fullest and to help them deal with their issues.”

Needless to say, Col. Rhyne supported repeal of the policy.

I hope the voices of dissent will soften after they realize that essentially, nothing in the military will change except that those in the military will be able to concentrate on doing their job. They will no longer be distracted by the witch hunts and investigations that saw more than 13,000 gay men and lesbians discharged.

Gay and lesbian service members will no longer be distracted by trying to conceal their orientation. Military commands will no longer be distracted by spending valuable time and resources looking into every innuendo and al-

legation.

Contrary to Gen. Amos' assertion, having openly gay and lesbian troops serving will be less of a “distraction.” Straight troops will not have to wonder who is gay and who isn't, though I suspect in reality it won't be an issue. All the service members I know, both straight and gay have told me they know gays and lesbians in their outfits and have never had a complaint against them.

The military will behave like the military, and continue to serve with honor and bravery.

Contrary to what they opponents of DADT repeal believe, gay troops are not going to start having orgies in the showers, and the behavior of troops will still be subject to military decorum. To believe otherwise is just not rational.

I have to wonder if folks like Lindsey Graham and Gen. Amos haven't been watching too much gay porn? ■

*Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. His blog is at <http://dungeondiary.blogspot.com>.*

# Letters

## A Christmas memory

I had the privilege to be part of something again this year that is pretty special to me: The Dallas Tavern Guild Holiday Gift Basket project.

The cool thing about this event is that bartenders and bar staff from all of the LGBT bars in town come together for an afternoon and all work to help make someone's holiday a little nicer.

This project started back in the 1980s. We would put together about 100 baskets or so and distribute them to PWAs (persons with AIDS). The first time I participated in this event was 1988 and I continued with it until I moved out of Dallas in 1995.

This year, as I stood at my post filling 1,000 bags with Juicy Juice, there with the other men and women on the assembly line, I had a chance to reflect back to that first time I put together baskets.

I was working at The Round-Up Saloon that year, and I called Alan Ross, who started the project, and asked him how many baskets we were going to be putting together. He told me about 125, so I said I would make cookies to go into the bags. So I went over to my best friends' house and

■ **LETTERS**, Next Page

Does ENDA stand a chance of passing in the next 2 years?

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- Yes: 79 percent
- No: 18 percent
- Undecided: 3 percent

67 Votes cast



Have you done any special giving project for the holidays?

**Ivana Tramp Gomez** — “Following a tradition my late uncle started in the 1980s, I try as often as I can to drive around downtown Dallas handing out jackets that I have collected from family and friends to homeless people.”

**Cindy Noble Cole** — “Gathered coats for the 24 Hour Club, a wonderful rehab/home for alcoholics and drug addicts. Also my daughter’s job sponsored a military family this Christmas — a single father with a 13-year-old son.”

**Ty Larson** — “Every year, my family goes to all of our friends and collects clothing, toys and food for families in need in Grand Prairie, where my mother works as a kindergarten teacher.”

**Jason A Walker** — “The husband of a teacher at the school where I work is dying of lung cancer. They had no Christmas decorations up and she didn’t have time or energy to put them out. I got a group of students together and we went to their home and put their decorations out for them.”

Have a suggestion for a question you’d like us to ask? E-mail it to [nash@dallasvoice.com](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com).

■ **LETTERS**, From Previous Page

we all worked together to make 24 dozen cookies: 12 dozen oatmeal cookies and 12 dozen chocolate chip cookies.

We put two cookies in each of the 125 baggies we needed, and I took the rest on a platter to share with those helping put the gift bags together.

We put together what were then called PWA Christmas Bags. The bags contained toiletries, fruit, the cookies and a few other things. The final object we put into the basket was a stuffed brown bear with a little red ribbon bow around his neck.

While I did my part putting those baskets together I thought of all of my friends who were getting sick. I thought about the ones I knew who had already died from AIDS. I also thought back to two weeks previously when I had taken “The Test” for my first time.

Even with the sadness and the many tears we shared as we came together with a common bond to fill these gift bags, it was a fun time with the camaraderie amongst the bar employees. We knew we were on the front lines fighting a war that, at the time, seemed impossible to win.

A couple of days later, Dec. 23, 1988, I found myself in the clinic, nervously waiting to get the results of the HIV test I had taken two weeks earlier. My name was finally called and I went to the back with two counselors and they delivered the results to me. I had, indeed, tested positive for HIV.

It was actually a relief to finally know the results for sure so that I could start taking action to survive. After all, AZT had just been approved as the first medicine to treat the disease, so I knew I had a fighting chance.

I was told by one of the counselors that since it was the eve of Christmas Eve, the AIDS floor over at Parkland Hospital was not very busy and I should go over there and go ahead and get some bloodwork done and some paperwork filled out, so that I could get into the system and find out how advanced the disease was in my body.

So I went over to the hospital and sat down in the waiting room. It was, indeed, not busy at all. Counting myself, there were only three of us there. One of the guys, a white guy a little older than me (I was 28), was walking back and forth. He kept asking me and the other guy, an older black guy, if this was the AIDS floor and what we were doing up there.

“I’m not gay!” he kept telling us. “I can’t have AIDS!”

He finally left, without being seen by the doctor.

Once he left, it quieted down a bit. I looked around the room at all the holiday decorations and the poinsettias and the holiday greeting cards taped around the nurses’ station. I remember thinking that it was an interesting time and an interesting day to find myself there.

After I had been there about 30 minutes, I saw

that someone else was coming into the waiting room and I looked up. It was a woman, who appeared to be about the same age as my grandmother, pushing a cart. And on the cart were the PWA Christmas Bags that I had helped assemble a couple of days earlier!

The sweet woman pushed the cart over to me a little nervously. When she got close enough, she took one of the bags off the cart, and then she looked at me with the saddest eyes — eyes that knew the pain of losing someone to this disease — and then she smiled, handed the bag to me, and said “Merry Christmas, honey.”

**Mark**  
Via E-mail

**Obama deserves our support**

While my support of President Obama is unwavering, it surprises me how little patience my brethren in the gay community have extended the president.

Obama, along with Harry Reid and the much-maligned Nancy Pelosi, have achieved more in the lame duck session than ever imagined possible.

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In spite of the incredibly painful economy, I think we will look back on 2010 as a moment in history where determination defined the Obama administration.

As challengers are already talking about taking down Obama in 2012, do not forget who closed the chapter on DADT.

**Robert Fahr**  
Dallas

**Drop ROTC, recruiter bans**

OK, so the Congress repealed “don’t ask, don’t tell” regarding gays in the military, which essentially means Republican-acting gays with a serious-minded, military-bearing can serve openly.

It does not mean all gays can serve, just like not all heterosexuals can serve. A code of conduct will remain in place.

Given that, does this mean the ROTC ban and ban on military recruiters on university campuses will be lifted? Is it time to end that discrimination too?

**Matthew Tsien**  
Via the Internet



e-mail: [EditorialCartoon@QSyndicate.com](mailto:EditorialCartoon@QSyndicate.com)

# Tuna fresh

New sets, new costumes but same classic cast as 'Tuna Christmas' rings in the new year in North Texas. So what is life like there in a post-DADT world?

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com



## A TUNA CHRISTMAS

**Eisemann Center,**  
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**FELIZ NAVIDAD, LUPE!** | Vera Carp (Jaston Williams) will have a traditional, Christian Christmas if she has to kill for it. Welcome to Tuna, Texas.

It's not that Jaston Williams dislikes Christmas — it's that growing up, it wasn't exactly *The Brady Bunch Holiday Special*.

"We always called Christmas 'blood and holly' around my house," Williams cracks with his signature Texas twang. "My mother could really make it rough. When there was company or a party you'd go from this loose experience to Franco's Spain in a second. I figured it out by the time I was a teenager that I wasn't wild about this holiday at all. This whole nostalgic, let's-go-home-for-Christmas thing? Nah. Give me a good hotel with an open restaurant and room service anytime."

Still, the holiday has been pretty good to Williams. With his writing, acting and now producing partner Joe Sears, Williams is enjoying more than 20 years of steady winter employment with **A Tuna Christmas**, which returns to the Eisemann Center for a week-long run Tuesday. The first sequel to their hit play *Greater Tuna* (nearing its 30th anniversary), it's the only one of the shows to have a run on Broadway (earning a Tony nomination) and has been a staple of the season.

If you haven't seen it (what's *wrong* with you?), it tracks life in a tiny Texas town on Christmas Eve as the quirky residents (all played by Williams and Sears) reinforce and undermine stereotypes about small-town attitudes. And even at its age, it still seems fresh.

"We wrote it as Reagan had just come into power — that's how old we are," Williams recalls of the original play. "It was in response to the Moral Majority and their idiotic notions" — and Tea Partiers aren't far removed from that. And contrary to popular opinion, they do *not* update the script.

"People constantly say, 'You've added so much!'" Williams says. "I don't even deny it anymore. Especially with *Tuna Christmas* we're trying not to change things — though God help you if your cell phone goes off with Dede onstage. It'll be like being locked in a phone booth with Patti LuPone.

"The temptation to comment on what's going on today is so strong that if we started we'd never stop. So it's set in time. No one in Tuna has

a computer; they still have cords on the phones. And no one tweets — they'll fine you. Vera has banned the word. It sounds dirty enough to ban."

None of which is to say the show doesn't get a makeover every so often. The duo still rehearses regularly, tweaking bits and polishing moments, and the current production features all-new sets and costumes.

"Joe and I are producing it ourselves now," says Williams. "All these people who produce theater and want people to think it's really, really hard so they won't do it. But it was kinda like being in the Mafia. You think, 'I've been watching this jerk kill people for 15 years — why can't I do it?' We've scaled it down and made it better.

I'm very proud of it."

Williams himself is closer to living the Tuna experience than ever — though its different in many ways to the one imagined 30 years ago. He and his partner, Kevin, moved with their adopted teenaged son to the little burg of Lockhart, Texas, and are proud to see the culture developing.

"One thing I can say about small-town people is, they believe their lyin' eyes: They see two men raising a child and taking out the trash and they are changing their attitudes [about gay people]. It's pretty amazing."

(Williams is tickled as most gays are "don't ask, don't tell" was repealed, though, and thinks it was dumb to enact in the first place: "I was in

the gay bars in the '70s. You get the right lesbian pissed off with weapons and they're gonna take some territory. The ones who should really be afraid of gays in the military are our enemies.")

The guys are off from performing Dec. 24 and 25, but will be doing a New Year's Eve performance in Richardson, which Williams calls "one of the stranger nights of the year to perform. You really want to do a good show but it's such a bizarre holiday. People feel obligated to have some transformative experience and they know they aren't going to." Though if they go to *Tuna*, they just might.

Merry Christmas, Jaston.

"And a Merry Tyler Moore to you, too," he answers. ■

## Queer locals of 2010

### 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW PEOPLE

Twelve months isn't all that long a time, but the impact someone can make on an entire year during any part of it

can reverberate well beyond the calendar year. When we thought back on the culture in 2010, these are the gay 10 men and women who stood out most — for good or bad.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



**Israel Luna**, filmmaker, left

**Kelli Ann Busey**, ticked-off activist, right

The most vocal debate in the gay community about the arts that occurred on a national scale started in Dallas, as Busey, a trans woman, objected to the title of Luna's "transploitation" revenge melodrama *Ticked-Off Trannies with Knives*. GLAAD got involved, protests were lodged when the film played at a festival in New York City, accusations and insults flew ... it wasn't always (ever?) pretty, but it did get people talking.



**Mel Arizpe**, Voice of Pride winner

After numerous attempts, Arizpe delighted her fans by winning VOP in August as a soloist and for a duet with her girlfriend ... who herself came in second overall. Talk about keeping it all in the family.



# The 'Hole' story



Gay director John Cameron Mitchell goes mainstream with 'Rabbit Hole'

**LAWRENCE FERBER** | Contributing Writer  
lawrenceferber@hotmail.com

In *Rabbit Hole*, a little boy's death tears his parents' lives apart. Actor-turned-filmmaker John Cameron Mitchell (*Shortbus*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) connected deeply with the material — adapted by David Lindsay-Abaire from his own Pulitzer Prize-winning play — and won over star/producer Nicole Kidman, snagging his first high-profile, Hollywood feature-directing gig.

As close to a sure bet for an Oscar nomination as one can get, Kidman delivers a natural performance opposite an equally strong Aaron Eckhart. While somber in tone, *Rabbit Hole's* wit-bitten dialogue, smart editing, alternating flashes of humor and explosive emotion, and excellent supporting actors — including Sandra Oh, Dianne Wiest, and newcomer Miles Teller as the teenager who accidentally caused the child's death — combine to make a memorable, compelling and entertaining new classic.

Mitchell recently directed a stunning online short for Dior starring Marion Cotillard and Ian McKellen as a burlesque siren and a wheelchair-bound fan, respectively (he says that more spots will follow), is also producing graphic novelist Dash Shaw's debut animated feature, which he describes as "a mix between Philip K. Dick and *The Simpsons*." Mitchell sat down for a revealing one-on-one. ■

**Dallas Voice:** When you were a teenager, your four-year-old brother died, and you witnessed firsthand how that can break up a family. That must have served as a significant personal connection to *Rabbit Hole*. Have you ever experienced a loss or tragedy that tested an adult relationship of yours? Mitchell: Well, my most serious relationship was with someone who had a drug problem. Over many years it was an off-and-on element because he was in rehab at times. It was too much for us. It wasn't just the drugs, it was other issues, but it was a very loving relationship and he passed away soon after we broke up. That was

six years ago. I lost a brother when I was 14 — a very different experience from losing a lover — but [there were] the same symptoms.

There's this horrible period right after and guilt, rational or not, usually not, and then this kind of exhilaration of that period is over — and then it comes back. So the last six years have been a bit of roller coaster where the dips get longer and shallower as you go. I haven't really talked about that much. But this was necessary to think about and release some stuff about both of them.

■ **RABBIT HOLE**, Page 23

**Jorge Rivas**,  
photographer

Following Adam Bouska's NOH8 photo campaign, Rivas started Faces of Life, a series of portraits of locals aimed at raising money for AIDS Arms. Like Bouska, Rivas hopes to take it nationwide.



**Trinity Wheeler**,  
theater queen

Wheeler hasn't lived in Texas for a while, but when he returned to his hometown of Tyler to direct *The Laramie Project*, he faced vocal resistance. The play was still put on, and became a success.

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Changes in body fat may occur in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also occur. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

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“When I was first diagnosed with HIV, I didn’t know what each day would bring or how the virus would affect my body over time. But at some point, I realized I had to take control. So I worked on my body. My mind. And my attitude. Since then, I’ve dedicated my life to fighting HIV with everything in me.

My meds help a lot. About a year ago, my doctor told me about **EPZICOM**. In combination with other medications, it’s been shown to help keep HIV from making more copies of itself and infecting healthy cells. 68% of patients taking a regimen with **EPZICOM** had their viral load become undetectable in less than one year. Plus, patients saw a 93% increase in their T-cell counts.\* So I started taking it as part of my combination therapy.

Turns out that was a good thing. My viral load is undetectable. And me? I just keep fighting on.”†

† Not an actual patient testimonial. Based on collection of real patient experiences. Individual results may vary.

\*HEAT study of 688 patients defines undetectable as a viral load less than 50 copies/mL. Baseline median T-cell count for patients receiving EPZICOM was 214 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> and at 48 weeks, patients saw a median increase of 201 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> in their T-cell count.

Ask your healthcare provider if **EPZICOM** is right for you.  
Learn more at [www.EpzicomForYou.com](http://www.EpzicomForYou.com)

## EPZICOM® (abacavir sulfate and lamivudine) Tablets

### MEDICATION GUIDE

#### EPZICOM® (ep' zih com) Tablets

Generic name: abacavir (uh-BACK-ah-veer) sulfate and lamivudine (la-MIV-yoo-deen)

Read the Medication Guide that comes with EPZICOM before you start taking it and each time you get a refill because there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment. Be sure to carry your EPZICOM Warning Card with you at all times.

#### What is the most important information I should know about EPZICOM?

- **Serious Allergic Reaction to Abacavir.** EPZICOM contains abacavir (also contained in ZIAGEN® and TRIZIVIR®). Patients taking EPZICOM may have a serious allergic reaction (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death. **Your risk of this allergic reaction is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B\*5701 than if you do not. Your doctor can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. If you get a symptom from 2 or more of the following groups while taking EPZICOM, call your doctor right away to determine if you should stop taking this medicine.**

	Symptom(s)
Group 1	Fever
Group 2	Rash
Group 3	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach area) pain
Group 4	Generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness
Group 5	Shortness of breath, cough, sore throat

A list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

**If you stop EPZICOM because of an allergic reaction, NEVER take EPZICOM (abacavir sulfate and lamivudine) or any other abacavir-containing medicine (ZIAGEN and TRIZIVIR) again.** If you take EPZICOM or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **WITHIN HOURS** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure** or **death**.

**If you stop EPZICOM for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to EPZICOM, talk with your doctor before taking it again. Taking EPZICOM again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before.** If your doctor tells you that you can take EPZICOM again, **start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a doctor if you need one.**

- **Lactic Acidosis.** Some human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) medicines, including EPZICOM, can cause a rare but serious condition called **lactic acidosis with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly)**. Nausea and tiredness that don't get better may be symptoms of lactic acidosis. In some cases this condition can cause death. Women, overweight people, and people who have taken HIV medicines like EPZICOM for a long time have a higher chance of getting lactic acidosis and liver enlargement. Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency and must be treated in the hospital.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.** Patients with HBV infection, who take EPZICOM and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. "Flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. If you have HBV infection, your doctor should closely monitor your liver function for several months after stopping EPZICOM. You may need to take anti-HBV medicines.
- **Use with interferon- and ribavirin-based regimens.** Worsening of liver disease (sometimes resulting in death) has occurred in patients infected with both HIV and hepatitis C virus who are taking anti-HIV medicines and are also being treated for hepatitis C with interferon with or without ribavirin. If you are taking EPZICOM as well as interferon with or without ribavirin and you experience side effects, be sure to tell your doctor.

EPZICOM can have other serious side effects. Be sure to read the section below entitled "What are the possible side effects of EPZICOM?"

#### What is EPZICOM?

EPZICOM is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV infection. EPZICOM includes 2 medicines: abacavir (ZIAGEN) and lamivudine or 3TC (EPIVIR®). See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in EPZICOM. Both of these medicines are called nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). When used together, they help lower the amount of HIV in your blood. This helps to keep your immune system as healthy as possible so that it can help fight infection.

Different combinations of medicines are used to treat HIV infection. You and your doctor should discuss which combination of medicines is best for you.

- **EPZICOM does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** We do not know if EPZICOM will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems that people get with HIV or AIDS. It is very important that you see your doctor regularly while you are taking EPZICOM.
- **EPZICOM does not lower the risk of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.** For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

#### Who should not take EPZICOM?

Do not take EPZICOM if you:

- **have ever had a serious allergic reaction (a hypersensitivity reaction) to EPZICOM or any other medicine that has abacavir as one of its ingredients (TRIZIVIR and ZIAGEN).** See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in EPZICOM.
- **have a liver that does not function properly.**
- **are less than 18 years of age.**

Before starting EPZICOM tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- **have been tested and know whether or not you have a particular gene variation called HLA-B\*5701.**
- **are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** We do not know if EPZICOM will harm your unborn child. You and your doctor will need to decide if EPZICOM is right for you. If you use EPZICOM while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be on the Antiviral Pregnancy Registry for EPZICOM.
- **are breastfeeding.** Some of the ingredients in EPZICOM can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if they could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV should not breastfeed because HIV can be passed to the baby in the breast milk.
- **have liver problems including hepatitis B virus infection.**
- **have kidney problems.**
- **have heart problems, smoke, or suffer from diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes.**

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your doctor if you take any of the following medicines\*:

- methadone
- HIVID® (zalcitabine, ddC)
- EPIVIR or EPIVIR-HBV® (lamivudine, 3TC), ZIAGEN (abacavir sulfate), COMBIVIR® (lamivudine and zidovudine), or TRIZIVIR (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine).

#### How should I take EPZICOM?

- **Take EPZICOM by mouth exactly as your doctor prescribes it.** The usual dose is 1 tablet once a day. Do not skip doses.
- **You can take EPZICOM with or without food.**
- **If you miss a dose of EPZICOM, take the missed dose right away. Then, take the next dose at the usual time.**
- **Do not let your EPZICOM run out.**
- **Starting EPZICOM again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before.** If you run out of EPZICOM even for a few days, you must ask your doctor if you can start EPZICOM again. If your doctor tells you that you can take EPZICOM again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a doctor if you need one.
- **If you stop your anti-HIV drugs, even for a short time, the amount of virus in your blood may increase and the virus may become harder to treat.**
- **If you take too much EPZICOM, call your doctor or poison control center right away.**

#### What should I avoid while taking EPZICOM?

- Do not take EPIVIR (lamivudine, 3TC), COMBIVIR (lamivudine and zidovudine), ZIAGEN (abacavir sulfate), or TRIZIVIR (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine) while taking EPZICOM. Some of these medicines are already in EPZICOM.
- Do not take zalcitabine (HIVID, ddC) while taking EPZICOM.

**Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection,** as EPZICOM does not stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.

- **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
- **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.**
- **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- **Do not breastfeed.** EPZICOM can be passed to babies in breast milk and could harm the baby. Also, mothers with HIV should not breastfeed because HIV can be passed to the baby in the breast milk.

#### What are the possible side effects of EPZICOM?

EPZICOM can cause the following serious side effects:

- **Serious allergic reaction that can cause death.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about EPZICOM?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Lactic acidosis with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) that can cause death.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about EPZICOM?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Worsening of HBV infection.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about EPZICOM?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Changes in immune system.** When you start taking HIV medicines, your immune system may get stronger and could begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body, such as pneumonia, herpes virus, or tuberculosis. If you have new symptoms after starting your HIV medicines, be sure to tell your doctor.
- **Changes in body fat.** These changes have happened in patients taking antiretroviral medicines like EPZICOM. The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the back, chest, and stomach area. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.

Some HIV medicines including EPZICOM may increase your risk of heart attack. If you have heart problems, smoke, or suffer from diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes, tell your doctor.

The most common side effects with EPZICOM are trouble sleeping, depression, headache, tiredness, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, rash, fever, stomach pain, abnormal dreams, and anxiety. Most of these side effects did not cause people to stop taking EPZICOM.

This list of side effects is not complete. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

#### How should I store EPZICOM?

- Store EPZICOM at room temperature between 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).
- Keep EPZICOM and all medicines out of the reach of children.

#### General information for safe and effective use of EPZICOM

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in Medication Guides. Do not use EPZICOM for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give EPZICOM to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about EPZICOM. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for the information that is written for healthcare professionals or call 1-888-825-5249.

#### What are the ingredients in EPZICOM?

**Active ingredients:** abacavir sulfate and lamivudine

**Inactive ingredients:** Each film-coated EPZICOM Tablet contains the inactive ingredients magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and sodium starch glycolate. The tablets are coated with a film (OPADRY® orange YS-1-13065-A) that is made of FD&C Yellow No. 6, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol 400, polysorbate 80, and titanium dioxide.

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*This Medication Guide has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.*



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EPZ-2MG

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June 2010

## QUEER CLIPS:

## 'True Grit,' 'Rabbit Hole'

The Coen Brothers have always had a peculiar relationship with Texas, maybe because the sense of Wild West recklessness is still cultivated by urbanites. It's a complex feeling, though: A lone Ranger (sans mask) named LaBoeuf (Matt Damon) endures a share of mockery in *True Grit*, but it's forgivable — the movie is just so damn entertaining.

I barely noticed a contraction in the dialogue until the waning minutes of the film, which imbues the tale with a poetic majesty without being stilted. Yet the Coens keep everything in the realm of the real; this isn't some commonplace revenge fantasy but a devil-in-the-details character study of a girl (Hailee Steinfeld, who's remarkable) and a wizened marshal-for-hire (Jeff Bridges, better even than his Oscar performance in last year's *Crazy Heart*). It avoids predictable, touchy-feely sentimentality while still being emotionally stirring.

Less stirring is *Rabbit Hole* — perhaps because



it tries too hard. A couple (Nicole Kidman, Aaron Eckhart) work through their grief over the death of their child in wildly different ways. It's a prickly story about yuppies in denial where so many of the characters seem to *want* to be hated — or at least misunderstood. Grief is hard to portray in small doses (everyone deals with loss uniquely), and to try to make a movie of nothing but is too great a task for director John Cameron Mitchell. Kidman's OK, but the standout is Miles Teller as a regretful teen. He and Steinfeld should make a movie together.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

*True Grit*: Five stars; *Rabbit Hole*: Two stars

## RABBIT HOLE

From Page 19

You went from working with unknown indie actors and bohemian gender-benders to Nicole Kidman. Strange?

Well, Nicole's about to play a tranny in a film [*The Danish Girl*], and of all the A-list female stars, I think of her as the most adventurous. It was surprising that I found myself on this job, but she really heard how passionate I was when I spoke about it with her. And it was this instinctive thing. She's like, "I have a feeling — I want to work with Lars Von Trier." Kate Winslet doesn't do that. Even Meryl Streep. These are brilliant actors but when was the last time they threw themselves a little bit in the gutter the way Tilda Swinton or Nicole does? "I'm going to work with Apichatpong Weerasethaku from Thailand [who just won the Palme D'Or at Cannes] because I like his work." Not as a career move, what do I do next. I was surprised but it felt comfortable.

What difference was there between directing *Rabbit Hole*, which was a work for hire, and your previous films, which were auteur projects you curated and controlled from beginning to end? It was the first time I didn't have final say, but it was great because it was three people [myself and two producers] making the decisions. If there are only two people, there's no tie-breaker and sometimes it's trouble. And we all had different taste. Somewhere in between we knew this was an audience-friendly film. We're not necessarily

going for ... the same treatment of the material, death of a child, the same set-up, could be [Lars Von Trier's] *Antichrist*. And it's not *In the Bedroom* where there's more schematic of going to get revenge.

Miles Teller as the teenager who accidentally ran over the child is so sullen and restrained, yet I read that he plays the goofy, outgoing Chris Penn character in the upcoming remake of *Footloose*. He's actually quite different from that [*Rabbit Hole*] character. He's quite happy-go-lucky. At the wrap party he was dancing like Michael Jackson. He's like a really brilliant dancer.

Are those scars on his face real? I was wondering if they were there to suggest he had been hurt in the accident that killed the child. Yeah, those scars are from a real accident that he almost died in. I let the question [remain]... we all have these scars.

After tons of false starts a *la Milk*, a film of Larry Kramer's seminal play about the AIDS crisis, *The Normal Heart*, is finally getting made with Ryan Murphy (*Glee*) at the helm. In the early 1990s, you appeared in Kramer's stage sequel, *The Destiny of Me*. Would you seek any involvement with *The Normal Heart*? I am semi-retired [from acting], and periodically a part makes me want to step out, but it has to be something I have to do emotionally and there are very few of those. Oddly, one of them was playing Laura Bush in a reading of Tony Kushner's play about her in 2004, a brilliant one-act. Tony makes me want to act. I'm gonna act again. It's just timing.



Jeffrey Payne, left, and Jack Duke, right, leathermen

Payne, the outgoing International Mr. Leather of 2010, was nearly replaced by Duke, who ended up in third place overall. Payne set a high standard as IML champ, having an award named after him and starting a foundation to help the hearing impaired within the gay community. Duke has led an active role in the leather scene locally, statewide, nationally and internationally, showing the world Dallas knows leather culture — and gentlemen.



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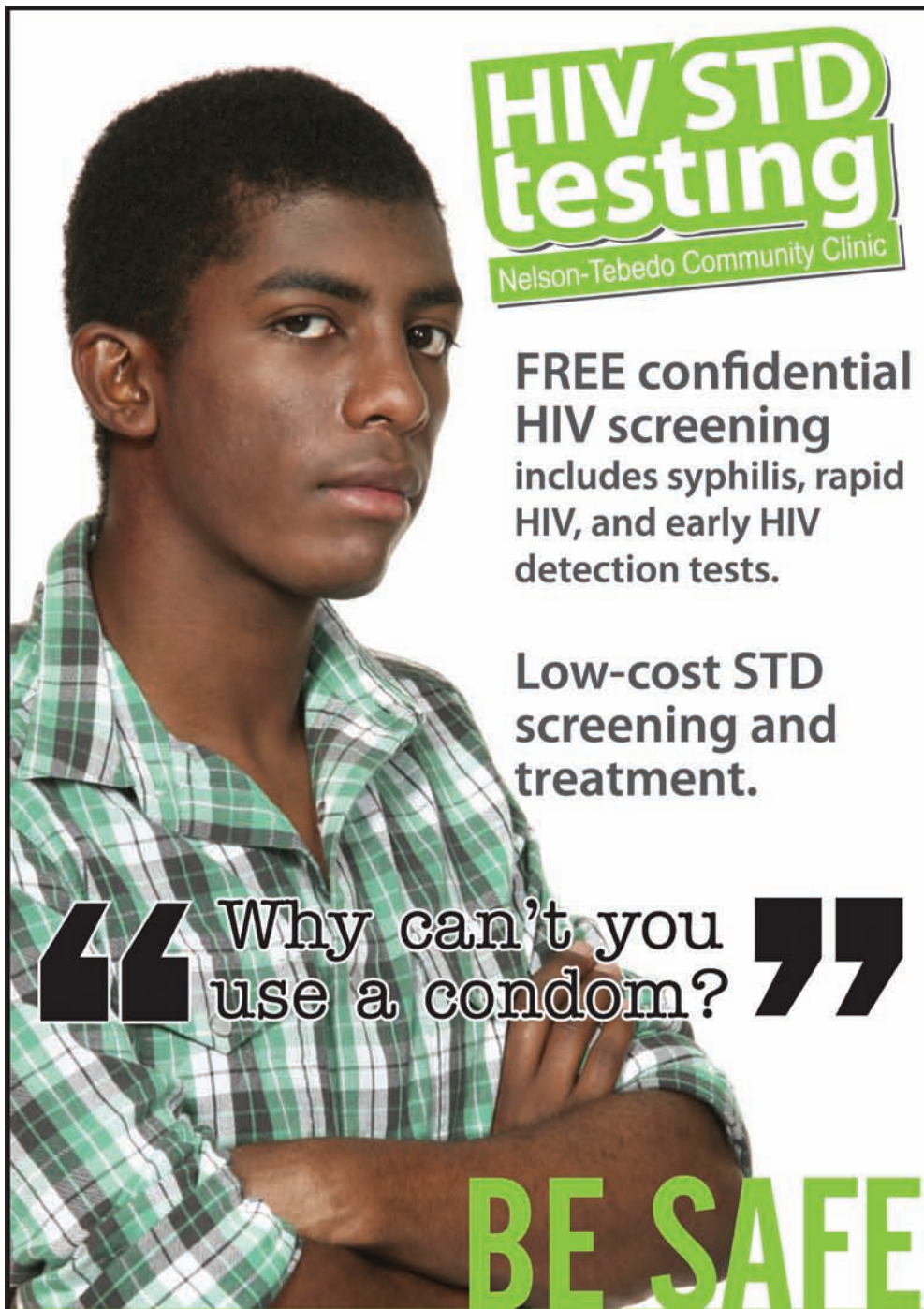
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L+S sketches

# Drawing Dallas



In the season of miracles, meet miracle baby Luis Rios

**MARK STOKES** | Illustrator  
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

**Name and age:** Luis "Lulu" Rios, 25  
**Spotted at:** Throckmorton and Rawlins streets  
**Occupation:** Cashier

**All we want for Christmas**

Sleek and sexy Plano-born Luis Rios is a miracle baby, being born unexpectedly from a mother who had her tubes tied, then surviving a heart murmur and seizures at 5, which led to a major heart operation at 7. Luis came out at 15. "I did my research about how to be gay and what all comes with it. I knew it would be difficult, especially for my mom." Luis' family has been amazingly supportive, welcoming his partners and friends as part of the family. "My friends love my parents." His hobbies include dancing, music, and fire dancing.

**The boy with something extra:** This enigmatic Libra has a sixth sense, which runs in his family. He has experienced telepathy and sometimes sees the future in dreams. This empathic ability makes him a go-to guy when his friends need psychological counseling. "It's a gift, and a curse."

**Happy holidays!** Luis plans to spend Christmas on the strip, singing R&B and ballad karaoke at Hungdinger.



# Slender read

Our critic looks at the best in gay lit

The holidays are a good time to curl up with a book — or get one for the hard-to-shop-for literati in your life. Here are my suggestions for the best of the last year or so for the queer audience.

2010 YEAR IN REVIEW  
BOOKS

**Best novel with a twist, 2010: *Room* by Emma Donoghue.** You've undoubtedly heard a lot about this book — all of it true. *Room* is a bit of a challenge at the outset, but the plotline will

grab you, especially if you let your own imagination run wild. What would *you* do if you'd never seen the world from anywhere but TV?

**Best novel with a twist, ever: *Five Minutes and 42 Seconds* by T.J. Williams.** There are drugs in the house, and you've got to get rid of them. The feds know about the drugs and they're on their way. I added this oldie-but-a-goodie because it's quick to read, it's action-packed, it's wildly fun and because it's my list, right?

**Best slam-bang didn't-see-it-coming novel ever: *So You Call Yourself a Man* by Carl Weber.**



**THE PAST AND FUTURE**  
2010 saw the loss of E. Lynn Harris, far left, and the emergence of humorist Freeman Hall, left.

I wish I could tell you why. I'd love to give you reasons, and you'd understand why I screamed and laughed like I needed a straitjacket. But if I told you, then you'd see it coming, wouldn't you?

**Best humorist: Freeman Hall.** As if *Retail Hell* wasn't enough to make you laugh 'til you peed your pants, along comes *Stuff That Makes a Gay Heart Weep*. Hall's books are the kind you read when you're tired of wallowing in pity and need

a snarky snicker.

Close runner-up: Wade Rouse.

**Author who will be missed most: E. Lynn Harris.** Hands-down.

**Novel that camps like Yosemite: *Divas Las Vegas* by Rob Rosen.** Fun, silly, rompish and vintage Vegas, this mystery-ish novel about two friends in Sin City needs to be read in a tent by flashlight while eating s'mores.

**Best book to share with mom: *Where's My Wand?* by Eric Poole.** A coming-of-age story with a bedspread, this book is cute, gentle and funny. My own mother loved it, and if you can't believe a mom, who can you believe?

Close runner up, and sharable with your sister, too: *Rhinestone Sisterhood* by David Valdes Greenwood.

Happy reading!

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



**Danielle Girdano,**  
cyclist

Girdano wanted to raise money to bring awareness to teen suicide even before the issue made national news, so she biked from Minnesota to Dallas, pulling in just in time for the Pride parade.



**Team TKO, softballers**

Member teams of the Pegasus Slow-pitch Softball Association did gangbusters at the annual World Series in August, but none did better than the players on Uptown Vision's TKO, who collectively won the B-Division trophy by defeating the Long Beach Rounders in the NAGAAA tourney in Columbus, Ohio. When it comes to sports, it's hard to beat a Texan — Tony Romo notwithstanding.



**Harold Steward,**  
arts visionary

Steward gave the black LGBT community a shot in the arm, co-founding the Fahari Arts Institute which hosts the popular Queerly Speaking series at the South Dallas Cultural Center.



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## Low Prices For A Merry Christmas

All Stores will be open on Dec. 24th until 9:00 pm and will re-open at 6:00 am on Dec. 26th  
All Pharmacies will be open on Dec. 24th until 6:00 pm and will re-open Dec. 26th at normal hours

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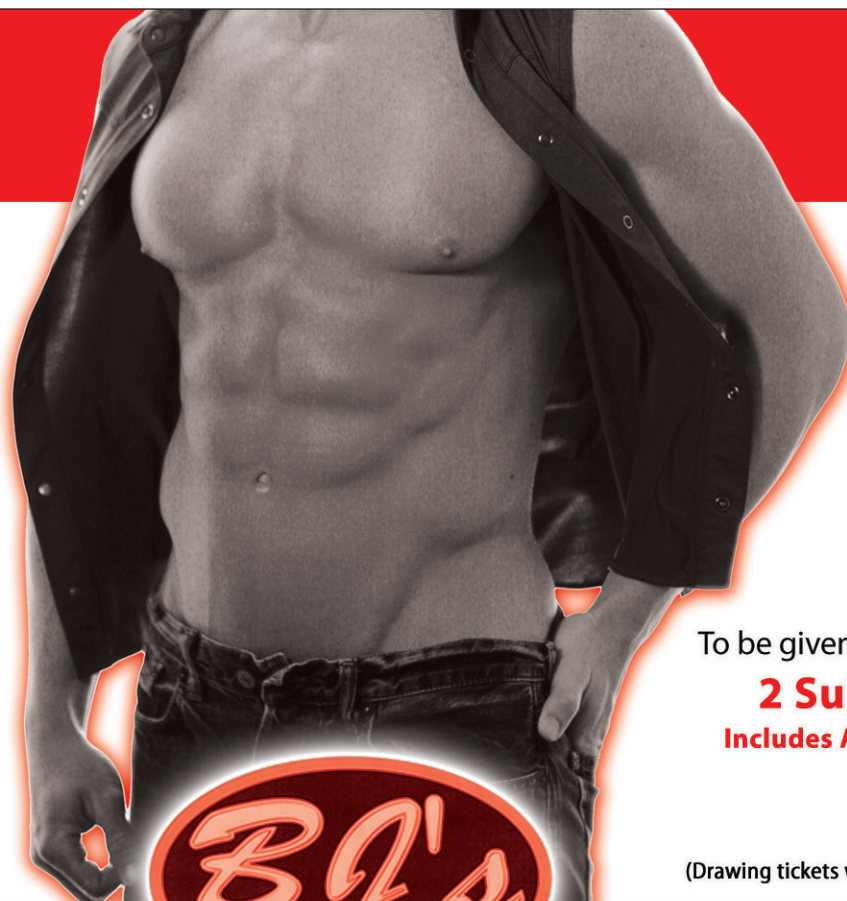
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## Friday 12.24

### 'Twas the night before Christmas

You aren't short for candlelight and Christmas Eve services. These places of worship are LGBT-friendly and offer a spiritual way to start your celebration.

**DEETS:** Cathedral of Hope, 9 and 11 p.m. services. CathedralofHope.com., Oak Lawn UMC, 5:30 and 11 p.m. services. OLUMC.org., White Rock Community Church, 7 p.m. WhiteRockChurch.org., First Unitarian Church of Dallas, 6:30 and 8:30 services. DallasUU.org.

## Thursday 12.30

### Getting to the church on time

Church revivals might conjure up suppressed memories, but we think that won't be a problem here. With *Leslie Jordan's Church Revival*, the Emmy-winning actor makes church time funtime with his Southern boy wit and humor. Sister Helen Holy will be your guest hostess. And likely the two will keep you from speaking in tongues. Just laughing in them.

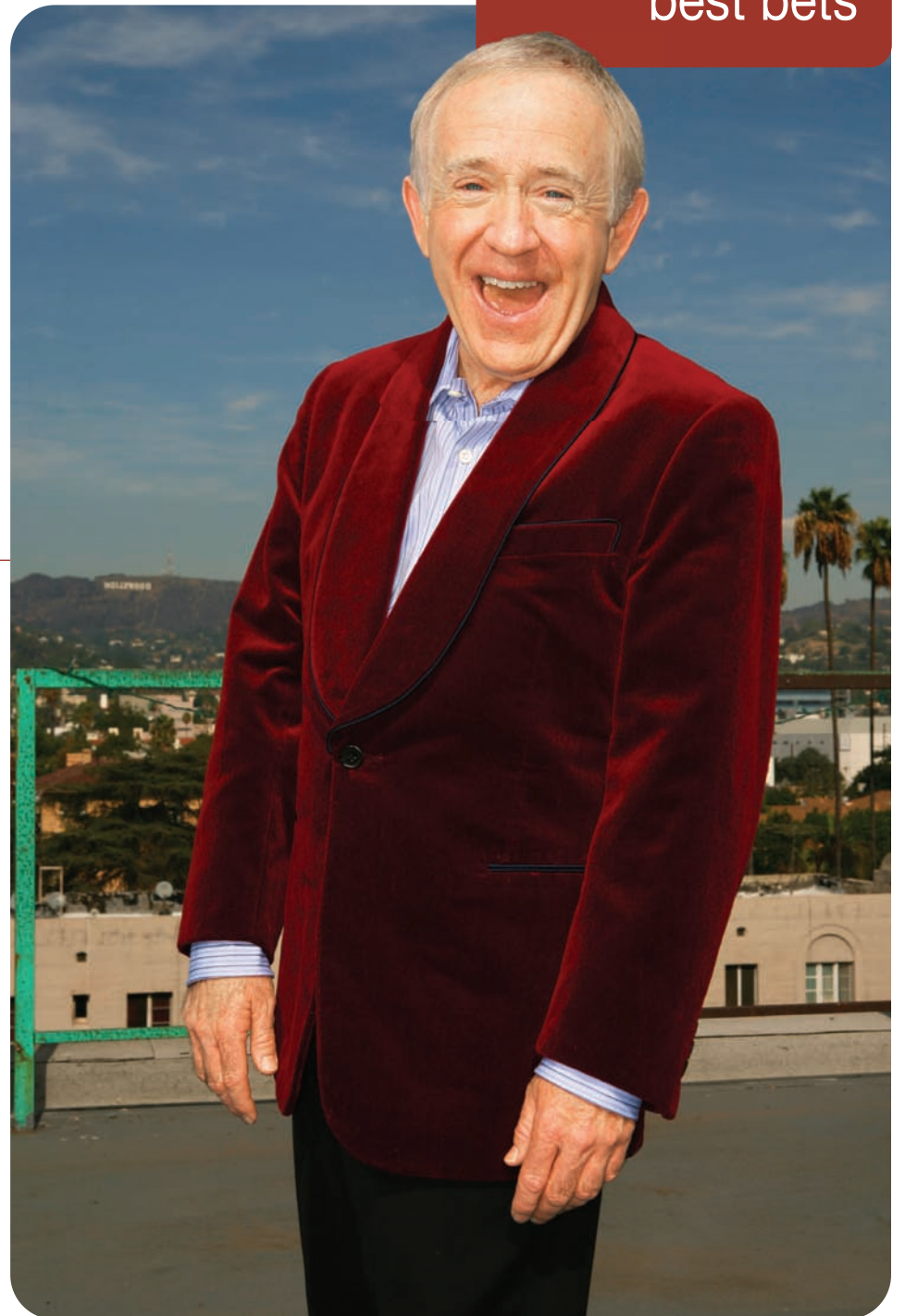
**DEETS:** Sare Ellen & Samuel Weisfeld Center, 1508 Cadiz Road. 7 p.m. \$100. LegacyCounseling.org

## Thursday 12.30

### Here a bear, there a bear

If you're feeling cold in these winter nights, head to the Dallas Eagle for the Bear of the Year contest. With all that fur, you should warm up just nicely. Even if you can't snuggle up close, the beef alone should turn the place into the hottest spot in town. Who will be Dallas' next top bear? See for yourself.

**DEETS:** Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 10 p.m. DallasEagle.com



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We recommend you contact the organizations directly regarding their holiday schedules.

## FRIDAY 12.24

### COMMUNITY

**Youth First Texas** groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. Fridays–Saturdays and Tuesdays–Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m. YouthFirstTexas.org.

**Congregation Beth El Binah** celebrates its annual *Elena Kagan Christmas* with a Chinese food dinner. Caravelle, 400 N. Greenville Ave., Suite 16, Richardson. 7:30 p.m.

**Latino Christmas Eve Mass.** Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. InterfaithPeaceChapel.org.

## SATURDAY 12.25

### COMMUNITY

**Rainbow Ministries International.** Meets weekly. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2 p.m. 469-222-3400.

**Fuse: Core Group** for guys 18–29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3 p.m.

## SUNDAY 12.26

### COMMUNITY

**Awakening Heart Community of Mindful Living.** LGBT-Friendly “meditation and more” event. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Rd, Richardson. 5 p.m. AwakeningHeart.org

**The ONE Church** Sunday services. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 6 p.m. OneChurchTX.org.

**Lesbianas Latinas.** Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 4 p.m. 214-890-6976.

### BROADCAST

**Lambda Weekly.** This week’s guest is Dave Guy-Gainer from the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network discussing “don’t ask, don’t tell.” 89.3 KNON-FM at noon. LambdaWeekly.com.

## MONDAY 12.27

### COMMUNITY

**F.A.C.E.,”** support group for those impacted by HIV/AIDS in any capacity. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

**PFLAG Denton.** Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 Bell St., Denton. 7 p.m.

### BROADCAST

**The Rick Vanderslice Show** streams Monday–Friday from noon–2 p.m. on RationalRadio.org.

## TUESDAY 12.28

### COMMUNITY

**Tuesday Night Fellowship** with The ONE Church. Buffalo Wild Wings, 4140 Lemmon Ave. 7 p.m. OneChurchTX.org.

**Q’s-Day Potluck.** Friendly, casual LGBT gathering every Tuesday. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, 817-446-3395.



**PLANET RADIO** | Jesse Garcia hits the airwaves with his new radio show on KNON FM.

**Prime Timers Prime Diner** at Spring Creek Barbecue, 12835 Preston Road. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 to attend.

## WEDNESDAY 12.29

### COMMUNITY

**DFW Prime Timers** play bridge every week at 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

**Gay Teen Project.** 909 W. Magnolia St., Suite 2, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-332-7722.

**El Sol** support group meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. AOC.org.

## THURSDAY 12.30

### COMMUNITY

**F.A.C.E.,”** support group for those impacted by HIV/AIDS in any capacity. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

**Standing on the Promises** is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

### THEATER

**Death is No Small Change!** Pegasus Theatre’s black and white play is back. Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Dr. Richardson. Through Jan 23. 8 p.m. \$20–\$35. Special New Year’s Eve show \$50. PegasusTheatre.com.

### BROADCAST

**The Jesse Garcia Show.** Latino news talk and entertainment by prominent local activist Jesse Garcia. Airs on KNON 89.3 FM Thursdays at 7 a.m. JesseGarciaShow.com.

## this week’s solution

B	A	L	L	E	L	B	E	T	O	M	E
A	S	E	A	S	E	E	S	O	N	U	S
T	H	E	C	O	L	O	R	P	U	R	P
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E	R	A	S	E	R	E	E	E	R	A	M
R	E	Y	S	O	L	S	P	O	O	L	S
			U	S	T	E	D	A	L	L	S
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I	V	E	S				D	O	E	R	S
D	E	T	A	C	H	S	R	I	C	A	L
O	R	S	L	A	B	F	E	M	A	L	E
S	H	R	I	V	E	L	N	A	M	E	D
W	H	O	O	P	I	G	O	L	D	B	E
P	O	P	S	N	A	L	A	E	R	T	E
M	E	S	H	G	N	A	W	L	A	S	S

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# 2011

**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**Wilson Cruz** turns 37 on Monday. He gained fame as the fey high school pal to Claire Daines in *My So-Called Life*, but the actor seems to thrive on more independent fare. His next three movies are all low-budget flicks with him in supporting roles. But we love that he always seems to find gay characters to play that don't end up with tragic finales.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Nagging worries are actually clues to solutions. Straightforward, logical approaches to those problems could make things worse. Check out those odd instincts even if they seem a bit loopy.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Inside your head is a dangerous place. Don't let yourself be caught there alone. Have laughs with friends to avoid nerves and dithering. Their perspective and some fresh air will help.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

You'll get ahead step by step, not fussing over the next decade. Focus on the job in front of you. Well-intended advice is probably ill-considered but could be a springboard to a better idea.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

Stay focused on your goals. A straight-ahead attack is likely to trip you up. Consider different approaches. Get your ego out of the way and try new ways of working with others.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Sex relieves tension and ends arguments. It doesn't solve the problems. Even if the problem isn't with your partner, a good romp can put you in a more constructive frame of mind.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

The craziness of the times is working everybody's nerves, so share whatever problems you're feeling. Talking with your partner or a close friend, even if it's just to let off steam, is a huge relief.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Integrating partnership and career is a common challenge. Too bad there's no common solution. Discussing it with colleagues helps you get new perspectives. Partnership is a full-time job.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Master your art, brush up on your sport and hone your skill at your hobbies. New ideas may seem too contradictory, but consider them at least. Play with crazy notions.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Healing rifts in your family takes creative efforts, but you can do it. Your efforts to persuade people to work together are over-emphatic. A nudge is more effective than a shove.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

Your efforts at domestic peacemaking go awry. Drawing out the arguments from either side helps you understand the situation better and it gets others to hear each other more clearly.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Impatience and rushing gets you into awful accidents. Look ahead, think strategically and only act once you have a good plan in place and a plan B for anything simple.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

Finally you clear up misunderstandings and screw-ups. Financial obstacles are circumvented with creativity, but think ahead to make sure those strategies are sound. Do not go out on a limb.

**THIS WEEK**

Mars and Eros in a square provoke war and strife, but Mercury turning direct in Sagittarius opens new ways to negotiate through troubles. Mars is in Capricorn, better placed than Mercury and Eris, so hard work and long-range strategies are the key.

Jack Fertig can be reached at 415-864-8302 or Starjack.com

**Kyle's Bed & Breakfast** by Greg Fox

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**KYLE?! YOU... YOU'RE BACK?! BACK AND DOING LAUNDRY. HOW ARE YOU, RICHARD?**

**HOW AM I?! HOW ARE YOU? AND YOUR MOTHER... HER HEART SURGERY-- SHE'S FINE.**

**BUT, WHAT ABOUT-- HOLD THAT THOUGHT.**

**SHE'S ALREADY UP AND WALKING AROUND.**

**I HAVE TO RUN THESE FRESH TOWELS UPSTAIRS. BE BACK IN A MINUTE!**

**YOU DIDN'T TELL HIM. NO. I DIDN'T.**

**BREYER, I-- DON'T. PLEASE. THIS WASN'T FOR YOUR BENEFIT.**

**...WITH HIS MOM JUST OUT OF THE HOSPITAL. HE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW HIS BEST FRIEND MADE A PASS AT HIS BOYFRIEND.**

**BREYER, I PROMISE... IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.**

**IT DAMN WELL BETTER NOT.**

**YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND... I WAS DRUNK... I WAS HURTING... AND I FELT SO ALONE.**

**MY FATHER USED TO GIVE ME THE SAME KIND OF EXCUSE WHEN HE'D BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF ME IN ONE OF HIS DRUNKEN RAGES.**

**BREYER, I... ...WHAT CAN I DO? TO MAKE THIS UP TO YOU?**

**YOU CAN STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM ME.**

**THAT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT... BEING THAT YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND'S BOYFRIEND!**

**NOT MY PROBLEM...**

**YOU JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE. I WASN'T THINKING.**

**I DIDN'T BUY IT THEN... AND I DON'T BUY IT NOW.**

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**bitter girl**

**she drives me crazy**

**DON'T LEAVE! YOU'D BE LOST WITHOUT ME!**

**ONLY IN CHICAGO! I'M GOING HOME NOW!**

**I'M NOT LIKE ALL YOUR OTHER NAVIGATORS, I'M SPECIAL.**

**LEAVE ME ALONE! CRAZY GPS LADY...**

**CLEAN EXTERIOR... CHECK.**

**...YOU'RE SUPFOCATING ME!!**

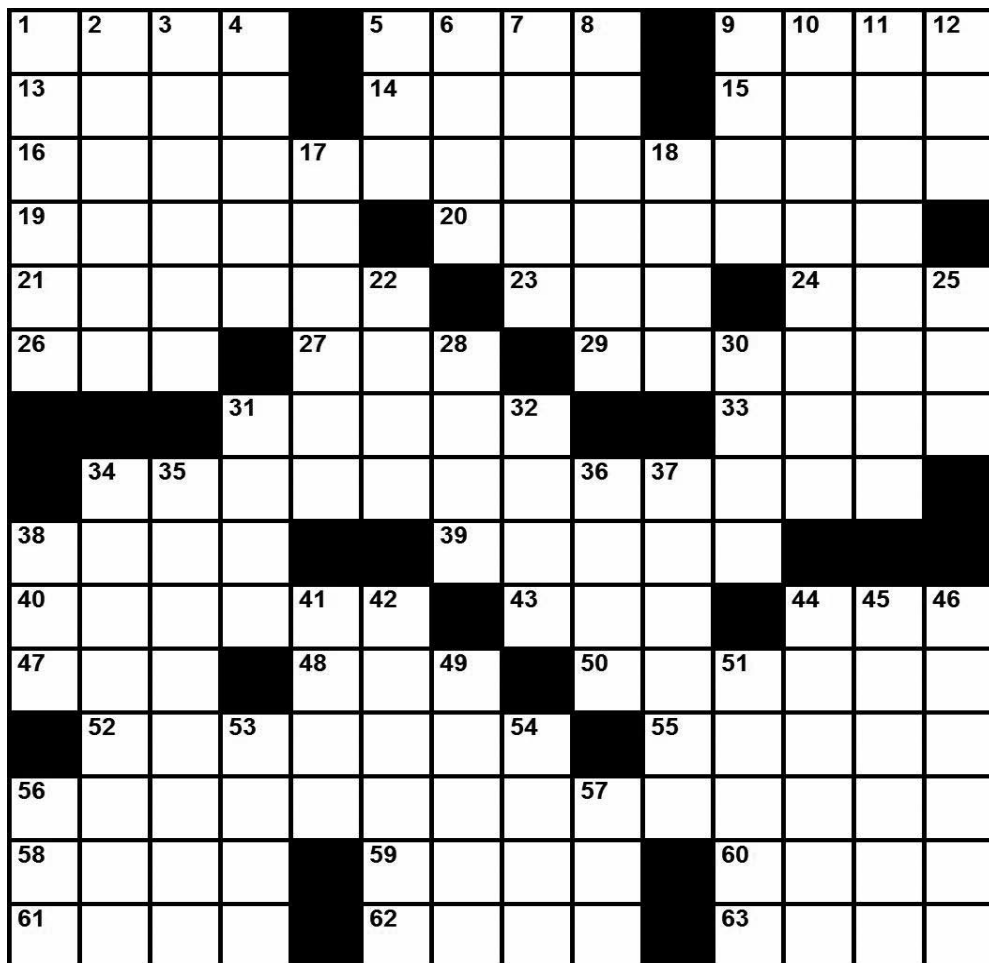
**SHE'LL BE BACK.**

**POSSIBLE EXHAUST LEAK... CHECK.**

email: [bittergirl@qsyndicate.com](mailto:bittergirl@qsyndicate.com)

[www.joanhilty.net](http://www.joanhilty.net)

JOAN HILTY ©2011



# Together Again

Solution on page 29

**Across**

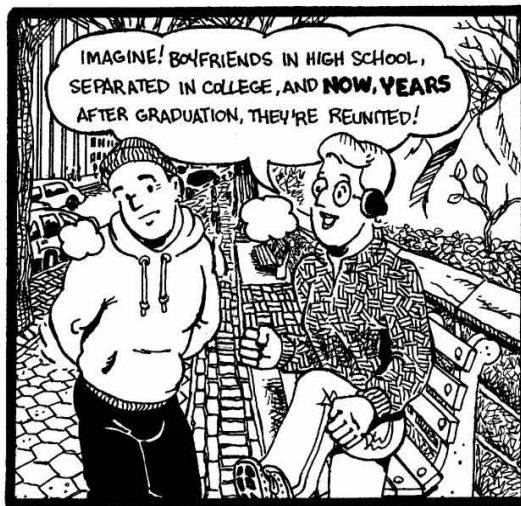
- 1 Cinderella's coming-out party
- 5 North Sea feeder
- 9 Gertrude Stein's A Long Gay Book, for one
- 13 Where to find Moby Dick
- 14 Takes advantage of pupils?
- 15 Heavy burden
- 16 Movie based on an Alice Walker novel
- 19 Punished for illegal parking
- 20 W. or H., to Auden
- 21 Rubber
- 23 Like a really big shoe
- 24 Butt
- 26 Wilder's The Bridge of San Luis \_\_\_\_
- 27 Bernstein's fifth
- 29 Cylinders for thread
- 31 You, to Frida
- 33 Start of a Shakespearean title
- 34 She played Sofia in 16-Across
- 38 Burl of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
- 39 The active crowd
- 40 Break off
- 43 Mysore Mr.
- 44 James Dean's East of Eden role

47 Areas for Dr. Callie Torres

- 48 Dog or work area
- 50 Young man's part in Shakespeare's day
- 52 Respond to the cold
- 55 A Streetcar \_\_\_\_ Desire
- 56 She played Celie in 16-Across
- 58 Band in Boston
- 59 Feisty female in The Lion King
- 60 Ziegfeld Follies costume designer
- 61 Sexy clothing material
- 62 Eat beaver-style
- 63 Young miss

**Down**

- 1 Pancake mixture
- 2 Away from one's first mate
- 3 Street named for writer Harper?
- 4 Shoestrings
- 5 Immigrant ed. choice
- 6 Fifth-century pope
- 7 Swiss capital
- 8 Makes out
- 9 Gay-friendly singer Amos
- 10 Conditionally out
- 11 Megan of Will & Grace
- 12 Tongue ending
- 17 Ukrainian seaport
- 18 Sch. in Dianne Hardy-Garcia's home state
- 22 Kind of IRA
- 25 Copies of a women's magazine
- 28 Like porn
- 30 Crew tools
- 31 Bear that may be a minor
- 32 God in Granada
- 34 Rubber
- 35 Where to find real bitches
- 36 Big name in soft balls
- 37 \_\_\_\_ of Dorothy
- 38 Oft-broken promise
- 41 Illegal block by Esera Tuaola
- 42 In possession of
- 44 Mapplethorpe's tool
- 45 Gives a heads-up to
- 46 Precarious places
- 49 Started out
- 51 Nancy Clue creator Maney
- 53 \_\_\_\_ Hashana
- 54 Marlene's Blue Angel role
- 56 Secretary's stat
- 57 Jude of The Talented Mr. Ripley





Joey, Marissa and Jason at The Brick.



Sara and Allison at Sue Ellen's.



Jeff and Amber at Drama Room.



James, Jose, Randy, Stephanie and Luke at Rainbow Lounge.

All we want for **Christmas** is for you to enjoy your holiday season .... Join **Caven clubs Station 4, TMC: The Mining Company** and **Sue Ellen's** for their **Christmas Eve Pajama Party**. Get those footie pajamas and cartoon houseshoes out and wait for **Santa** on the dance floor .... You can get your boot scootin' on at the **Round-Up Saloon** over the weekend. They'll serve nibbles on **Christmas Eve** and open Saturday to help you dance off that fruit cake. **Pool Tourney Night** continues on Tuesday .... **The Dallas Eagle** hosts **Holiday Recovery** on Saturday. It'll be raining bears for the club's **Bear of the Year** contest on Thursday .... **Sue Ellen's** brings in **Adrian and the Sickness** to play on Friday. **Mojo Dolls** might sing a few carols on Saturday. **Cherry Hill** rounds out the weekend performing on Sunday .... **The Jenny P Show** continues every Tuesday at the **Drama Room** .... Every Sunday, **Chantal** hosts **Domingos Karaoke** at **Escandalo Discotec** .... We wonder if **Gary Poe** will bust out the old Christmas classics at the weekly **Gay Sing-Along** on Friday at **Peker's Bar**. Then get bent out of shape with **Voice of Pride** alum **Robert Olivas** at **Totally Twisted Karaoke** every Wednesday .... **DJ Moses** supervises the musical sounds as **the Brick's** Christmas gift to you on Saturday to get your dance on. **The Ida Mae Watergate Show** brings the laughs at the connecting **Joe's Bar** on Tuesdays. And don't forget to **Bump and Grind** every Thursday with **Patti le Plae Safe** .... Now, have you started your resolutions? ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Chad, Shawn and Luis at Best Friends CLub.



Joel and Amy at BJ's NXS!



Johnnie and Kristen at Station 4.



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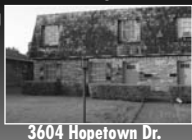
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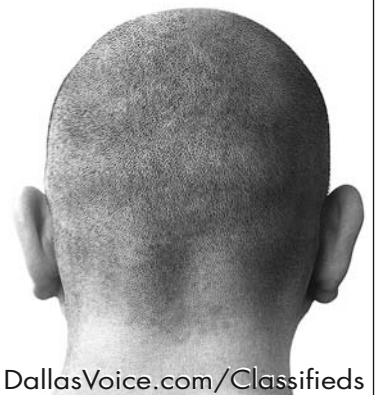


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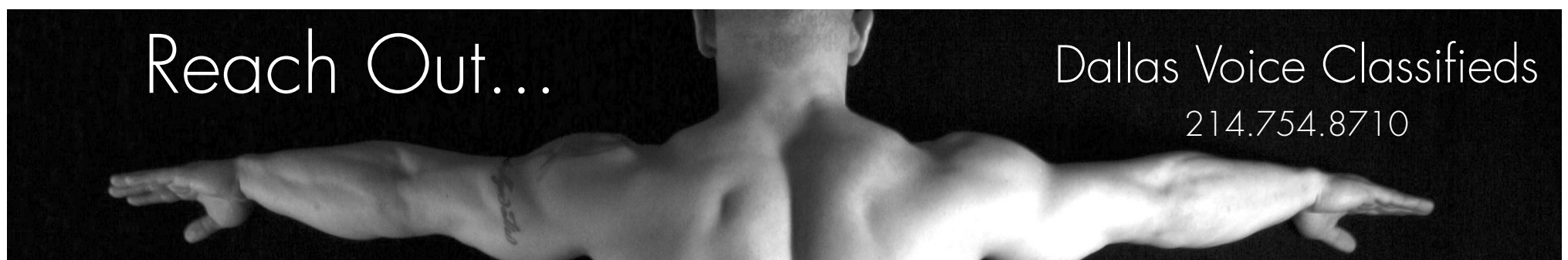
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