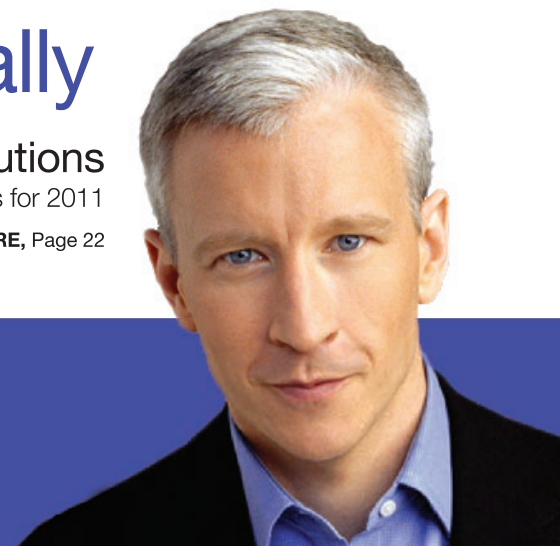


Ringling in the New Year cyberifically

From the Twitter revolution, some Twitter resolutions

We scoured the Internet for the best queer celebrity resolutions for 2011

■ FEATURE, Page 22



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The Top 10 LGBT News Stories of 2010

Teen suicides put spotlight on bullying

1. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." We've heard the adage practically all our lives, but 2010 proved beyond any doubt that words can, indeed, be lethal, as a wave of teen suicides grabbed headlines and focused attention on an epidemic of anti-gay bullying in schools.

And for the first time, it seemed, mainstream America came to terms with the reality of statistics showing that LGBT youth are three to four times more likely to take their own lives than their straight peers.

On Sept. 28, media across the country picked up the story of Asher Brown, a gay 13-year-old from Houston who days before shot himself to death with his stepfather's gun. That same day came word that Seth Walsh, a gay 13-year-old from Tehachapi, Calif., had died after spending nine days on life support after he hung himself in his own backyard. Both boys endured months of anti-gay bullying at school, and both families said officials had ignored their repeated pleas for action. But by the time candlelight vigils took place around the country in memory of the victims, two more names had been added to the list: 15-year-old Billy Lucas of Greensburg, Ind., committed suicide after months of being bullied at school; and 18-year-old Rutgers freshman Tyler Clementi jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge after his roommate and another student secretly videotaped him having sex with another man and broadcast it on the Internet. On Sept. 29, 19-year-old Raymond Chase hung himself in his dorm room at Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island. Then there was Cody J. Barker, 17, of Wisconsin, who died Sept. 13; Harrison Chase Brown, 15, of Colorado, who died Sept. 25; Felix Sacco, 17, of Massachusetts who died Sept. 29, and Caleb Nolt, 14, of Indiana, who died Sept. 30.

■ SUICIDES, Page 18

NOT FORGOTTEN | Suicide victims, back from left, Seth Walsh and Billy Lucas, and front from left, Raymond Chase, Zach Harrington, Asher Brown and Tyler Clementi. (Kevin Thomas/Dallas Voice)

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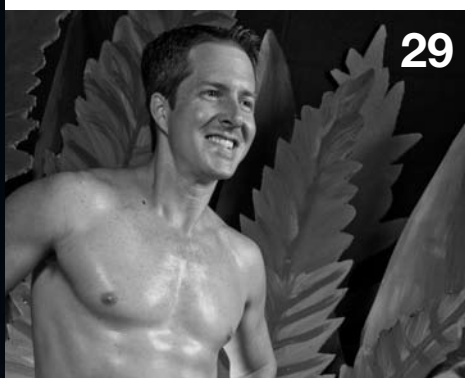
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A PROMISE FULFILLED | President Barack Obama gives a thumbs up after signing the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 on Wednesday, Dec. 22, at the Interior Department in Washington. Most agree it's unlikely Obama will sign another pro-equality bill before 2013. (Associated Press)

DADT repeal capped 17-year fight

2. Anyone who was paying attention in 1993 knows what a devastating setback the community suffered with the codification of the military's ban on gays. The community itself had asked the newly elected Democratic President, Bill Clinton, to end the military's long-standing policy banning gays from service.

But instead, Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Georgia, orchestrated a parade of testimony and innuendo to suggest that the mere presence of gays would violate the "sexual privacy" of heterosexual servicemembers.

One female Naval petty officer testified that, "You are asking me to sleep and shower with homosexuals. You are asking me to expose my sexuality ..."

Not surprisingly, 56 percent of the public opposed allowing "homosexuals" to serve "openly" in the military in 1993.

In December 2010, only 21 percent of Americans felt that way. And Democratic President Barack Obama, using a strategy of sticks and carrots that sometimes angered the LGBT community, helped drive through passage of a bill that will eventually lead to a dismantling of the ban.

What does that say about 2011?

Given the shaky economy, high unemployment, and intense partisan divide in Congress, there is little likelihood the Obama administration will take on another piece of pro-LGBT civil rights legislation in 2011.

The presidential election campaign of 2012 begins in earnest now and President Obama must tend to a wide variety of constituencies, as well as Middle America in general.

But he has shown — even before repeal of DADT — that his administration is willing to use its power to adopt more LGBT friendly regulations and policies that will advance the LGBT civil rights ball down the field.

And that is likely to be where the action will be, for the Obama administration, in 2011.

— Lisa Keen



RESURRECTION | Protesters march down Cedar Springs on Dec. 9 after the Senate killed a Defense spending bill containing a repeal of DADT. Nine days later Congress would pass a standalone measure ending the policy. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

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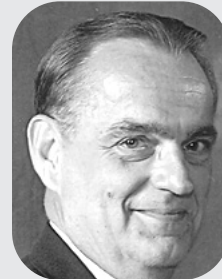
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Mission accomplished

After the signing ceremony, 15 of us made the trek from C Street to the Mayflower Hotel on foot to have brunch.

For the most part, the group was silent and self-reflective. Maj. Mike Almy and I walked together and discussed what had happened to him and the E-ticket ride of repeal in Congress. We discussed his future and how it looked so much brighter now than it had less than a week prior.

Arriving at the hotel, Joe Tom Easley stopped all of us and reminded us that the hotel restaurant was where J. Edgar Hoover once had lunch with his male lover every day



for the last 20 years of his life. The space where Hoover's permanently reserved lunch table sat is now a PINK store. How appropriate, I thought.

After we sat down, nearly all had e-mails and voicemails to deal with — mostly from press asking for interviews and thoughts. We ordered a bottle of champagne and toasted the fall of this one domino in the fight for equality.

Then the conversation changed. It became one more like you would hear when a bunch of lesbians and gays sit down for a meal. One person said, "We need to get Barney Frank to look gay. Maybe darken his hair and put in a few highlights." People roared with laughter. We talked about Christmas plans — most of which had been obliterated by the call to travel to D.C. We talked a lot about our friends over the years that were not at the ceremony. We teased each other.

When brunch was over, there were heartfelt hugs and back pats before we went our separate ways. Probably all thinking what I was — is this the last we'll see of each other or is there a cause that will bring us back together?

I caught myself being myself at Reagan Airport — joking with strangers, opening the door for a lady struggling with bags and kids, telling the agent that I liked her rainbow pin. Wow, I thought: You had become so focused and perhaps a little too humorless.

When I boarded the plane I reached inside my coat pocket to pull out the notes I had made, the list of strategy options we were considering, the confidential list of congressional targets, the board briefing on legal support statistics, my talking points to memorize, my to-do list — but I found nothing in the pocket. That's when it finally sunk in. I was leaving Washington, D.C., with nothing remaining to do. The passenger beside me looked at me strangely when I laughed out loud with eyes full of tears and said to myself, "Mission accomplished."

I am taking Aaron Belkin's advice. I asked him at dinner the other night, "What next?" He said, "A nap, Chief."

I'll be back, though, to do what I can on the certification and transition. After 10 years of negative, I'll finally get to help with the positive aspects of change.

Implosion cancelled.

— Dave Guy-Gainer



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■ thetop10

Dallas Dems narrowly survived GOP tidal wave

3. While Texas turned redder, Dallas County remained an island of blue. On Election Day, Texas followed national trends turning Democratic incumbents out of office and replacing them with conservative Republicans.

For the first time in Texas history, more than 100 Republicans will sit in the 150-member Texas House of Representatives. As recently as 1983, Democrats held more than 100 House seats.

Several gay-friendly Democratic House incumbents lost their seats in North Texas.

However, Democrats swept countywide races for the third consecutive election cycle.

Among the winners were Tonya Parker, who will become the first known openly gay African-American elected official in Texas. Parker is also the first openly LGBT judge elected in Dallas County. Openly gay Dallas County District Clerk Gary Fitzsimmons won re-election, as did Judge Tena Callahan, a straight ally who in 2009 declared Texas' bans on same-sex marriage unconstitutional.

Meanwhile, for the first time in a generation, Democrats will control the Dallas County Commissioners Court, possibly paving the way for LGBT employment protections and domestic partner benefits.

Former Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Elba Garcia unseated anti-gay Republican Commissioner Ken Mayfield, with strong support in heavily LGBT neighborhoods in Oak Cliff.

Clay Jenkins, who defeated openly gay County Judge Jim Foster in the Democratic primary, knocked off Republican Wade Emmert in the general election and will serve as chair of the court.

But Republicans retained all statewide offices in Texas, including governor. Anti-gay incumbent Rick Perry was elected to a third full term, easily defeating Democrat Bill White, who'd received a rare endorsement from the Human Rights Campaign.

Nationwide, a record 106 openly LGBT candidates won election, including David Cicilline of Rhode Island, who'll become the fourth openly gay member of Congress.

In California, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, who first decided his city would issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, was elected that state's lieutenant governor.

But mostly the news around the country was good for conservatives.

Republicans took control of the U.S. House of Representatives, where the leadership will include two conservative North Texas congressman, Jeb Hensarling and Pete Sessions.

In the Senate, the Democratic lead was cut to 51 seats plus two Independents who caucus with the Democrats.

While tea party-affiliated candidates won a number of Texas seats, Democratic Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's tea party opponent received only 25 percent of the vote.

With the Republican majority in the House, most agree there's little chance the 112th Congress will pass any pro-LGBT legislation. Incoming House members have already threatened to work on a repeal of the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell." Count on the Senate, however, to stop any anti-gay bills from making their way to the White House.

Other troubling signs for the LGBT community included an election in Iowa, where three judges who ruled in favor of same-sex marriage were defeated after a multimillion campaign by the religious right. Anti-gay activists have begun a movement to impeach the remaining four.

Because of Republican gains, the LGBT community is not looking for additional advances in equality legislation in 2011 on the federal level. However, some state legislatures and the courts may provide some bright spots.

— David Taffet

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■ pet of the week / bryan

Bryan is a handsome Labrador-Golden retriever mix with a short burnished-red coat and white bib. He's 8 months old and almost full grown at about 40 pounds. Bryan is friendly, gentle and well-mannered. He seems to be good with other dogs and should be fine with children. Start the year off right by making Bryan part of your family.



Bryan and many other great dogs, cats, puppies and kittens are available for adoption from the Dallas Animal Services Adoption Center, located at 1818 N. Westmoreland at I-30 on the northeast corner. The shelter is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.; closed Mondays. The cost to adopt is \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats and includes spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, microchip and more. All dogs are negative for heartworms, and cats have been tested for FeLV and FIV. For more information, visit www.DallasAnimalServices.org or call 214-671-0249. Dallas Animal Services will be open New Year's Eve and New Year's Day until 5 p.m.

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the top 10



LANDMARK RULING | Marriage equality supporters celebrate outside San Francisco City Hall after Judge Vaughn Walker's August ruling declaring Prop 8 unconstitutional. (Rick Gerharter)

As Prop 8, DOMA cases proceeded, Texas made its own marriage news

4. As the year began, all eyes were on California, where conservative superstar Ted Olson and liberal luminary David Boies joined forces to challenge the state's voter-approved constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. The case is *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, but both Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown declined to defend Prop 8. As a result, ProtectMarriage.com, the main group behind the initiative, filed to intervene and defend it in court. On Aug. 4, six months after the trial began, Judge Vaughn Walker issued his ruling striking down the ban as unconstitutional, prompting celebrations across the country. The state refused to appeal, but the amendment's supporters did. In December, a three-judge panel from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit convened to hear oral arguments in the Prop 8 case. The judges grilled attorneys on both sides, but marriage equality advocates said they were encouraged by the hearing. A ruling is expected next year, but the case likely will end up at the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, two lawsuits challenging the federal Defense of Marriage Act went to trial in Massachusetts this year, and in both cases, DOMA came out the loser. Those cases are also now on appeal.

In Texas, Attorney General Greg Abbott continued his crusade against same-sex divorce. In a Dallas case, Abbott's office won a victory in May when a state appeals court overturned a judge's decision to grant a same-sex divorce. Abbott's appeal of another divorce in Austin is pending.

Meanwhile, transgender issues and LGBT marriage rights collided in July as Houston trans woman Nikki Araguz found herself going up

against her in-laws, following the death of her husband, volunteer firefighter Thomas Araguz. Araguz's family and former wife claimed his marriage to Nikki was invalid because she was born a biological male, and that all his benefits legally should go to them instead of Nikki. The case is awaiting trial.

And Texas would make big marriage news again in November, when a gay couple from Dallas announced they'd been legally married without leaving the state. Mark Reed-Walkup and Dante Walkup held their wedding ceremony at the W-Dallas hotel, but it was officiated via Skype from Washington, D.C., where same-sex marriage is legal. A few weeks later, D.C. officials declared the marriage invalid. The couple later physically traveled to D.C. and got married again. They've also renewed a complaint against The Dallas Morning News for refusing to publish their wedding announcement.

Elsewhere, Illinois became the sixth state to approve civil unions. In Hawaii, the legislature approved a bill allowing same-sex civil unions, but Republican Gov. Linda Lingle vetoed it. Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty vetoed a bill that would have given same-sex partners control over the disposition of their partners' remains after death, because he supports "traditional marriage." Wisconsin's Supreme Court upheld that state's gay marriage ban.

Internationally, Portuguese President Anabel Cavaco Silva signed into law legislation that allows same-sex marriage. Argentina's legislature approved a bill legalizing gay marriage, and President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner quickly signed it into law.

— Tammye Nash

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Bus driver's plight led to trans protections at DART

5 Ever since Democrats took over the Dallas County courthouse in 2006, judges here have been routinely granting gender-marker changes — court orders that allow transgender people to obtain driver's licenses and other forms of ID that match their appearance.

Needless to say, this has been a critical development for the transgender community, but as it turns out, even with Democrats in power, gender-marker changes don't always go smoothly.

In one controversial case uncovered by Dallas Voice in February, an employer tried to intervene in family court to challenge an employee's gender-marker change, prompting a Democratic judge who was considered a strong LGBT ally to overturn her decision to grant it.

The employer was Dallas Area Rapid Transit, the judge was Lynn Cherry, and this newspaper's report about the case prompted an outcry from LGBT advocates.

After all, if DART was willing to intervene in family court to challenge an employee's gender-marker change, would the agency do the same if it didn't agree with a divorce settlement or a child custody arrangement?

DART offered no good explanation as to why it had sought to intervene in the case, leaving the LGBT community to believe the decision was fueled by bigotry and transphobia. And LGBT advocates demanded that the agency redeem itself by adding gender identity to its nondiscrimination policy.

The employee in the case, a longtime DART bus driver who asked not to be identified, said the agency's decision to challenge her gender-marker change was the culmination of years of discrimination and harassment on the part of the agency.

DART had added sexual orientation but not gender identity to its nondiscrimination policy in 1995.

After meetings between representatives from DART and Resource Center Dallas, the proposal

to add gender identity appeared to be on a fast track for approval when it unanimously cleared a committee in April.

But suddenly in May, despite the fact that the amendment had been under review for months, the agency's Board of Directors voted to table it so they could seek more information about the definition of gender identity.

Then, following a 30-minute, possibly illegal closed-door session in mid-June, the board hastily approved new language that effectively gutted the proposal.

The new language said the agency wouldn't discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity, "except to the extent permitted by federal and/or Texas law."

Because there are no federal or state protections for LGBT workers, legal experts said the new language would've not only undermined the trans protections, but also rescinded DART's sexual orientation protections from 15 years ago.

The LGBT community was outraged anew and even more galvanized than ever over the issue.

Claude Williams, an LGBT ally on the DART board, accused the agency's attorneys of "duping" board members into supporting the new language. Incidentally, it was these same attorneys who'd sought to challenge the employee's gender marker change.

Finally, on June 22, Williams and other allies on the DART board put forth a motion to remove the language that would've gutted the proposal, and to approve it as previously written — with both gay and transgender protections in tact.

Faced with immense pressure from the LGBT community, the board unanimously approved the motion — and received a standing ovation from what was the largest LGBT audience to attend a government meeting in North Texas since Fort Worth City Council meetings in the wake of the Rainbow Lounge raid.

— John Wright

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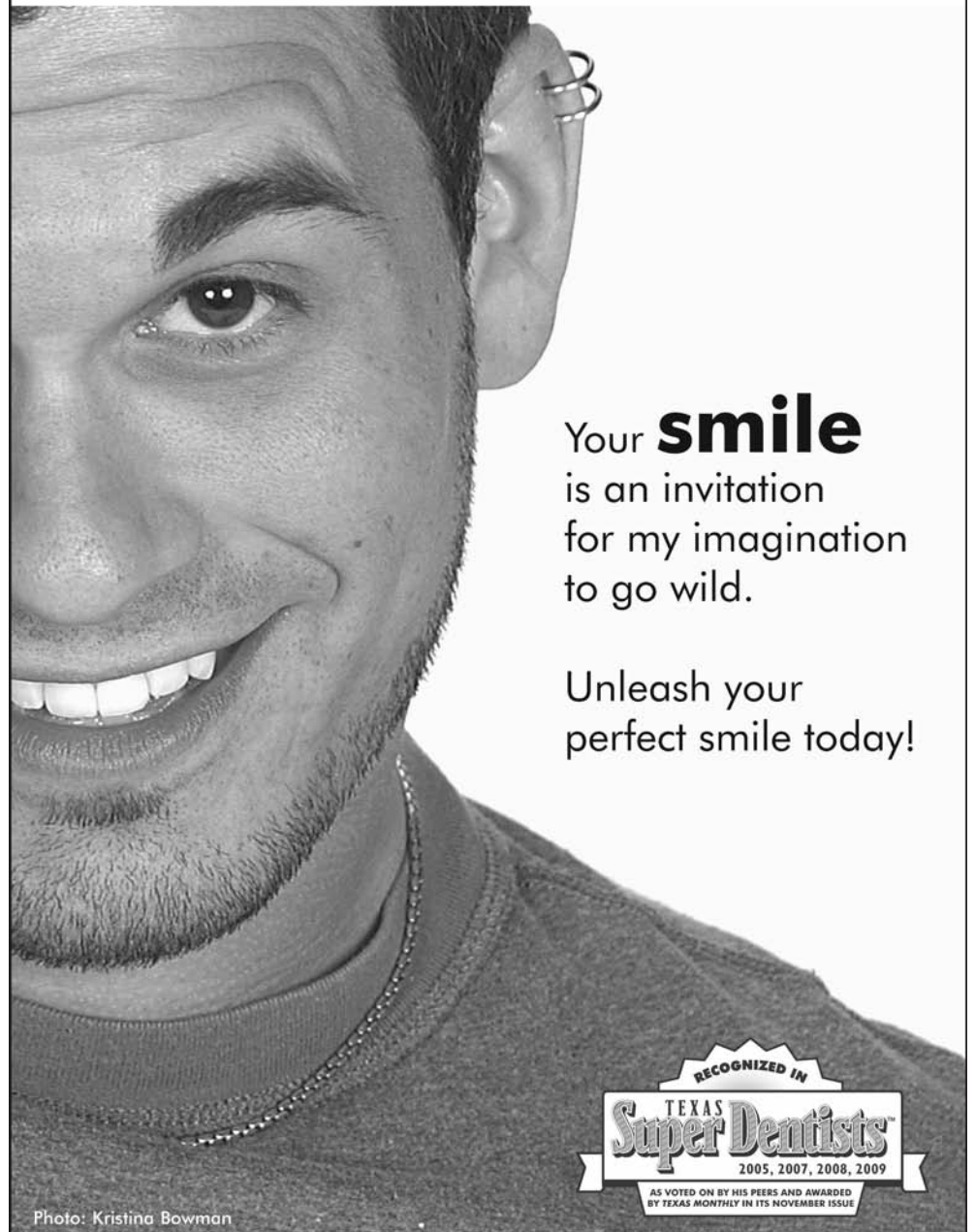
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Controversy brewed success for 'TOTWK'

6. Gay Dallas filmmaker Israel Luna has been building his reputation behind the camera since he wrote and directed his first feature film, *Str8 Up*, in 2001. His subsequent films — including *The Deadbeat Club*, *RU Invited* and *Fright Flick* — secured his place in the Dallas filmmaking community and made him a regular on the independent film festival circuit.

But it wasn't until the early part 2010 and the release of his latest, the "transploitation" flick *Ticked-Off Trannies with Knives*, that Luna got a taste of the kind of fame that filmmakers long for. And it was due, in large part, to the protests of an angry transgender activist with nothing good to say about either Luna or his movie.

If Luna wanted attention, he got it, especially from local trans activist Kelli Busey, who at first protested the use of the word "trannies" — a word considered by many to be a pejorative term for trans women — but soon expanded her objections to include the movie's content, which includes have trans women who have been bashed taking their revenge in a most brutal fashion.

Busey, who acknowledged never having watched the movie and refused Luna's invitations to attend a screening, said the film painted trans women as psychotic killers who all have silly names, engage in campy dialog and work as "drag" performers. She said the film's transphobic attitude was a reflection of Luna's — and many gay men's — own transphobia.

When, in mid-March, Luna announced that *TOTWK* had been chosen for the prestigious TriBeCa Film Festival in New York, Busey turned to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation for help in spreading protests against the film. GLAAD soon called for a boycott of Luna's movie, and called on officials with TriBeCa to rescind their invitation.

TriBeCa officials responded with a reasonably polite but thoroughly firm "no" to GLAAD's demands, and screenings of *TOTWK* at the festival not only drew sell-

out crowds but received, for the most part, positive reviews — despite protests staged outside the screenings by transgender activists.

In June, Fort Worth's Q Cinema film fest also screened *TOTWK*, and again, the movie drew protesters, this time led by Busey herself.

Yet again, though, the screenings sold out, and Q Cinema organizers put together a panel discussion of trans issues after one of them.

The panel included Fort Worth trans woman Tori Van Fleet who had initially agreed with Busey and was opposed to the movie.

Van Fleet, however, agreed to watch the movie before forming an opinion, and she came out of the first Q Cinema screening as a fan of both *TOTWK* and filmmaker Luna.

Luna's movie went on to win spots in numerous festivals — including Seattle International Film Festival, Philadelphia Q Fest and Telluride Horror Shows — and audience favorite awards at many of those screenings.


As icing on the cake, in late July Luna reached a distribution deal with Breaking Glass Pictures that put the film on even more big screens through a limited theatrical run of midnight screenings that began in October, and a DVD release in November.

Earlier in the year, Busey turned her attention to an eventually successful effort to convince Dallas Area Rapid Transit to extend protections to its transgender workers, and she continues her trans advocacy online.

— Tammye Nash

UNDER ATTACK | Director Israel Luna, center, is shown with Jenna Skyy, left, and Krystal Summers, two of the stars of his *Ticked-Off Trannies with Knives*.







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Perry, Dewhurst were tied to cancellation of gay-themed play at Tarleton

7 A Tarleton State University student's choice to present a play with gay content for his theater directing class stirred controversy in the local community.

Tarleton State is in Stephenville, 70 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

John Jordan Otte, a junior, was assigned to choose a play meaningful to him to direct for his theater class. He selected Terrence McNally's *Corpus Christi*.

A 45-minute excerpt from the play was scheduled to be performed on March 27 along with selections from three other plays directed by other students in his class in a theater that held just 95 people. The public was never invited to attend.

Corpus Christi has a modern Texas setting and depicts a gay man whose life parallels that of Jesus. The character, named Joshua, performs a same-sex wedding.

When the community heard about the play, they flooded the school with complaints. Alumni threatened to withhold donations. Otte was denounced from local pulpits.

At first, Tarleton President F. Dominic Dottavio defended freedom of speech on his campus.

One of the actors in the play was given the choice by his parents of withdrawing from the play or getting out of the house. Otte took in his 18-year-old actor.

As the performance day approached, the time was changed from afternoon to 8 a.m. for security reasons, with only friends and family allowed to watch.

Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst entered the controversy, issuing a statement condemning the play and use of state money.

State money, however, was not being used. Otte

paid for performance rights for the play out of his own pocket.

After a final run-through, the professor canceled the production and a grade was given based on that rehearsal.

He cited safety and security reasons. Though not confirmed, several people called Dallas Voice and claimed pressure was put on the professor and on the president of the school by the governor's office.

Rachel Dudley, a student reporter at Tarleton State, connected Gov. Rick Perry to the controversy when she obtained a copy of note from Steven Hotze, who heads a group of clergy in Houston that had been one of Mayor Annise Parker's biggest detractors.

"We also owe a debt of gratitude to Governor Perry for his behind the scenes work to stop the play at Tarleton State. Ray Sullivan, the Governor's Chief of Staff, was notified of the play on

Thursday and after discussing it with the Governor, the necessary steps were taken to ensure that its performance was canceled," said the note from Hotze.

In response, Cathedral of Hope brought a national touring company of Corpus Christi to Dallas. QCinema, which started a live performance group, promises a production in Fort Worth next year.

—David Taffet

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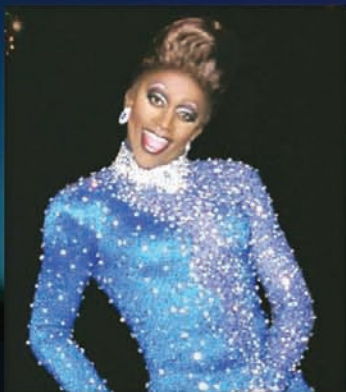
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Dallas Pride Cheer



Stacy McKinney



SheGotta Moustache



Brandi Amara Skyy



Chris Tina Foxx Bruce



Ima Lush



Victoria Weston



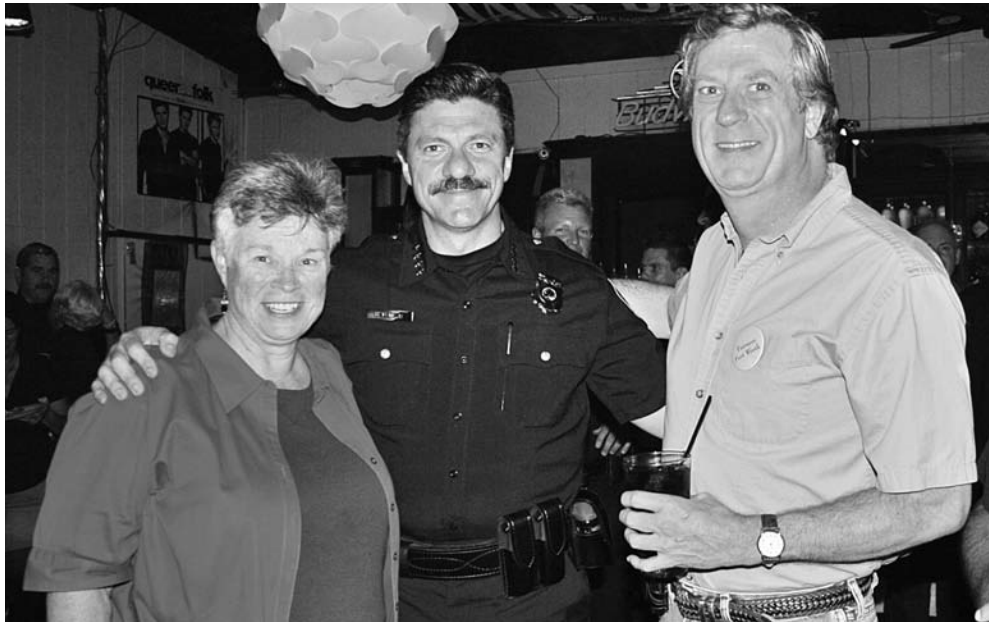
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FROM PROTEST TO PARTY | The Rev. Carol West, left, and David Mack Henderson, right, both of Fairness Fort Worth, are shown with Police Chief Jeffrey Halstead during a barbecue at the Rainbow Lounge on June 28 to mark the one-year anniversary of the raid. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

FW changes continued in wake of Rainbow Lounge

8. When the Fort Worth Police Department and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage raided the Rainbow Lounge on June 28, 2009 — the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion — it sparked outrage around the world and enough headlines to fill newspapers for the rest of the year.

But the story didn't end with 2009, as repercussions from the raid continued this year.

Publicity from the raid undoubtedly helped punch up business for the Rainbow Lounge, enough so that by January, the bar's owner, J.R. Schrock, announced that he had a second bar — Percussions — in the works, as well as a third club and possibly a fourth.

In February — despite acknowledgments from both TABC and FWPd that the raid should never have happened — officials with the Fort Worth city attorney's office said they were going ahead with efforts to prosecute those arrested in the raid, including Chad Gibson, the young man who suffered a lasting brain injury while in TABC custody.

One of Fort Worth police Chief Jeff Halstead's first acts after the raid was to appoint openly gay officer Sara Straten as his department's first full-time liaison to the LGBT community.

On June 28, as a way of highlighting the progress the city had made in the year since the raid and improved relations between the police department and the LGBT community, Rainbow Lounge held a party attended by Halstead, Straten and many of the officers who patrol the area in which the bar is located.

Despite the progress though, in July anti-gay forces packed the City Council chambers to once again protest the council's vote the previous November to amend Fort Worth's nondiscrimination

ordinance to offer protections to transgenders and other initiatives proposed by the City Manager's Diversity Task Force.

At the end of the public comments section of the meeting, Mayor Mike Moncrief told the crowd that while "there is room for all of us" in Fort Worth, "What's in the Bible or what isn't in the Bible, that's not our job. Our job is to maintain the quality of life in our city, and that's what this [diversity] training is all about."

As the year continued, more examples of the changes in the city emerged: The police department reached out to the LGBT community in looking for new recruits. Halstead announced plans to start a hate crimes unit. The annual Tarrant County gay Pride celebration expanded, adding a block party and holding a parade and picnic far larger than in years past.

In September, the council quietly approved adding domestic partner benefits for lesbian and gay city employees, and in mid-November, the city attorney's office announced that all charges against those arrested in the raid were being dropped.

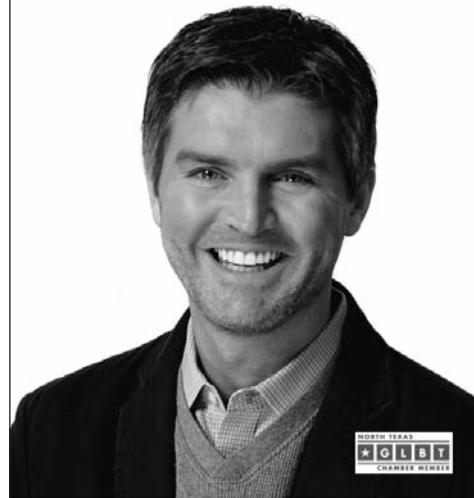
Perhaps one of the most welcome results of the Rainbow Lounge raid, however, was the emergence and continued growth of Fairness Fort Worth.

Formed quickly in the wake of the raid to offer assistance to witnesses who wanted to testify during investigations into the raid, the group has morphed into an active LGBT advocacy organization complete with officers and a strategy for the future — filling a void that has long existed in Tarrant County's LGBT community.

— Tammye Nash

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Dallasites helped fuel GetEQUAL

9 Dallas activists have played key roles in GetEQUAL, which has quickly become one of the most influential national LGBT direct action organizations since ACT-UP.

According to its website, GetEQUAL's mission is "to empower the LGBTQ community and our allies to take bold action to demand full legal and social equality, and to hold accountable those who stand in the way."

The group was founded on March 11 by Robin McGehee and Kip Williams — organizers of last year's National Equality March — as an alternative to other groups such as the Human Rights Campaign.

Mark Reed-Walkup, a Dallas business owner who also helped organize the National Equality March, now serves on the board for GetEQUAL, which gained nonprofit status in June. In May, Reed-Walkup became the third activist from Dallas to be arrested at demonstrations organized by GetEQUAL. He was arrested along with five others for chaining himself to the White House fence in a protest to demand a repeal of "don't ask don't tell."

On March 18, Dallas activists Chastity Kirven and Michael Robinson had been arrested — Robinson in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Washington office and Kirven in Pelosi's San Francisco office — during protests to demand a vote on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

This same day, Lt. Dan Choi handcuffed himself to the White House fence in his first protest of DADT as part of GetEQUAL's new direct action campaign. Choi was discharged from the Army under DADT.



SPEAKING UP | GetEQUAL board member Mark Reed-Walkup of Dallas uses a megaphone to get his message across outside Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's Dallas office last week during a protest of her vote against repealing 'don't ask, don't tell.' (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

Local members of Get Equal also organized several actions in Dallas.

They held an ENDA rally outside the Dallas office of Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. They also protested outside ExxonMobil Corp.'s shareholders meeting at the Meyerson in June, and at Oak Lawn-area service stations.

Last week, Get EQUAL Texas held rallies outside Hutchison's offices across the state to protest her vote against repealing DADT.

Reed said GetEQUAL is just beginning to organize chapters in all 50 states and should become more active in Texas in 2010.

— From staff reports

Rare bathhouse raid sparked controversy

10 When Dallas vice officers raided The Club Dallas on Oct. 8 for the first time in recent memory, it made national news and gave rise to some conspiracy theories. Some said the raid was part of a city effort to shut down the gay bathhouse to make way for redevelopment around a new DART rail station, which sits directly adjacent to the 34-year-old establishment at 2616 Swiss Ave. in Deep Ellum. Others said the raid was politically motivated since it came just before a major election, as such crackdowns have historically tended to do. Still others, of course, felt it was an example of law enforcement targeting the gay community.

But the Dallas Police Department, in a rare statement issued by the vice unit several days later, said the raid was conducted in response to a complaint from a citizen. "The Dallas Police Department is charged with the duty of investigating, enforcing, and responding to citizen complaints regarding sexually oriented businesses throughout the city," the statement read in part. "The Vice Unit is committed to being responsive to community concerns and thus, conducts its investigations in an equitable and just manner."

Indeed, records obtained by Dallas Voice through a Freedom of Information request confirm that an unidentified person made a complaint to police about the club on Oct. 5. Three days later, on a Friday night, plainclothes vice officers purchased day memberships, rented private rooms and changed into towels. Then they went into the common areas of the business and observed patrons engaged in sex acts, according to police reports.

After uniformed officers were called in, police arrested seven patrons on charges of public lewdness and three on charges of indecent exposure. They also arrested a manager for interfering with police after he refused to let in the uniformed officers, who eventually forced open a door.

Club members and others accused the Police Department of harassment and intimidation. They also argued that raiding the gay bathhouse would only drive men looking for sex into parks and public restrooms.

The Club Dallas bailed its members out of jail and said it would provide attorneys.

Meanwhile, according to police records, the person who made the complaint called back on Oct. 13 and asked authorities to raid the business again. Despite the second complaint, vice officers haven't returned to Club Dallas.

— John Wright

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More snapshots from 2010

Jan. 4
Annis Parker sworn in as Houston mayor



Jan. 7
Liz Mikel loses everything in fire

Jan. 29
AT&T denies Family Medical Leave to gay employee **Bryan Dickenson**



Feb. 3
Redacted Rainbow Lounge report released

Feb. 4-7
Creating Change Conference held in Dallas

Feb. 19
Employee accuses DART of transphobia

March 13
HRC backs Bill White for governor of Texas



March 18
Cd Kirven and Michael Robinson arrested in GetEqual protests

March 27
"Corpus Christi" performance cancelled at Tarleton State

April 1
Census day. Same-sex couples can self-identify as married

April 6
GetEQUAL demonstrates for ENDA at Kay Bailey Hutchison's office



April 14
International Peace Chapel topped off



April 21
Gay divorce case appeal heard



April 27
Tin Room owner **Marty Hershner** dies

May 1
Immigration Mega March held in Dallas



May 10
Mike McKay resigns from RCD



May 14
2 men injured in Oak Lawn hate crime

May 25
Carol West named Kuchling Award winner



June 1
Como neighborhood votes to keep Samaritan House out

June 27
Stonewall March takes Pride downtown



July 1
Cece Cox named RCD executive director



July 8
Police begin search for **Lisa Stone**

July 8
Fred Phelps protests Congregation Beth El Binah at Resource Center

July 11
Round-Up Saloon turns 30

July 13
Obama administration releases new national AIDS policy

July 23-24
Lady Gaga performs in Dallas and stops by the Round-Up Saloon



Aug. 4
Judge Vaughn Walker rules Prop 8 unconstitutional

Aug. 27
St. Vincent's rejects lesbian couple's daughter



Aug. 30
Doug Tull shot in Oak Lawn

Aug. 31
AIDS Outreach Center closes Arlington office

Aug. 31
Appellate court issues gay divorce ruling

Sept. 19
Erin Moore and Paul Lewis are grand marshals of **Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade**



Sept. 21
Fort Worth approves partner benefits for city employees

Sept. 23
Asher Brown of H.ouston commits suicide after being bullied



Sept. 26
10th annual **Lone Star Ride**

Oct. 3
Tarrant County Pride Parade

Oct. 3
20th annual **LifeWalk**



Oct. 10
Tarrant County Pride Picnic

Oct. 12
Joel Burns delivers anti-bullying speech to Fort Worth city council

Oct. 14
Rally at North Dallas High School for trans teen **Andy Moreno**

Oct. 16
Rally for safe schools at Lake Cliff Park

Nov. 2
GOP rides election wave. Dallas remains blue

Nov. 6
Tammy Baldwin and Chely Wright appear at the Black Tie Dinner



Nov. 16
Bush library groundbreaking and protest

Nov. 17
Phyllis Frye becomes first transgender judge in Texas

Nov. 21
Transgender Day of Remembrance



Nov. 22
Study says Truvada helps stop spread of HIV

Dec. 1
Pentagon report says most in military have no problem with lesbian and gay soldiers

Dec. 1
World AIDS Day



Dec. 9
Repeal "don't ask, don't tell" protest held on Cedar Springs

Dec. 16
Questions arise over Fort Worth trans ordinance

Dec. 18
"Don't ask, don't tell" repealed by Congress. Obama signs bill four days later.

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■ SUICIDES, From Page 1

Finally, there was Zach Harrington, 19, of Norman, Okla. Harrington's family said the young man had attended a Sept. 28 City Council meeting that included a public hearing on a resolution to recognize October as LGBT history month. A number of residents attended to speak out against the ordinance — which was eventually passed by the council — and Harrington's parents said their son was so hurt by the hateful rhetoric that seven days later he took his own life.

Gay journalist and blogger Dan Savage had already started an online video project called the "It Gets Better Campaign," in which people of all ages, from rock stars and actors to government officials to other gay teens sitting in front of their computers in their bedrooms, told their own stories of overcoming struggles and surviving to see their lives get better. They urged young people considering suicide to hang on and not give up hope.

Then on Oct. 12, one week after Harrington's death, gay Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns took time during a meeting to address the issue. His voice choked and strained with emotion, tears running down his face, Burns read a speech he had scribbled down hastily during his lunch hour that day. He told of growing up gay in Crowley, Texas, and the bullying he endured, and how he, too, had come close to taking his own life.

But, Burns said, "It gets better," and he continued by talking about how he had survived and thrived, about his loving family, his husband and how wonderful his life has become.

By the next morning, video of Burns' speech had been posted to YouTube and was collecting thousands of hits. And Burns was invited to appear on *The Today Show*, *Ellen* and more. He had become the face of efforts to end the bullying and save young lives.

Around the same time, the Dallas school board began discussing how to improve its own anti-

bullying policy. Activists noted that while most of the suicides making headlines involved LGBT youth, the district's proposed new policy didn't specifically protect those young gays, lesbians and transgenders.

Meanwhile, Andy Moreno, a female transgender student at North Dallas High School, was fighting to run for homecoming queen. Moreno had been nominated by classmates, but school administrators said she couldn't run because she was officially enrolled as a boy.

Although Moreno herself said she hadn't experienced bullying by her classmates, LGBT advocates pointed out that she was being bullied by administrators because of her gender identity, and that school district policies did not specifically protect her.

On Nov. 18 the DISD board approved a fully inclusive new anti-bullying policy. Officials with the Fort Worth Independent School District announced that they, too, would be revising their policies to specifically protect LGBT teens.

As December began, State Sen. Wendy Davis of Fort Worth announced she had prefiled legislation to address bullying in the state's public schools, and that unlike a similar bill prefiled in the house by Rep. Mark Strama, her bill was fully inclusive of LGBT teens.

On Dec. 16, Equality Texas held a press conference in Austin, releasing results of a poll on LGBT rights that showed nearly 80 percent of Texans support inclusive anti-bullying legislation.

Chuck Smith, Equality Texas' deputy director, said that anti-bullying bills had been introduced in the Legislature each session since 1997 but none of the measures had ever passed. But this time, as the death toll has continued to rise and the country has been forced to acknowledge the ongoing damage, Smith said he believes inclusive anti-bullying legislation has its best chance ever of passing in Texas.

— Tammye Nash

Deaths

Debie Denise Hackett, 40, died on Dec. 24. She was a therapist living in Dallas. She is survived by her parents, Ben and Ginger Hackett of Richardson; her brother and sister-in-law, Danny and Wendy Burks; and nephews Josh and Daniel of Whitewright, Texas. Friends and family will gather to remember her on Sunday, Jan. 2 at 3 p.m. at First United Lutheran Church, 6202 E. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas, in the back building separate from the main chapel.

Daniel Bennett Keenan of Dallas died peacefully at his home on Dec. 15. He was 55.

Dan was the son of William E. Keenan and the late Sue B. Keenan of Charlotte, N.C. He was born in Tulsa, Okla., and moved with his family to Houston in 1961. There he attended Bunker Hill Elementary, Memorial Junior High, and Memorial High School and was a member with his family of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. He was active in Boy Scout Troop 703m where he became an Eagle Scout and senior patrol leader of the troop and twice participated in Rocky Mountain adventure camping at Philmont Scout Ranch in

New Mexico.

After graduation from the University of Texas, Austin, with a degree in marketing, he earned a Master of Business Administration from St. Edwards University, Austin. He subsequently joined Southwest Bell Telephone Co. in its computer services department in Houston and after Southwest's merger with AT&T transferred to Dallas. He retired earlier in 2010.

Dan is survived by his sister, Kathleen Keys and husband Dennis Keys of Dallas; brother, James E. Keenan and wife Becky of Charlotte, N.C.; sister, Allison and partner Lee of Durham, N.C.; father William E. Keenan of Charlotte; partner Daniel B. Campos of Paris, France; and daughters, Elise and Laura.

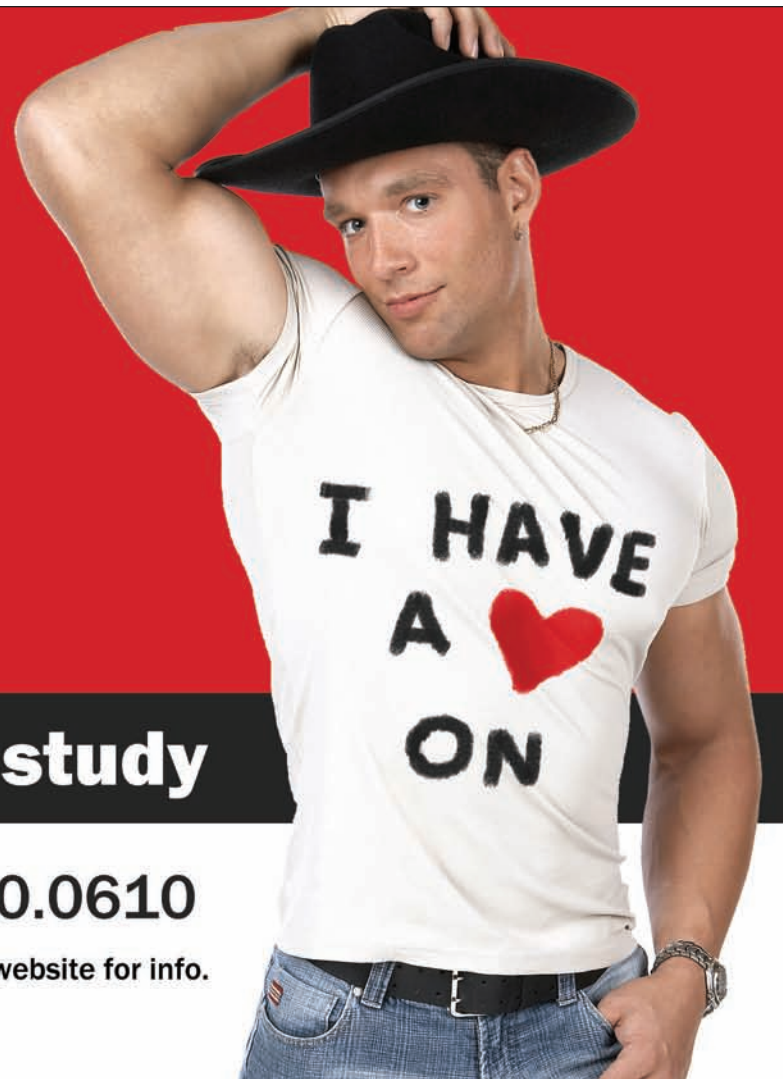
The family will celebrate Dan's life with a private gathering. Those who wish to offer a memorial gift in his name are urged to consider A Sister's Gift, 1515 N. Town East Blvd.#138-380, Mesquite, TX 75150 (www.asistersgift.org); Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, 8585 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75247; or a church or charity of the giver's choice.

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Thanks for an amazing year at RCD

LGBT, HIV communities should be prepared for new challenges in 2011

What a year! Who could have predicted all the twists and turns it has taken, or the events that galvanized our country and united our communities?

So much happened in 2010 involving Resource Center Dallas, and none of it could have occurred without the strong support of the HIV/AIDS and LGBT communities in North Texas.

Looking back, I am filled with gratitude and wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you. Here's what you helped us accomplish:

- Dallas Area Rapid Transit expanded its nondiscrimination policy to include gender identity, in the wake of news stories about the discrimination experienced by a transgender bus driver;
- RCD joined forces with the Kaiser Family Foundation, Dallas County Health and Human Services, and AIDS ARMS to bring the "Greater than AIDS" campaign to Dallas, highlighting services available to people living with HIV/AIDS and promoting HIV prevention;
- DFW International Airport expanded its nondiscrimination policy to include sexual orientation and gender identity, following a request from RCD and Fairness Fort Worth;
- A fundraising counterprotest against a "church" from Kansas brought out hundreds of community members in a rainstorm and netted more than \$11,000 to buy a new ice maker for our HIV/AIDS clients' hot lunch program;
- Following advocacy by RCD, Lambda Legal, LULAC and a coalition of other community groups, the Dallas Independent School District adopted a first-of-its-kind-in-Texas comprehensive, enumerative antibullying policy that covers not only LGBT students, but all students;
- We partnered with 138 community groups, including the Tarrant County Health Department and the Urban League of Greater Dallas, in the "Stomp Out Syphilis" campaign; administered over 3,100 HIV tests; and delivered HIV prevention messages to more than 8,600 people;
- We completed diversity training for all 700-plus employees of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage



HELL FREEZES OVER | A member of the Phelps clan from Westboro Baptist Church protests outside Resource Center Dallas in July. A counterprotest fundraiser organized by RCD netted more than \$11,000 to buy a new ice maker for the agency's hot lunch program. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

commission statewide — the first time a state agency conducted this training for all its employees;

• And, we served more than 21,500 weekday lunches and provided about 29,000 visits to our food pantry for our HIV/AIDS clients in 2010 — distributing more than 350 tons of groceries.

These accomplishments, funded while the economy remained sluggish and both the need and demand for our services continued to increase, show the generous nature and support of our communities and allies. Each and every one of you who got involved deserves recognition and a deep, sincere thank you — especially the more than 1,100 people who volunteered at RCD in 2010.

As we stand on the cusp of another year, we do not know what opportunities for change will be presented. Clearly, the political landscape has shifted, and the new realities in Washington and Austin will provide opportunities and challenges for the LGBT and HIV communities.

One key area — funding for ADAP (AIDS drug assistance programs), medical care and social services for people living with HIV — will be an issue for Texas lawmakers already grappling with a large budget deficit.

The movement toward marriage equality will continue in the federal courts, as well as state legislatures. Even though "don't ask, don't tell" is coming to an end, work needs to be done so that gay and lesbian members of the military can

serve openly — and, there remains a prohibition on openly transgender members of the armed services.

Over the past year, the LGBT and HIV communities responded to issues as they developed. We made phone calls, wrote letters, spoke truth to power, and rallied. We donated our time to organizations quietly and without thought of recognition. We sent our dollars in to provide economic support to organizations that share our values, focus and interests.

What 2010 teaches us is that we must be ready to meet whatever challenges we encounter. Resource Center Dallas will be there, engaged on behalf of not only our communities but all North Texans. We'll continue to develop partnerships across the region, because the issues of HIV, discrimination and equality don't respect city limits or county lines. And, we'll be turning to the communities again for your help and support.

Playwright and author Thornton Wilder reminds us, "We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."

Throughout this year, you and our work with and for you kept us fully alive and conscious of our shared treasure. For that, and the opportunity you offer us to serve you and our communities, Resource Center and I say thank you. And Happy New Year!

Rafael McDonnell is strategic communications and programs manager at Resource Center Dallas.



RAFAEL McDONNELL
Special contributor

Speak Out poll

How would you rate 2010 for LGBT equality?
CAST YOUR VOTE ONLINE AT DALLASVOICE.COM

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Does ENDA stand a chance of passing in the next two years?
• Yes: 38 percent 69 votes
• No: 55 percent
• Undecided: 7 percent cast

Feedback

Make activism your resolution

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas would like to thank all the activists and organizations in the LGBT community, as well as our allies, for helping end "don't ask, don't tell."

President Barack Obama for the second year in a row has signed historic LGBT legislation that secures our rights and permanently places our existence in America's federal laws.

Last year's Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 are just the beginning.

We at Stonewall Democrats will work hard in 2011 to push forward our community's other priorities, including a fully inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act, and passage the Uniting American Families Act.

We hope that many in the LGBT community consider activism and voting as part of their New Year's resolutions.

We look forward to engaging the community throughout 2011 with monthly voter registration booths on the Cedar Springs strip, at Lobby Day in Austin on March 7, and at voting locations on May 14 when we elect city council members throughout North Texas.

Stay involved. Our job is not done. Let's work together to make it happen.

*Omar Narvaez, President-Elect
Stonewall Democrats of Dallas*

Why no DADT repeal on front page?

I don't get it!

The Dallas Voice is the "premier" LGBT newspaper yet when it came to our country's biggest pro-gay statement to date, the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," you choose to make it more of a side-story rather than the biggest story of the year?

Don't get me wrong, I am all for a Person of the Year, and I couldn't agree more with your choice, Joel Burns.

I was moved to tears hearing him and remembering my own childhood bully issues, but making this the biggest story on your cover and pushing the repeal of DADT to the side was, for the lack of finding a more appropriate word to fit, stupid.

The ONLY story that should have made your cover last week was the repeal of DADT! You did have one more week to run the Person of the Year story, this week, and no one would have batted an eyelash.

I am willing to bet you are getting a lot of similar complaints, and hopefully you will make it right with your next issue. The repeal of DADT is a huge step forward for the LGBT community to reach full acceptance in our society. The Dallas Voice should be the "premier" place to hear about it!

Drew Pierson, Dallas

On 'LGBT Person of Year: Joel Burns'

A little over a year ago, I made an announcement at my church. My son needed a medical device, costing thousands of dollars that was not being covered by insurance. After the announcement I left the sanctuary to prepare for the RE class I taught, missing the adult service completely. Several months later, our board president mentioned in conversation, that the guest speaker had donated his speaker's fee to my son's fund. That guest speaker was none other than our church's district's city council member, Joel Burns. I had never even met the man but he felt compelled to help. I am grateful for the support and can personally affirm that Joel Burns is the generous, gracious, committed person that everyone says he is.

Sara Munoz, via DallasVoice.com

On, 'Razzle Dazzle a done deal'

Hmmm. The previous article spoke of a week-long event that would also include "family" activities which would do wonders for the community so that the Bible thumpers would not see this as a bunch of sweaty men droning on the beat (nothing wrong with that, as I like sweaty men), but a Sunday picnic/barbeque with kids activities would be a great addition.

Looks like the little kiddies of LGBT and allies have been left out not to mention the pets!

I went to the Convention Center, old Dallas auto pound, Fair Park and Market Center. The

best for me was Fair Park with the bus transport with blacked out windows and men in underwear passing out "brownies."

All fun times but I stopped going when the scandal broke about the "organizers" pocketing the money and "investing" in small apartment buildings in the Oak Lawn area (one still standing on Cedar Springs). Enjoy!

Brownies on a Bus, via DallasVoice.com

On, 'Hate crime reported in Austin'

I have lived in Austin for 6 years now and I love this city. As an obviously queer woman I haven't had too much trouble. But please people remember that this is still Texas and that this kind of thing can happen anywhere right now. We have made a lot of news and things are getting better for us but that also creates a backlash of those that would like us all back in the closet. Those that are against us know where to find us and Austin's 4th St. is one of those places. Please don't get too comfortable anywhere as a human being or as a gay person. Be out, be proud, be aware. I am so sorry that the community outside of Rain did not stand up for its brothers. I would hope that if I were there I would have helped. The only way that we can make a true difference is to stand up for each other. I am sending all my love and prayers to my brothers that went through this. May we all be a part of making this world better for the next generation.

suzyQ, via DallasVoice.com

What's your New Years resolution?

Jason A Walker — "I made a resolution last year to stop making resolutions and I kept it all year. First time I've ever done that."

Felipe Gutierrez — "To join the Air Force Reserves."

Paul Phelps — "Lose weight and not shop too much."

Jibril Salami — "To become better as a person and better myself. But I have so many, that's just one of em!"

Latisha McDaniel — "To stay consistent with the workout regimen."

Ivan Rowe Watson — "To become more of a well-rounded person."

Chris Yannacone — "Drop some holiday weight."

*Have a suggestion for a question you'd like us to ask?
E-mail it to nash@dallasvoice.com.*



e-mail: EditorialCartoon@QSyndicate.com

Twitter resolutions

We look at 2011 resolutions through the eyes (and tweets) of queer celebs

We know celebrities are busy, but somehow they are never too busy to pop out a tweet. Whether it's to promote world peace, equal rights or simply themselves, celebs know the power of a good Twitter feed.

We scoured the feeds of various LGBT celebs and allies to see what they have in mind for 2011. Some started their 140-character resolutions for the New Year. Others, well, haven't. That didn't stop me from re-imagining some of their older tweets from December (minus any accompanying tiny URLs), nor did it stop me from either replying (@celeb) or retweeting (RT) from my own feed (indicated under theirs in italics). Because you know they'll read it — or at least the person they've hired to manage it will (@theellenshow).

— Rich Lopez (@GetRichinDallas)

What's happening?

Timeline @Mentions Retweets Searches Lists

JAY BRANNAN, orally gifted indie movie actor and musician (@Jaybrannan)

My NewYear's res for2010 was2have a bf by the end of the year. Fail. I give up. In 2011 I accept I will b alone4ever. Just me n the Griffins.

@jaybrannan There's probably a song in there somewhere. #justsaying

CAZWELL, sexy musician and viral video hunk (@Cazwellnyc)

Thanks to everyone that gave me bong smoking advice. Too bad I'm too faded to follow any of them.

Did @xMileyCyrus offer any suggestions RT @Cazwellnyc Thanks to everyone that gave me bong smoking advice...

CHELY WRIGHT, recently outed country singer (@Chelywright)

Faith in America invites Christian university to join public dialogue about religion-based bigotry toward gay [students]

@chelywright I totally mentioned this like you asked in my article. But you couldn't get me in to Black Tie? #burn #ouch

CHI CHI LARUE, porn director and spin doctor (@DJChiChiLaRue)

@GetRichinDallas I will try to curb my shopping addiction in 2011 And try not to fall in drag!

@DJChiChiLaRue Just keep bringing back those hot porn boys of yours. Better yet, bring the daddies! #beefcakediet

REICHEN LEHMKUHL, perennial reality TV personality and putative A-lister (@ReichenLehmkuhl)

In honor of ArmPit Wednesday (which I am officially starting right now).

@ReichenLehmkuhl Um, not sure how A-list ArmPit Wed is. Aren't those gays supposed to be kinda pristine. Fetish boys don't seem the show's type. #justsaying

JUDY TENUTA, strange comedian and self-appointed love goddess (@JudyTenuta)

I plan 2 get arrested 2 get a show. Hard cuz I'm law-abiding citizen. A sex video? Or I'll gain 500 lbs 2 b on Biggest Loser. #comeback

@JudyTenuta Please use the big hunky guy from your @LadyGaga spoof in your sex video. #beefcakediet

QUEEN LATIFAH, rap artist and Oscar nominated actress (@IAMQueenLatifah)

Happy Sunday. Cleaning out my closet. I have so many great things for people in need. Somebody is about to come up!

@IAMQUEENLATIFAH Come up? Girl, don't you mean come out? #typo

ANDERSON COOPER, silver fox news hunk and Kathy Griffin New Year's Eve sidekick

(@Anderson cooper)

I threw out my back working out. An old spine injury that has flared up. I can walk but it hurts a lot. I'm getting old.

I know that feeling! #hayyyyy RT @andersoncooper I can walk but it hurts a lot.

KATHY GRIFFIN, Emmy-winning D-lister and lover of "her gays" (@Kathygriffin)

Live on CNN w Anderson Cooper. How gorgeous is YOUR date?RT @OkKaiser: @kathygriffin, what's ur New Years Eve plans? #CNN

@kathygriffin Not sure if @andersoncooper can still be your date. He "threw his back out." #newyearsve

MARGARET CHO, queermedial and failed Bristol Palin dance rival (@Margarecho)

There's something about a bidet that is so invigorating and soothing. Instead of coffee — wash your hole!!

@margarecho Thought you said wash your hole with coffee. Taking this off my resolutions #scaldedlining

TWEETS FOR 2011 | Queer celebs who gave us some 140-character food for thought while beginning the new year include, left: Margaret Cho, Cazwell, Jay Brannan; and right: Queen Latifah, Reichen Lehmkuhl, Kathy Griffin and Chely Wright.



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The year in entertainment

Our critics run down the best of movies, music, theater, dining and pop culture in 2010

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

1. **I Love You, Phillip Morris.** The best comedy of the year is this unlikely love story, told with open-hearted directness, about a gay conman (Jim Carrey), his boyfriend (Ewan McGregor) and their escapades in Texas during the 1990s.

2010 YEAR IN REVIEW
SCREEN

Think a gay version of *Bonnie & Clyde* with some hot sex and hysterical jokes.

Only don't. Whatever, just see it.

2. **Winter's Bone.** A girl in the Ozarks must track down her meth-dealing dad or lose her home. Without sentimentality or cloying music, it tells a tale with such visual acuity and simplicity it gobsmacks you with its beauty. Hard watching, sometimes, and excellently acted by newcomer Jennifer Lawrence and veteran Dale Dickey.

3. **The Social Network.** David Fincher makes Aaron Sorkin's complex screenplay about the founding of Facebook into the off-handed, slyly FX'd movie equivalent of a page turner, with terrific pacing, pantingly good acting by Jesse Eisenberg and Armie Hammer and a story of great relevance and psychological depth.



BEST OF THE BEST | The comedy 'I Love You, Phillip Morris,' left, was the year's most entertaining film, while 'Winter's Bone' was buoyed by a great performance by Jennifer Lawrence, below left.

4. **The King's Speech.** Hard to imagine speech lessons being cinematic, but director Tom Hooper does just that in this entrancing historical drama about King George VI (Colin Firth, who may win the Oscar denied him last year for *A Single Man*) as the stuttering monarch and Geoffrey Rush magnificent as a linguistic coach. We are quite amused.

5. **True Grit.** After the dreadful detours of *Burn After Reading* and *A Serious Man*, the Coens are back in stride with this poetic Western — not a revisionist conceit, but a straightforward character study of revenge, exceptionally well played by Jeff Bridges and newcomer Hailee Steinfeld, who should win the Oscar.

6. **The Ghost Writer.** Roman Polanski finished the editing on this film while under house arrest, which just goes to show Polanski in the worst of circumstances is better than most directors at their best. The best film from the first half of the year, it's a cagey political thriller than keeps you guessing.

7. **Scott Pilgrim versus the World.** Michael Cera's charms are wearing thin, but he squeezed out the last drips in this quirky fantasy-romance that creates its own internal world of logic. Among the best elements: Kieran Culkin as Cera's predatory gay roommate.

8. **The Kids Are All Right.** Although the story wandered down a path strewn with clichés, director Lisa Cholodenko still managed to spin it with unique and authentic moments as lesbian spouses Julianne Moore and Annette Bening contend with infidelity and a man in their lives (Mark Ruffalo, rascally and loveable) for the first time. Gay cinema has rarely been as clever and mainstream-compatible as this.

9. **Life During Wartime.** Todd Solondz's uncomfortably dark but oddly funny follow-up to his art-house hit *Happiness*, centered on three sisters and their perversely dysfunctional family, was the most cringe-inducing comedy ever that lacked a bathroom scene or Woody Allen playing a romantic scene with a teenager.



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SURPRISE, SURPRISE | 'The Kids Are All Right,' above, proved to be a hit commercially and critically, but 'Scott Pilgrim versus the World,' below, was better than its box office would indicate.

10. *My Name Is Khan* and *Un Prophete* (tie). Hard to choose between these largely foreign-language entries: *Khan*, one of the best Bollywood films ever with unexpected emotional resonance, and *Un Prophete*, a French-Muslim version of *The Godfather* that was a true epic.

Runners-up: *Kick-Ass*, *Megamind*, *The Secret in their Eyes*, *Black Swan*, *Undertow*.

Best performances of the year —

Actor: Colin Firth, *The King's Speech*; Jesse Eisenberg, *The Social Network*; Jeff Bridges, *True Grit*; Mark Wahlberg, *The Fighter*; Tommy Lee Jones, *Company Men*; James Franco, *127 Hours*; Robert Duvall, *Get Low*.

Actress: Annette Bening and Julianne Moore, *The Kids Are All Right*; Jennifer Lawrence, *Winter's Bone*; Natalie Portman, *Black Swan*.

Supporting actor: Geoffrey Rush, *The King's Speech*; Mark Ruffalo, *The Kids Are All Right*;



Armie Hammer, *The Social Network*; Christian Bale, *The Fighter*; Lucas Black, *Get Low*.

Supporting actress: Hailee Steinfeld, *True Grit*; Dale Dickey, *Winter's Bone*; Barbara Hershey and Mila Kunis, *Black Swan*; Melissa Leo, *The Fighter*.

Best non-fiction films: *Inside Job*; *Catfish*.

10 worst films of the year: *Unstoppable*; *Shutter Island*; *Splice*; *Love and Other Drugs*; *The Book of*



THE GOOD, THE BAD | The South American gay film 'Undertow,' left, just missed the top 10, while the Cruise-Diaz disaster 'Knight and Day,' above, was the year's worst movie.

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L+S year in review



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

2010 proved to be an oddly uninvolved season at the theater.

2010 YEAR IN REVIEW STAGE

The tours, even the good ones, were often retreads of past shows (I love *Avenue Q* and *Wicked*, but have seen them already — a lot) or dreadfully overproduced, crap (the unwatchable *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, the appalling *Shrek*).

Local companies tried to be creative, with mixed results. There were high points — and when they were high, they were spectacular — but mostly it was middle-of-the-road stuff and disappointing, unfulfilled promise. And when things were bad, as they were with the disastrously under-realized reinvention of *It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's Superman!* at the Dallas Theater Center, they almost made me red-faced with rage. But there was still enough to warrant a “best of” list, and here they are.

10. **August: Osage County** and 9. **Spring Awakening** (Lexus Broadway Series). The two best tours of the year were both part of the new series at the Winspear. Neither was quite as good as the New York productions, but *August*, with its epic take on the family dynamic, and *Awakening*, with its frank, modern spin on sexual yearning, made the hassles of going to the Arts District worth the effort.

8. **The Beauty Plays** (Dallas Theater Center). Give credit to the DTC for tackling three Neil LaBute plays often relegated to more “alternative” theater companies by putting them in rep in the 99-seat Wyly black box. These are uncomfortable plays to watch, with the versions of *Fat Pig* and *Reasons to Be Pretty* outlapping *The Shape of Things*, but the series itself was a welcome bit of daring programming.

7. **SubUrbia** (Upstart Productions). Taking on its second Eric Bogosian play in a year, and on



WINNER'S CIRCLE | Fort Worth's Circle Theatre managed two of the best shows of the year: 'Opus,' left, and 'Bach at Leipzig,' both of which made classical music exciting.

the heels of *This Is Our Youth*, Upstart showed an admirable facility with modern plays about aimlessness.

6. **Boom** and 5. **Charm** (Kitchen Dog Theater). Two vastly different comedies — *Boom*, a futurist tale about a gay guy wanting to repopulate the world, and *Charm*, a period piece about a feminist icon — turned basically unfunny ideas into beautiful, almost surrealist bits of whimsy.

4. **Our Town** (WaterTower Theatre). After a few disappointing seasons, WaterTower got back on track with this American classic. Defying conventional wisdom that it's an “easy” piece of sentimental tripe, director Terry Martin fathomed its iconic, homespun realism. It's a more peculiar piece than it gets credit for, and the realization here was exquisite.

3. **My Fair Lady** (Lyric Stage). The best musical on the list was Lyric Stage's gussied-up, NEA-granted, original orchestrated mounting of

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ACTOR OF THE YEAR

The stage — especially local theater — is a great medium for actors to stretch themselves. There were some strong ensembles this year, in both of the top plays, *Bach at Leipzig* (especially **Steven Pounders** and **Andy Baldwin** — and excluding the actor who played Bach himself, who missed his only cue) and *Opus*, as well as the three leads in the No. 3 show, **J. Brent Alford**, **Kimberley Whalen** and **Sonny Franks** in *My Fair Lady*. **Terry Martin** made a good Stage Manager

in *Our Town*, but it was the performances he elicited as the director from **Joey Folsom**, **Maxey Whitehead** and **Ted Wold** that stood out most. Folsom was strong, too, in *SubUrbia*. **Tina Parker** led a great cast in *Charm* with her patented wide-eyed energy.

Sometimes what most impresses you, though, is someone good in a show that doesn't deserve it. **Morgana Shaw** made *Closer to Heaven* a hoot (despite a deeply problematic script), and **Gregory Lush's** flamboyant turn in *Sherlock Holmes in the Crucifer of Blood* gave the show a jolt. **Wendy Welch** transformed the likeable revue *Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits* into the comic highlight of the fall. And the up-and-down revision of *Henry IV* was made hilarious with the return to the DTC of **Randy Moore**. **R Bruce Elliot's** interpretation of Beethoven in *33 Variations* almost saved that ram-



bling show. Almost.

But the actor who I will judge 2010 by will always be **Regan Adair**. He took on two roles in DTC's *Beauty Plays* — *Fat Pig*, where he played a conflicted yuppie (pictured above with Christina Vela), and *Reasons to Be Pretty*, as a working class lech — so vastly different you could hardly recognize him from show to show. His way with Shakespearean dialogue in *Henry IV* and his harried but touching take on Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* showed how effortlessly he can assault a variety of genres.

Adair is moving away from Dallas in 2011 — a terrible loss to our artistic community; he's been a frequent finalist on my year-end list. But even if he weren't leaving, he deserves to be recognized as the actor of the year.

— A.W.J.

one of theaterdom's crowning glories. (It's probably the best book of a musical ever written ... which you can attribute to Shaw.) Magnificently costumed and designed, and directed with panache by Cheryl Denson, it was like a time machine to 1954, and proved why Steven Jones is North Texas' finest theater producer.

2. *Bach at Leipzig* and 1. *Opus* (Circle Theatre). Fort Worth had it all over Dallas (and Irv-

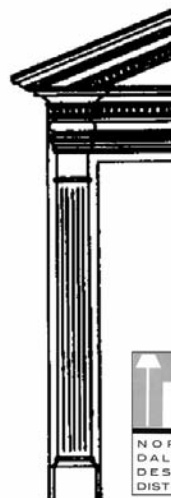


FEMINISM GONE WILD! | Tina Parker, right, played an independent woman in 19th century America in Kitchen Dog's aptly named 'Charm.'



'TOWN' WITH PITY | WaterTower's 'Our Town' was the nostalgic triumph of the fall.

ing!) with the two best shows on the year. In *Bach*, playwright Itamar Moses conceived of his play — a comedy about Baroque composers — as a theatrical fugue, and director Robin Armstrong made it happen with gorgeous sets and a cast that understands that farce is more than pie-throwing, but the melding of wordplay and swordplay in equal doses. But Circle Theatre also claimed the best show of the year, also about music, with *Opus*, in which a gay couple's breakup nearly ruins a famed string quartet. If all classical music were this enchanting, Mozart will still be on the pop charts. ■



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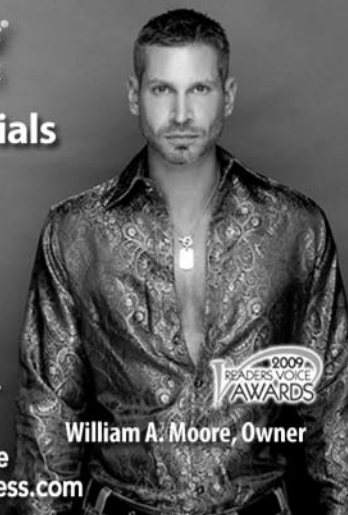
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L+S year in review

NATIONAL TREASURE | The National's 'High Violet' took dark and bleak personal tones and turned them into an 11-song poetic masterpiece, topping our music releases of 2010.

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
 lopez@dallasvoice.com

**2010 YEAR IN REVIEW
 MUSIC**

The way music flourished in so many fashions this year was not only refreshing but hopeful. With brilliant releases coming out all year long, popular genres graduated to a more enlightened state. Pop music straddled the fence of innocuous and smart, indie rock grew up a few inches and even dance music took inventive turns.

The following releases offered a spectrum of originality that respected the past and hinted at the future. But really, they just kicked my ass over and over.

1. **The National, *High Violet*** — Matt Berninger's baritone voice is super seductive and the first thing most people notice, but the band polished off rough edges while keeping their same Americana sensibilities from their previous four releases. The result was an epic album worthy of a John Steinbeck novel. *Key tracks:* "Little Faith," "Bloodbuzz Ohio."

2. **LCD Soundsystem, *This is Happening*** — A perennial fave among critics, the fusion of punk and dance never sounds as good as it does here. James Murphy, the man behind the music, ties clever and irreverent lyrics to musical constructs akin to an Escher painting. But in the album's


first track, "Dance Yrself Clean," it's like sex to music structured with minimalist foreplay, pounding rhythm and orgasmic moans. He even finishes it off with time for a cigarette. That is if your sex clocks in at eight minutes. *Other key tracks:* "Drunk Girls," "One Touch."

3. **V. V. Brown, *Travelling Like the Light*** and **Cee Lo Green, *The Lady Killer*** (tie) — Where everyone focused on Janelle Monae's brilliant debut *Archandroid*, Brown got ignored with an early 2010 release. *Light* is the ideal companion to Green's *Killer* — both with strong singers possessing the sheer force of a runaway train. Modern production over old school Stax and Motown sounds never sound contrived, but sound as fresh as ever.

4. **Robyn, *Body Talk Pt. 1*** — The singer pulled off a trilogy of pop without much effort, but the *Pt. 1* EP outshone the other two parts and even the compiled full-length. Straddling dance and electronica genres, Robyn steered clear of trivial lyrics and beats and instead made pop music her bitch. *Key tracks:* "Dancehall Queen," "Dancing on my Own."

5. **Owen Pallett, *Heartland*** — The gay singer/violinist twists his approach to avant-

■ **MUSIC**, Page 32



2010 LGBT releases

This was a big year for out artists both independent and major. In case you missed, here is a sampling of the year's top queer releases.

Antony & The Johnsons, *Thank You For Your Love EP, Swanlights*. Trans-identified Antony Hegarty helmed two releases of original material which showcased the band's lighter side.

Chely Wright, *Lifted Off the Ground*. Her first release as an out singer delivered a more folksy vein.

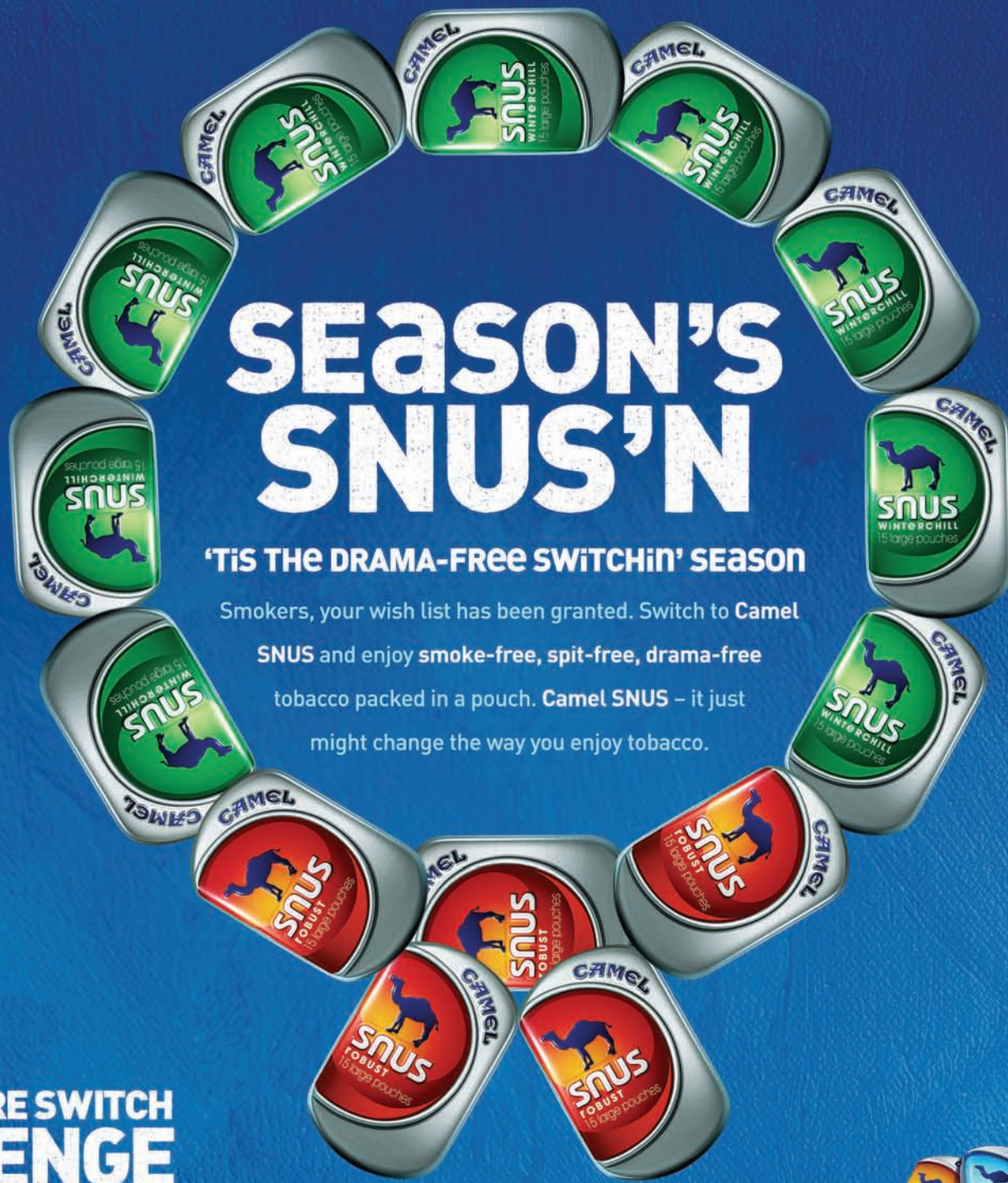
Derek & the Darling, *Rockface EP*. Derek Nicoletto's new duo dropped this quietly but made a lasting impression.

Woodpigeon, pictured, *Die Stadt Muzikanten*. Another gay Canadian strikes. Headed by out frontman Mark Hamilton, this dreamy release is a patient but worthwhile listen.

Xiu Xiu, *Dear God, I Hate Myself*. Trippy indie pop at its finest.

Chris Willis, "Louder." Dance single by possibly the gay Usher.

— Rich Lopez



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MUSIC

From Page 30

garde pop with orchestral leanings. His compositions have the quirkiness of a Tim Burton film but his voice is pristine and balances the music with a crisp elegance and cerebral lyrics. *Key tracks*: "Lewis Takes Off His Shirt," "Tryst with Mephistopheles."

6. **Best Coast**, *Crazy for You* and **Lovie**, *Because of my Mattress* (tie) — With noise pop sounds of the summery '60s, both bands dropped albums that were worthy of repeat plays. The throwback tones are effortless and the cheeriness never wears thin. In fact, they are both infectious.

7. **Girl Talk**, *All Day* — DJ Greg Gillis mashes up classic rock, hip-hop and even '80s confectations into pure aural pleasure. *Day* is like an entire party in 12 tracks and not one lets down. For anyone who questions remixing as a talent might get shut up by what Girl Talk is able to do every time.

8. **Trombone Shorty**, *Backatown* — Taking

the horn out of the usual jazz motif, Shorty blows into new dimensions of rock, funk and even punk with this debut album. Then he throws down some more with impressive trumpet and vocals. Lenny Kravitz lends his help, which is almost derailing, but otherwise, *Backatown* is stellar. *Key tracks*: "Suburbia," "The Cure."

9. **Wakey! Wakey!**, *Almost Everything I Wish I'd Said the Last Time I Saw You* — The fact that Wakey's Michael Grubbs was a regular on TV's *One Tree Hill* should put this out of the running ... if it weren't so damned charming. Despite offering radio friendly jock pop in the vein of Coldplay and Keane, Grubbs' created earnest tunes that were just slightly out of the box and the catchy hooks kept me coming back for more. *Key tracks*: "Car Crash," "Dance so Good."

10. **Gorillaz**, *Plastic Beach* — Hip-hop thrived this year with artists daring to stretch the genre into audible art. When Gorillaz collaborate with the likes of Snoop Dogg, The National Orchestra for Arabic Music and Lou Reed, the results are transcending. But it's magic when they team with Mos Def and Bobby Womack in "Stylo." ■

Front row seat: 7 best live shows

From a dive bar to a sold out sports arena, North Texas gays likely enjoyed concerts across the spectrum. A certain Lady was perhaps the highlight of the year, but smaller touring artists — and one local musician — made impressions of their own.

1. **Lady Gaga and Semi-Precious Weapons** (American Airlines). There was no doubt that Gaga would deliver the goods, and she did so decisively. The energy was insane and her vocal shout-outs to the LGBT community were not only cool, but touching. She went beyond giving a concert and offered an experience.

2. **GLBT Twist Dallas** (Lakewood Bar & Grill). Local musician SuZanne Kimbrell organized one of the best nights ever of local LGBT musicians — and perhaps the most important. A hefty lineup of seven gay or gay-friendly acts on a Wednesday outside of

Oak Lawn might sound like a no-go, but people packed the small East Dallas bar and saw that local music does have a gay voice.

3. **Cazwell** (Station 4). This show was easily underestimated. The club kid/rapper packed it in tight at Station 4 with a crowd that filled up the dance floor, the balcony and even the perches from the upstairs Granite Bar. Fans shouted and screamed for his underground dance hits — and his hunky ice cream guys didn't hurt either.

4. **Big Freedia** (The Loft). Sissy bounce came to Dallas and in big fashion. The New Orleans hip-hopster threw down in the tiny venue to an audience split between bouncing along to the party music and those with "WTF" looks on their faces. Perhaps the best part of the show was the men out-doing the women in the ass-shaking performances onstage.

5. **Jay-Z and Trey Songz** (American Airlines). Like Lady Gaga, Jay-Z turned his show into something more. Part hip-hop extravaganza, part religious experience, he kept the entire arena on its feet with hands waving in the air — like they just didn't care. Without much agenda, he straightforwardly delivered track after track slapping us in the face with pure talent and amped-up fun.

6. **Owen Pallett**, pictured (Granada Theater). With an adorable face and lanky body, Pallett is hardly the vision of rock star. Add a violin and he's borderline geeky. But he turned on a show layered with intricate playing, smart pop tunes, a gorgeous voice and quiet intensity. Think Leonardo DiCaprio in concert.

7. **Jay Brannan and Eric Himan** (The Loft). Brannan performed his acoustic set nicely, but Himan was the breakout here. He balanced Brannan's mellower show with an energetic performance. In about six songs, Himan ran the gamut, playing with the heart of a musician hungry for bigger things. And all he had was a guitar to do it with. Bravo.

— R.L.



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WHAT'S OPERA, DOC? 'Before Night Falls,' above, was one of two acclaimed operas (both by gay composers) to get their world premieres in North Texas in 2010.

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

While 2009 got a lot of the arts ink with the opening of the new performance spaces Downtown — which have turned out to be problematic behemoths with too many issues to name here — 2010 had its own highlights culturally (both high and low culture at that), especially those of relevance to the gay community.

2010 YEAR IN REVIEW
CULTURE

While the Winspear Opera House itself continues to underwhelm with its limited restrooms, awkward configuration and confusing ergonomics, the world premiere of **Jake Heggie's opera Moby Dick** turned out to be an artistic highlight of the year. Combining a massive set with video graphics, it may usher in a new technological advance to the venerable art form.

Over in Tarrant County, Fort Worth Opera general director Darren Woods helped cultivate his own world premiere, **Jorge Martin's Before Night Falls**, based on queer poet Reinaldo Arenas' memoir. It was shocking, frank and a promising addition to the canon.

As the Dallas Theater Center continues to toil in the cramped Chinese box that is the Wylie Theatre, **Uptown Players** held its first full season at the mostly vacated Kalita Humphreys Theater — making it truly an Uptown troupe now. The experiment proved so successful that not only was the entire season staged there, but 2011's full season (with a few special events) will be there, too.

College student **John Otte** tried to put on an excerpted version of Terrence McNally's controversial play *Corpus Christi* as part of a school project, but threats by others in the community led Otte to cancel his production. Threats were not able to derail several screenings — local and national — of Dallas filmmaker **Israel Luna's** grindhouse revenge fantasy *Ticked-Off Trannies with Knives*, which caused a hoopla at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Jorge Rivas' Faces of Life photographic venture took the concept of stylized photos that make a political and artistic statement — from

PETA to NOH8 — and gave it a local angle, with dozens of Texans posing with oversized red ribbons to raise money and awareness for AIDS Arms.

Gay sports fans had a lot to cheer about this year, too. First, Uptown Vision's **TKO** team took the top trophy at the gay softball World Series in Ohio this summer. Unrelatedly, but still impressively, the second annual NAGAAA Cup — a kind of prelim to the World Series — will be held in Dallas next spring. Major League World Series fans also got to see the **Texas Rangers** in their first bid ever, though they lost in the fifth game to San Francisco.

In the fall, the **Dallas Diablos** held the second **HellFest** rugby tourney and exceeded all expectations when teams from eight cities participated in an event everyone involved declared a success even the half-dozen escorted off the field in stretchers. Hey, it is rugby. ■



X MARKS THE SPOT | Jorge Rivas' Faces of Life photo exhibit seeks to raise money for AIDS Arms.

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L+S dining

Nice Nosh

Samuel's replacement for Aurora re-invents the euro bistro with style

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

Nosh, with its well-stocked bar and dark woods, does resemble a Hyde Park tavern. But don't pigeonhole the Oak Lawn restaurant, which bills itself as a "Euro Bistro," in the gastropub genre. It has the look of it, but the feel of something more French. Think New York's Pastis and Balthazar, or even Dallas' own Café Toulouse with more polish. Or just think of it for what it really is: Arguably the best new restaurant in Dallas this year.

Such kudos are not new to Avner Samuel, Nosh's chef-owner. Avner's and Bistro A had great followings, as did his last restaurant, Aurora, which occupied the same space as Nosh for more than six years. An avatar of fine-dining, Aurora had a rep (unjustified in my opinion) for being overpriced. It was expensive, but the execution, food quality, service and atmosphere were all exquisite. You got what you paid for.

But it was, admittedly, a tad fussy. It was a quiet restaurant, with padded, camel-colored suede walls and few tables. You wore a coat and tie, even if they didn't require it. Aurora was *event* dining, meant to impress.

Nosh is Aurora's spoiled, rocker li'l brother. The dining room is bigger (they took over the space next door) and there are more tables. The wine list — a well-thought-out cross of reds and



HERE'S THE BEEF | Atop a pillow of coarse cheddar grits and crowned with frisée salad, the espresso short rib packs a flavorful wallop. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

whites, bottles and judicious by-the-glass entries — is reasonably priced, as is the entire menu. The most expensive items (halibut and beef tenderloin) top out at \$25 — and they are the only things over \$19 aside from specials. The hum of diners fuels the experience without drowning out yours — it has buzz, from lunch to dinner.

The menu doesn't change from lunch to dinner, either in selection of prices. I kinda like that; it means you can enjoy a croque-monsieur sandwich (\$10) as a warm slice of Euro-comfort food during the day or as a casual dinner meal. (Either way, try it: crisp bread houses gooey gruyere cheese oozing over Bayonne ham with a béchamel sauce.)

Probably the best appetizer on the regular menu are miso Berkshire pork ribs (and at \$6, a bargain). Two bones, crossed like lush little swords, hold the meat in place only until it touches your lips and falls into your mouth, the sweet-salty glaze of miso cutting the delicious fattiness of the pork.

The spiced beef "cigars" (\$5) are more panatela than Churchill: thin tapered wands, like flauta straws, served with a pear-saffron marmalade — perfect for noshing on, which is exactly the point. Nosh's Egyptian falafel (\$6) presents a surprise when you cut into it: A breathtakingly vivid splash of parsley-green. That keeps the inside exceptionally moist, even as the crust of chickpeas is browned and crunch. Tahini sauce on top offsets the peppernata relish beneath.

A good chicken dish is foundational to a skilled chef, and aside from an excess of water-crest obscuring its beautiful finish, the pan roasted "native" chicken (\$17) could be the best evidence of Nosh's bona fides are something more than an agreeable lunch spot. The bird could not have been more precisely cooked, with bacon jus and buttermilk potatoes turning a

OVERALL RATING ★★★★★

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Food: ★★★★★
Atmosphere: ★★★★★
Service: ★★★★★
Price: Moderate

home cookin' staple into a highlight of the menu.

Samuel bragged that his version of duck confit (\$15) is the best in Dallas. If it's not, it's damned close: Pitch black cherries dot the bowl, their ripe sweetness working with the saltiness of the duck and a soothing mash of cauliflower and leek. The roasted beet salad (\$9) is delicious, as are the diver scallops (\$19), served on large pearl couscous and intensely sweet oven-dried tomatoes and the espresso braised beef ribs (\$17), with a pungent delight from coarse stone cheddar grits.

Samuel and his business partner, chef Jon Stevens, rotate specials every few days; I've been in three times when the Kobe meatballs were on the chalkboard, and should work their way onto the regular menu.

You can get some unannounced specials sitting at the chef's table overlooking the kitchen. They float some unique dishes and works-in-progress to willing diners, such as chef Stevens' version of a terrine, strata of foie gras and chicken in aspic — a rich but refreshing and not overly heavy protein bomb. One night, Samuel even experimented with unusual Japanese fish given to him by Tei An chef Teichii Sakurai. It was a discovery for both of us, with the crazy-fresh hobo fish's soft flesh a wonder of flavor.

Desserts soar. My dining companion declared the apple tarte Tatin (\$7) the best he's ever had; it's difficult to argue with that, as it arrived,



WARM WOOD | The dark wood and ample natural light imbue the dining room with cozy warmth.

bronzed and shiny, aloft on a disk of flaky pastry and topped with vanilla ice cream. The soufflé cake (\$7) is atypical of the familiar molten lava concoction that has become as overused as crème brûlée: It's velvety, evaporating on the tongue. The financier (\$7) gets points for a distinctly salty caramel amid the brittle crunch of hazelnut.

Service isn't white-glove like Aurora, but it's friendly and efficient. There's a new energy in the space: Same chef, same address, new life. I can't get eNosh. ■

5 TOP TABLES

2010 YEAR IN REVIEW DINING

From a food standpoint, 2010 was the year of simple elegance.

When I do this "best of" list, I always steer clear of calling it "top new restaurants." After all, restaurants change, experiences differ and eateries are hard to compare anyway. How do you rotate The French Room alongside an excellent taco stand? Is a sushi chef's skill at cutting fish better or worse than a steakhouse's selection and ageing of the right cuts of meat? Great service can't make bad food good, but can bad service ruin an otherwise terrific meal?

Still, it's unusual that the highest level of fine dining options did not stick out to me so much in 2010 as did genres that turned their styles into exquisite meals. I remember them all. (Some restaurants that opened after October are not considered for this list and will be eligible next year.)

So here are my 5 Top Tables of 2010:

1. **Nosh.** Handily the favorite. *See review.*

2. **Saint Ann.** This converted schoolhouse has personality to spare, with reasonably priced dishes, agreeable service and a slick, relaxed atmosphere. (Read the full review next month in the Voice.)

3. **Urban Taco.** The expanded menu at the new location on McKinney improves upon the original in every way, with spicy salsas, fast service and well-rounded entrees, all at good prices.

4. **Maximo.** This elegant updating of authentic Mexico City cuisine from the chef responsible for Trece improves up from that restaurant with exceptional dishes and a great wine list.

5. **Seasons 52.** Anyone who has experienced this Florida mainstay knows the specialty is tasty fare at controlled calories, and the first Texas opening continues the philosophy. Never miss the mini-indulgences, pictured — having three or more (which is easy to do) may bust the diet, but they are so worth it.

— A.W.J.




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Chortling in the new year

You've chortled, don't lie. Backdoor Comedy offers a funny approach to your midnight plans with its New Year's Eve Extravaganza. The lineup includes BET's Chris Brown, Emmy-winning funny lady Linda Stognar and headliner Paul Varghese who got his start in Dallas but went on to the big time with gigs on Showtime and Comedy Central. Chortle away.

DEETS: Backdoor Comedy, 8250 N. Central Expressway. \$27-\$43. 8 and 10:30 p.m. BackdoorComedy.com.

Sunday 01.02

Drag royalty says goodbye to Dallas

After 18 years of performing, Wayne Smith will do a final show before saying farewell to Dallas. Smith is most famous for his spot-on impersonation of Cher. This month's Drag Brunch isn't just about the mimosas and frittatas, it's about saying goodbye to Smith who's become legend in these parts.

DEETS: Dish, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 11 a.m. For reservations call 214-522-3474.

Tuesday 01.04

Waiting for that schwanzstucker?

We hear it's huge, but that was from the movie. Will the musical version of *Young Frankenstein* be as funny and have all the sexy innuendo? With Mel Brooks still behind it, we're betting yes.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Jan. 23. \$30-\$98. ATPAC.org.



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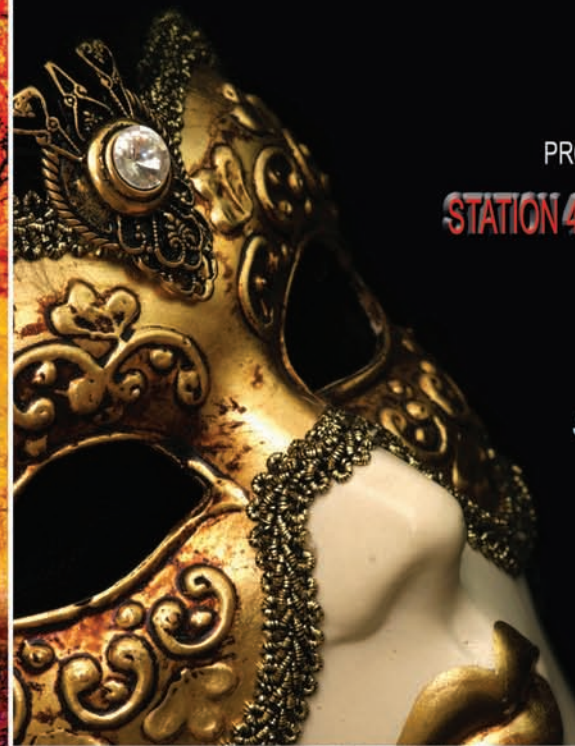
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Considering the holiday weekend, contact these organizations directly for any potential schedule changes.

FRIDAY 12.31

COMMUNITY

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m., Maple Plaza, 5353 Maple Ave, #130 (Entry in rear of building).

Unwired Dallas. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) meets for those wishing to quit using meth. Also meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at the same time. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30pm. Free. CrystalMeth.org.

FUSE drop-in for gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Tuesdays-Fridays at 2 p.m. GetYourFuseOn.com.

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.

THEATER

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

The Drowsy Chaperone. Theatre Three, 2800 Routh St., Suite 168. Through Jan. 15. Fridays-Sat-



LEG AND A THIGH | Theatre Three's 'The Drowsy Chaperone' just extended its run through Jan. 15.

urdays at 8 p.m., Sundays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., weekend matinees at 2:30 p.m. \$10-\$40. Theatre3Dallas.com.

O Brother, Werewolf Art Thou? Another popcorn-tossing melodrama by Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane, Suite 119. Through Feb. 19. Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 7 p.m. \$10-\$18. PocketSandwich.com.

A Tuna Christmas. Original *Tuna* stars Joe Sears and Jaston Williams return with their traditional holiday show. Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Through Sunday. \$29-\$59. EisemannCenter.com.

SATURDAY 01.01

COMMUNITY

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

Fuse: Core Group for gay men ages 18 to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3 p.m. GetYourFuseOn.com.

SPCA of Texas Pet Grief Counseling monthly program helps those who have lost an animal cope with their loss. Dealey Animal Care Center, 362 S. Industrial Blvd. 1 p.m. 214-651-9611.

Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club. Gamers meet to play and discuss role-playing games from sci-fi to fantasy. Half Price Books Community Room, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.

Cathedral Couples potluck dinner and social. For location, call 972-252-7124.

DFW Bi Net Bisexual, Bi-Curious and Allies Support Group meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 11 a.m. Brown bag lunch encouraged. Email SupportGroup@dfwbi.net for more details.

■ CALENDAR, Page 40

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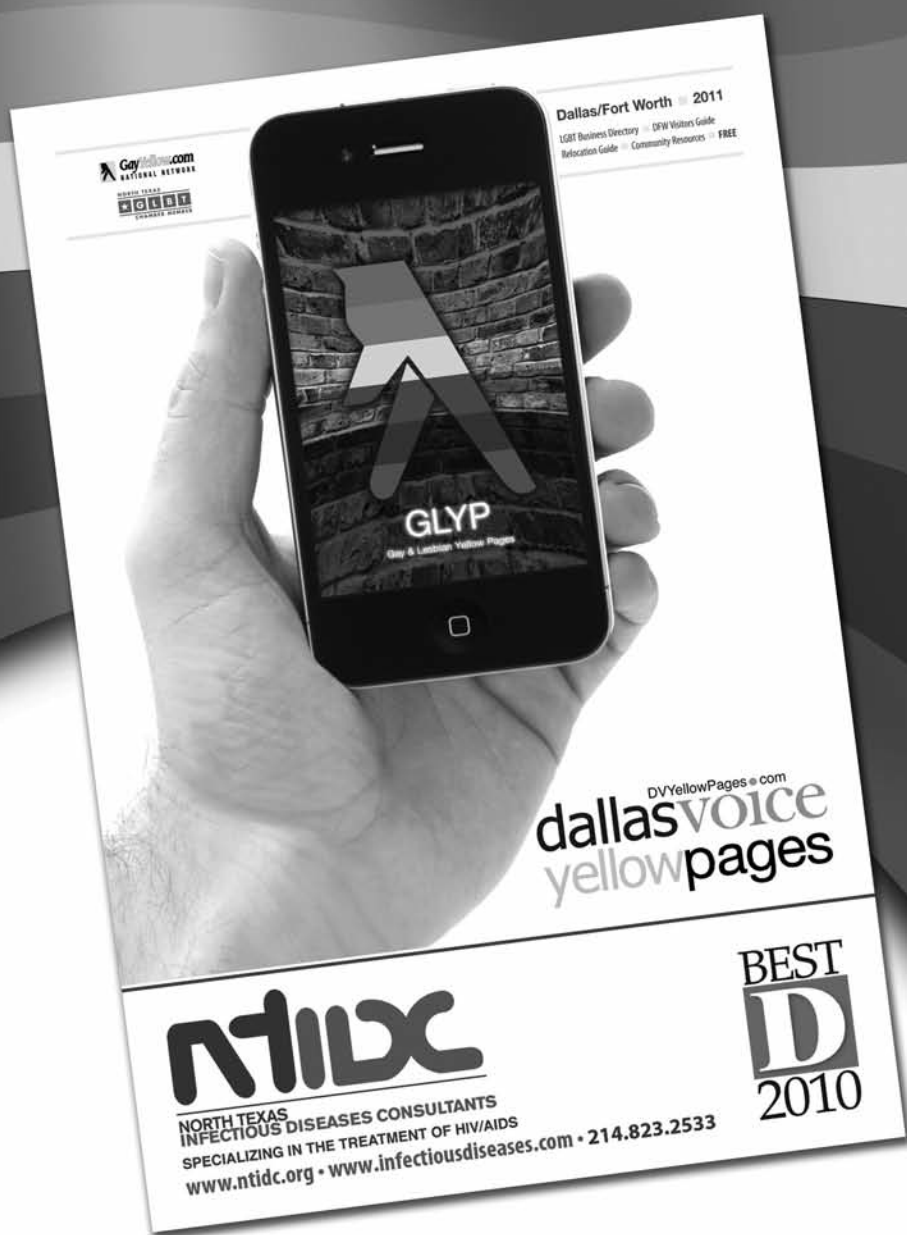
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calendar

■ CALENDAR, From Page 39

BROADCAST

Cathedral of Hope worship service. Ch. 8 at 12:35 a.m. (Friday after midnight).

SUNDAY 01.02

COMMUNITY

Awakening Heart Community of Mindful Living. LGBT-Friendly "meditation and more" event. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Rd, Richardson, TX 75080. 5 p.m. AwakeningHeart.org

Dignity Dallas sponsors Roman Catholic liturgy. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1732. DignityDallas.org.

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

Gaymsters bridge club. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 2 p.m.

Interweave meets for lunch. Community Unitarian Universalist Church, 2875 E. Parker Road, Plano. Noon. 972-248-9343.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Abby Dees, author of *Queer Questions*, *Straight Talk*. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon. LambdaWeekly.com.

MONDAY 01.03

COMMUNITY

Caffeine + Character. Cathedral of Hope youth meeting for ages 14-22 at Buli Café, 3908 Cedar Springs Road.

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.

Self esteem support group provided by AIDS Outreach Center meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 1:30 p.m. 817-229-4621. AOC.org.

DFW Prime Timers play bridge every week at 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

BROADCAST

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

TUESDAY 01.04

COMMUNITY

Sista to Sista meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 11:30 a.m. AOC.org.

Positive Recovery Auricular Acupuncture meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. AOC.org.

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 evening. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, 817-446-3395.



DEES ANSWERS | Author Abby Dees guests on 'Lambda Weekly' this Sunday.

Classic Chassis Car Club. Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. ClassicChassis.com.

National Leather Association-Dallas meeting. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.org.

BROADCAST

Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys airs weekly every Tuesday at 9 p.m. on Sundance Channel.

The 10% with Israel Luna and Richard Curtin streams every Tuesday and Thursday at 3 p.m. on RationalBroadcasting.com.

WEDNESDAY 01.05

COMMUNITY

Positively Straight meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 217. AOC.org.

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

First Wednesday on Cedar Springs. Area merchants offer sales, refreshments and entertainment along Cedar Springs at Throckmorton streets. 6-10 p.m. ShopCedarSprings.com.

THURSDAY 01.06

COMMUNITY

PFLAG Fort Worth (Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays) meets. This week's guest is Dave Guy-Gainer. First Jefferson UU Church, 1959 Sandy Lane. 7 p.m. Pflagfortworth.org.

Career Fellowship offers support to those who are experiencing unemployment or under-employment. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. 972-662-4499.

First Thursday Gallery Walk where all showrooms and galleries along Dragon Street in the Design District will remain open until 8 p.m. each month.

BROADCAST

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

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Mel Gibson turns 55 on Monday. After riding years of box office success, karma bit the actor/director in the ass hard. His homophobia and anti-semitism are no secret, but charges of domestic violence and racism throughout 2010 hurt his career. He was dropped by his talent agency and his film *Edge of Darkness* was considered one of the bigger flops of the year. Mega-ouch.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

You're at the top of your game, but what's next? The answer to that is not as urgent as it may seem. Relax, indulge in a romantic or sensual retreat and the hard questions will gain perspective.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

The world's troubles are not necessarily your own. Discussing global and personal worries with friends help balance it out. For answers, look across borders and oceans.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Put your deep, dark imagination to work. Even in a bleak future there are opportunities. Even if the light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming train, you can ride it out.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

The responsibilities of work and relationships feel oppressive. A romantic adventure is needed. If partnered, plan a getaway. If single, a stern attitude is sexy, but balance it with playful warmth.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

As hard as you've been working, you're entitled to a much-needed release. If you really need to beat someone, there are eager victims. Just keep it safe and consensual.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Play only for funsies. Take a chance on love or a passionate facsimile. Incredible sex is no basis for a solid relationship. Take it one day at a time and see what else there is.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

A strong sense of responsibility at home can be a millstone or a motivator. Go with the latter. Once you drag your tush into action, momentum will make the rest of it a lot easier.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Even you have inarticulate moments. Take them as a creative challenge. Playfulness boosts morale and productivity. Too much, not so good. Turn up the jokes and your dazzling smile.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Your best investment of time, energy and money is in your own home and community. Think ahead before taking on responsibilities. Spreading good will at home will help build your standing.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

The weight of the world seems to be on your shoulders. Opportunities can be hard to find, but they're there. A lighthearted chat with a sister (genetic or otherwise) can help you get perspective.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Life is tough, but don't let troubles wear you down. When you find yourself worrying, channel that into constructive thought toward a solution. Stick to basics and remember what's important.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

You may be worrying too much about money. Focus on your personal assets, the kind you'd have even if you were penniless and naked. You almost always fare better than most.

THIS WEEK

Sun squaring Saturn adds the weight of age and responsibility, but Venus enters Sagittarius, leading affections and aesthetics toward new adventures. She gets in the middle of that square offering frivolous escape that can too easily complicate problems at hand, but she also offers creative solutions.

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

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bitter girl
the shape of things



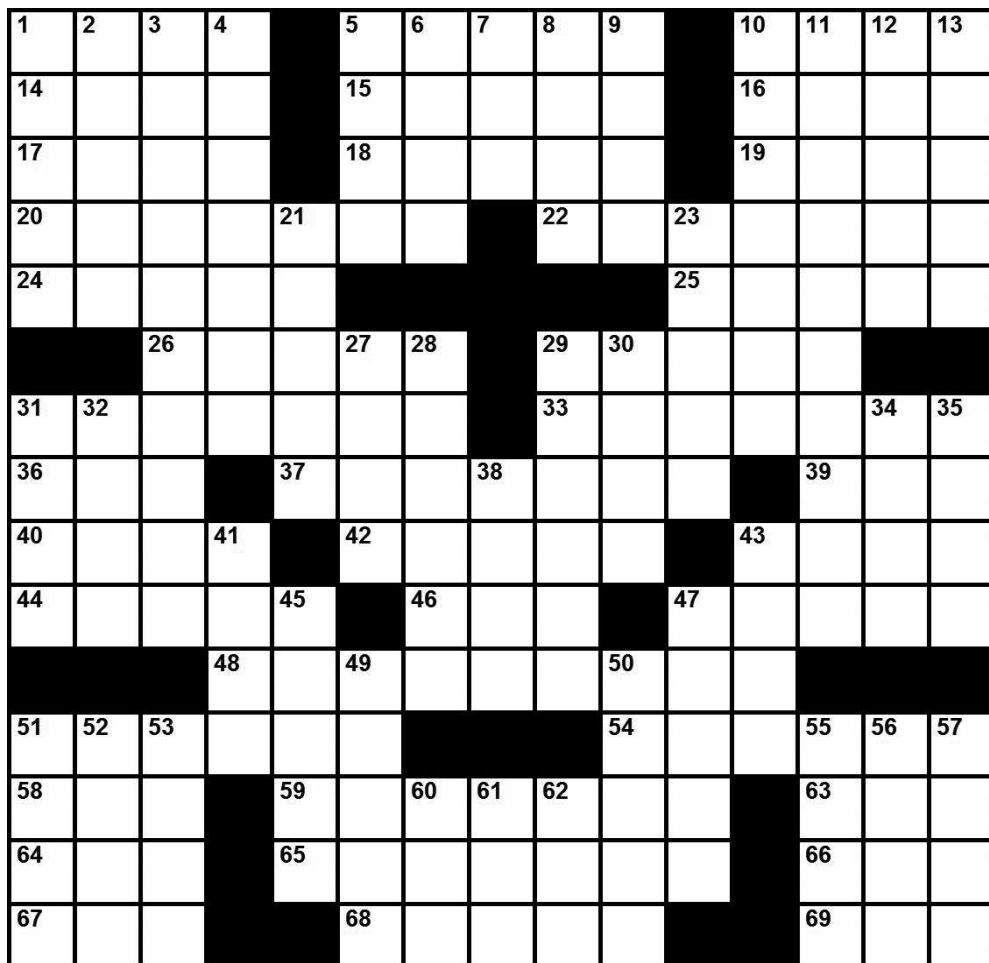
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Recently Out

Solution on page 39

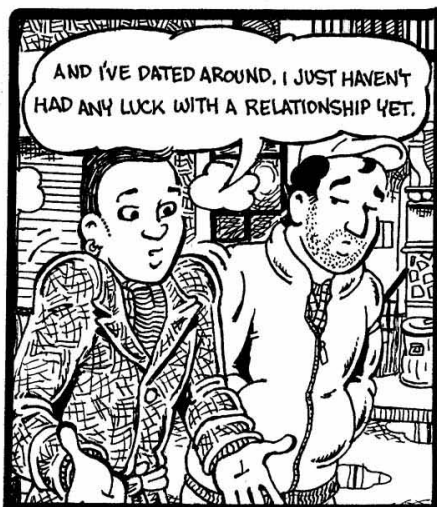
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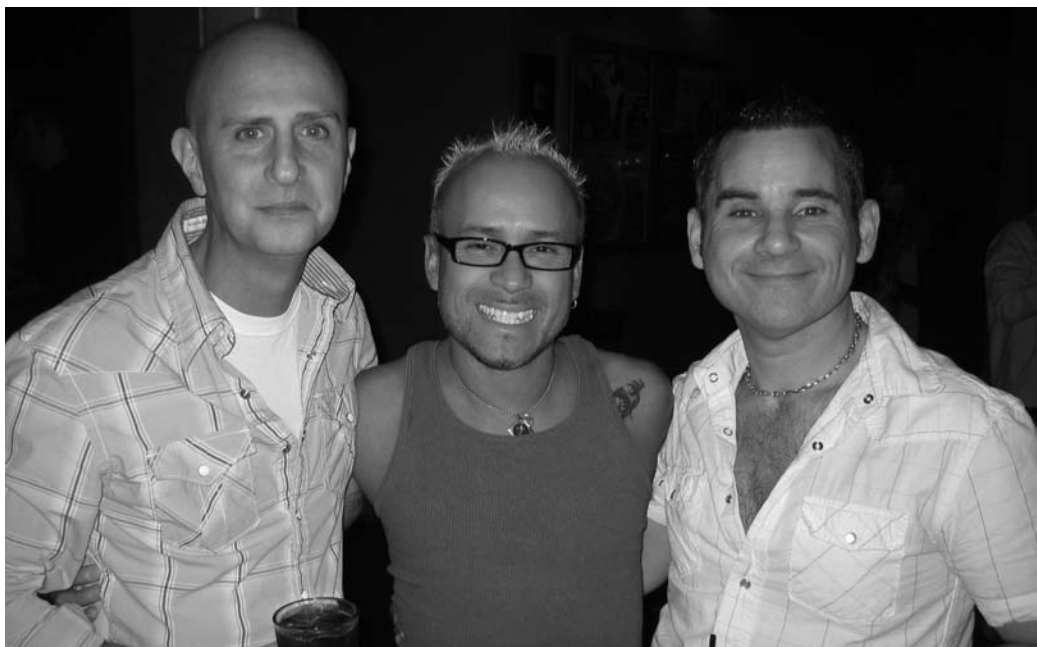
- 1 Judy's daughter
- 5 Screen siren Garbo
- 10 In need of some South Beach rays
- 14 Carbon compound
- 15 Looks at a hottie in a bar
- 16 Jannings of old films
- 17 Where to look, in "Misty"
- 18 Haunting
- 19 Aid's partner
- 20 Take off your shorts?
- 22 McKellen's "X-Men" role
- 24 Narrow cuts
- 25 One of the Great Lakes
- 26 Catcher of phallic fish
- 29 Path through leaves of grass
- 31 Richard Chamberlain's Dr. role
- 33 Sexy buns?
- 36 Doc's org.
- 37 Results of screwing up
- 39 Taxing mo.
- 40 Omar in "The Mod Squad"
- 42 Crotchety sorts
- 43 De Matteo of "Desperate Housewives"
- 44 Stop with

- 46 Tigers of the NCAA
- 47 One to hang with
- 48 With 59-Across, movie of 11-Down
- 51 Derek of "Breaking the Code"
- 54 Stands next to O'Keeffe
- 58 "Put ___ Happy Face"
- 59 See 48-Across
- 63 Brewing tank
- 64 Wilde's tongue, for short
- 65 Stamp of "Priscilla"
- 66 Just make, with "out"
- 67 Jason of "Chasing Amy"
- 68 Persian Gulf port
- 69 Log Cabin member, for short

Down

- 1 Heads up
- 2 Pentium producer
- 3 Movie of 11-Down
- 4 Gave a heads-up to
- 5 Club head?
- 6 Where a sailor may hit bottom
- 7 Suffix with musket
- 8 Like a muscle Mary's waist
- 9 Cruising
- 10 Goobers
- 11 Recently out actress
- 12 Try to deceive
- 13 John of "Aida" fame
- 21 Muslim faith
- 23 Indian mountain passes
- 27 Actor McCormack
- 28 Fix a sneaker, maybe
- 29 "Zip it!"
- 30 Trials and tribulations
- 31 Bucks
- 32 Top's betting phrase?
- 34 Acted like
- 35 Carhop's carrier
- 38 Leonardo's thing
- 41 R.E.M. neck attachment
- 43 Cost of belonging
- 45 Where they sing "Hello Dalai"?
- 47 Ho-hum
- 49 Put the kibosh on
- 50 Joe who played gay in "JFK"
- 51 "Cabaret" actor Grey
- 52 A girl named Frank
- 53 "La ___ aux Folles"
- 55 Green beginner?
- 56 Placid, for example
- 57 From A to B, to Debussy
- 60 Aetna rival, for short
- 61 "Gone With the Wind" extra
- 62 Bambi character that wasn't horny?





Robert, John and David at Station 4.

Still looking for a New Year's Eve party? We think we can help Join **the Round-Up Saloon** for dancing, food, champagne, balloon drop *and* breakfast. Plus, you can win tickets to **Lady Gaga's** March concert **Sue Ellen's** rings in 2011 with the **Gadget White Band** on Friday. **Anton Shaw and the Reason** start off the club's new year performing on Saturday. The **Chris Miller Band** finishes the weekend off on Sunday **The Brick** starts the weekend with a special **Ida Mae Watergate Show** with **Ruby Scott** followed by its **New Year's Countdown** party. On Saturday, they host the **Thank You Party** with San Francisco's **DJ John Le Page**. Every Wednesday it's **Karaoke with Little Chalupa** in the adjoining **Joe's Place** while the club hosts **Video Request Night** with **DJ Mickey** and the **All Male Revue**. Whew! They know how to keep hump day busy **Station 4's** bash includes party packs and champagne but the best part is it's **\$1,000 Money Drop**. We're totally down with that If you feel the need to be a little more dressy for the night, leather and fetish gear are encouraged at **the Dallas Eagle's** holiday party Friday night. Hey, we're just sayin' Head north to Denton to **Mable Peabody's Beauty Parlor and Chainsaw Repair** for the **Black, White and Red All Over** party Friday night where **DJ Travis** helms the turntables and champagne pours at midnight. Every Wednesday, hoof it up with **Dance Night** featuring **DJ Mix** **DJ Reggie Cranford** spins the top 10 countdown Friday at **Drama Room** **Ciao Bella** finishes off 2010 at **Jack's Backyard** Friday night. **Kathy and Bella** take the stage on Sunday. Then, try your hand Monday *and* Tuesday at **Jack's Poker Night** Be safe and responsible this weekend and have a **Happy New Year**. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Jesse and Jose at Kaliente.



Paula and Miriam at Best Friends Club.



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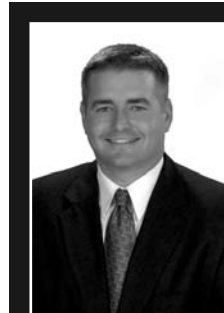
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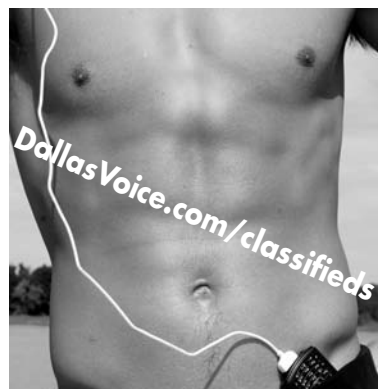
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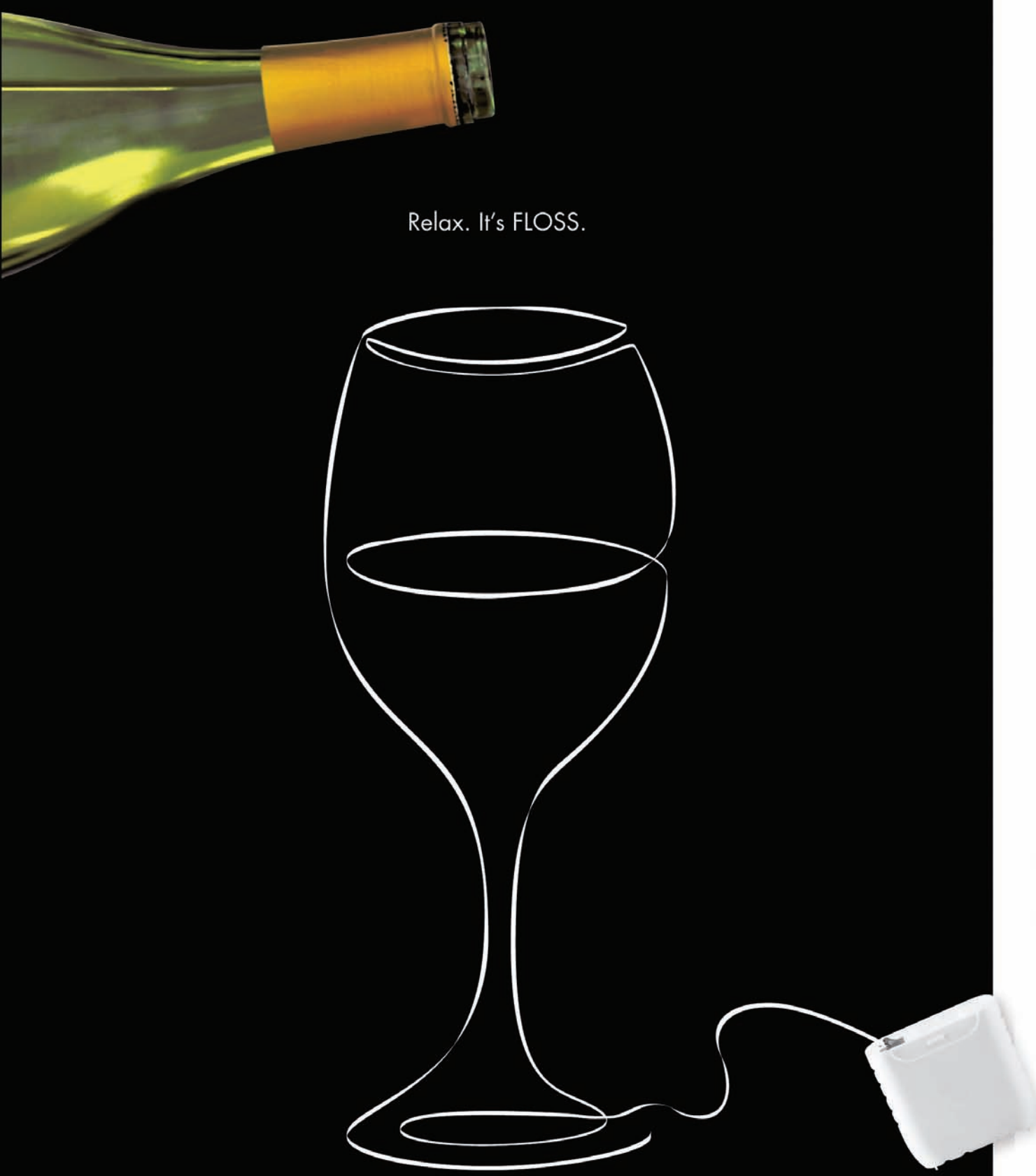
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