

The Hollywood Issue

Glenn Close and Rodrigo Garcia explore gender identity in *Albert Nobbs*

Plus: Denis O'Hare, TV's reigning supervillain, and our guide to the big Christmas movies

■ SCREEN, Page 20



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FREE | Friday, December 23, 2011

In his first year as executive director of **EQUALITY TEXAS**, Coleman helped get anti-bullying bills passed. Now he's setting his sights on marriage equality.

LGBT Person of the year **2011**
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coleman

Read the full story
beginning on Page 15.



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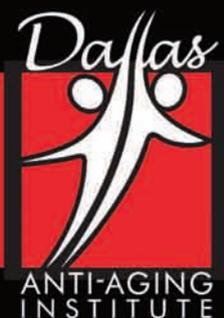
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Photo of Dennis Coleman by Terry Thompson. Design by Kevin Thomas.

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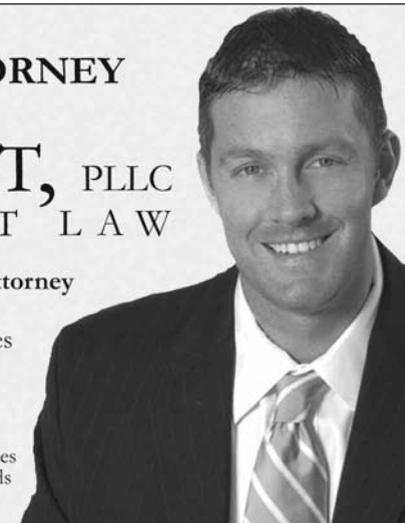
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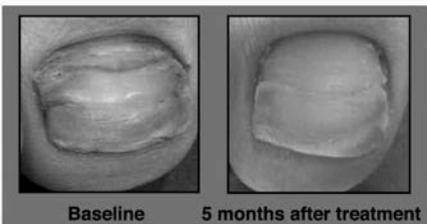


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SEASONS GREETINGS | Equality Texas encourages LGBT families to include their elected officials on their holiday card lists.

Holiday greeting card activism

If you're like me and you still haven't yet sent out those holiday greeting cards — or if you just have a few left over — consider this idea from Equality Texas:

Holiday cards are inherently personal — they are a meaningful way to share a part of your life with other people. When you are thinking about who you want to send cards to this year, consider adding your State Senator and State Representative to your list. For those who do not have lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender people in their lives, it can be easy to label us as an "other." As long as LGBT people remain only an idea to our representatives, they are unlikely to fight for us. When they receive your card, your family will become real and personal to them. When they consider legislation affecting LGBT people, they will no longer see something intangible and distant — they will see you and your family. This simple action can be extremely powerful. If we show more people what we are really like, we stand to gain many more allies. Use your holiday card to put a face to LGBT equality.

— John Wright

Dallas. The lake was built by the city of Fort Worth to supplement its water supply in 1964 and is the fourth-largest lake in Texas.

The area began attracting LGBT lake house buyers in the 1980s. Many Dallasites bought weekend houses there but the area has also attracted a number of LGBT retirees and other full-time residents.

Since Friends opened almost 20 years ago, other LGBT businesses and organizations have grown around the lake. LGBT-friendly Celebration Church on the Lake in nearby Mabank grew with help from Celebration Church in Fort Worth. Garlows, a second LGBT bar in Gun Barrel City, opened several years ago. Gay campground Circle J Ranch is near the lake in Eustace.

In addition, two cities on the lake have elected gay mayors.

The gay bars draw not only from lake residents but also from nearby Corsicana and Athens as well as a number of other smaller towns in Navarro, Henderson and Kaufman counties.

— David Taffet

Get gay married. It's good for your health

Same-sex marriage may be destroying "traditional" marriage according to groups like the National Organization for Marriage, but the American Journal of Public Health found that gay marriage is good for your health.

A study was conducted in Massachusetts at a clinic that specializes in serving the health needs of gay men after same-sex marriage was legalized, CBS reported. It found that over that first 12-month period, visits to the clinic dropped 13 percent and healthcare costs decreased by 14 percent.

The journal said that the LGBT community received "compromised health care delivery" compared with the general population and suffered from "minority stress" leading to "negative mental and physical health effects."

"Reports in the medical and social science literature suggest that legal and social recognition of same-sex marriage has had positive effects on the health status of this at-risk community," the report says.

So allowing same-sex couples brings down healthcare costs for everyone and helps people live longer. Those standing in the way of allowing same-sex couples to marry aren't just denying gays and lesbians equal rights, they're killing us.

— David Taffet

Gun Barrel City bar Friends closing

Leo Bartlett, owner of Friends in Gun Barrel City, announced Tuesday, Dec. 20, on his Facebook page that the bar is closing.

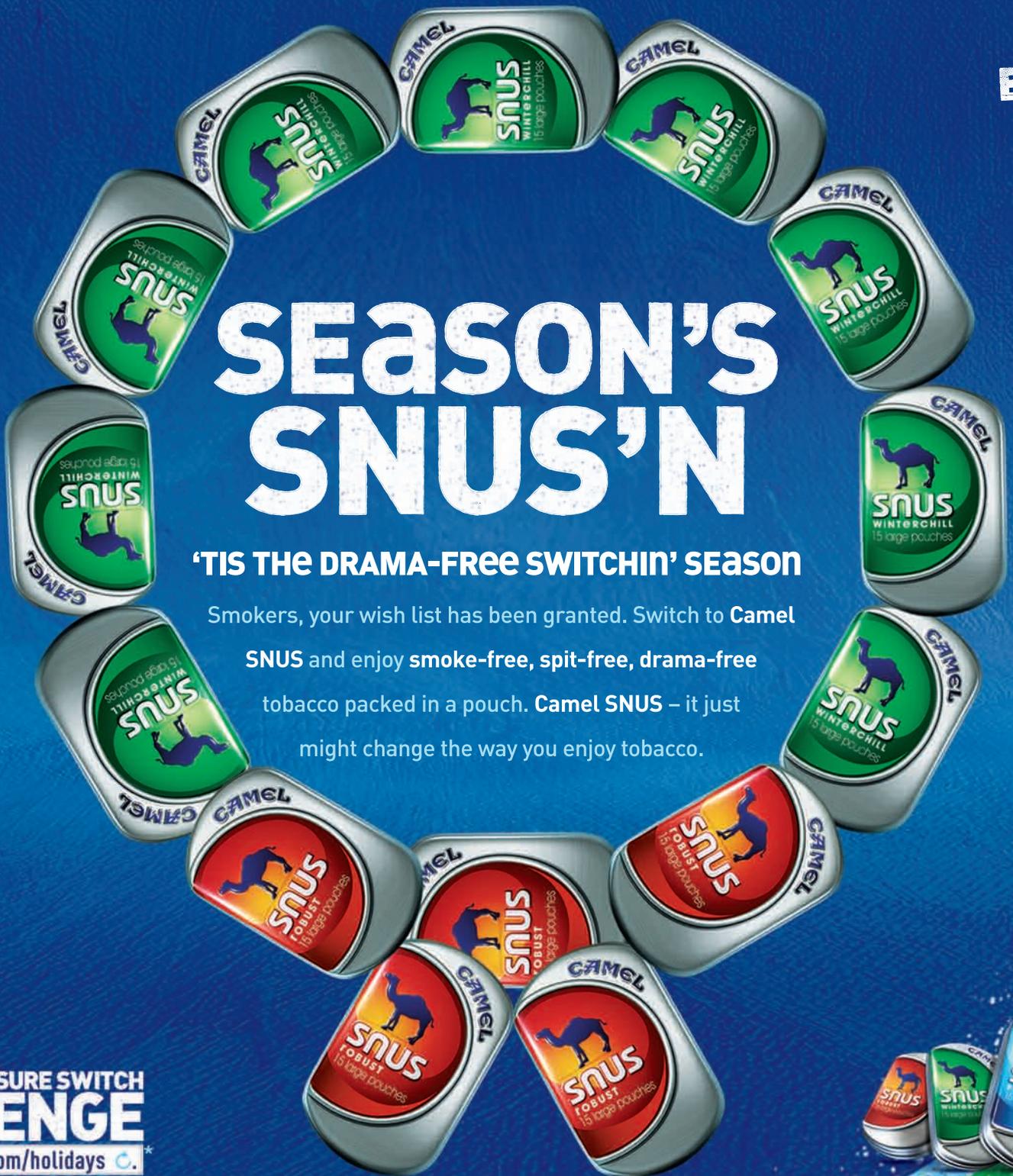
"Due to uncontrollable events, the clubs doors must be closed," he wrote.

The bar has been a center of activity for the LGBT community around Cedar Creek Lake for about 20 years. Pageants, shows, food drives and charity events took place regularly at Friends. The most recent charity drive was a collection for Toys for Tots.

The closing was announced suddenly. Events were posted through January.

"From the bottom of my heart, I have never thought that this notice would go out," Bartlett wrote. He called the closing a "heartbreaking decision."

A number of financial factors apparently contributed to the closing of Friends but this summer's drought, the worst in Texas' history, was also likely a contributing factor. The lake level was down almost 8 feet — far enough that many boat ramps were closed so weekend residents stayed away. Friends is in Gun Barrel City, located centrally on Cedar Creek Lake, which is about 60 miles southeast of



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TELLING THE TALE | After a story planned for the Huffington Post on Rick Perry's alleged same-sex affairs was nixed, gay former Texas Rep. Glen Maxey decided to tell the story himself. (Associated Press)

Activist's exposé on Perry hits the market

Former legislator Glen Maxey says he was motivated to write about governor's alleged gay affairs by Perry's hypocrisy; that he has moved to a 'safe house' following threats

DAVID WEBB | Contributing Writer
davidwaynewebb@yahoo.com

AUSTIN — Life is changing quickly for gay former Texas Rep. Glen Maxey since the publication last week of his memoir chronicling a five-month investigation of Gov. Rick Perry's alleged homosexual liaisons with a subordinate, steady boyfriends, anonymous sex part-

ners, a hustler and others.

Prior to the book's debut Maxey, who returned to activism after leaving the Legislature, had stocked his Austin apartment with food and other supplies, anticipating a period of time when he might want to stay out of sight.

But after his exposé attracted national media attention and outrage from Perry's conservative religious supporters, Maxey decided to go further underground.

"Got some death threats of the crank level, but have moved to a safe house until it calms down," Maxey told Dallas Voice in a message via Facebook following a telephone interview over the weekend.

Maxey, who is the only openly gay politician to have ever served in the Texas Legislature, sent the message as he prepared for a Univision interview Monday morning, Dec. 19, and

a KLBJ drive-time radio interview that afternoon.

The "calm before the storm" that Maxey had talked about in the telephone interview apparently has now erupted into a major disturbance.

Head Figure Head – The Search for the Hidden Life of Rick Perry is the product of Maxey's work with a reporter from The Huffington Post and the frustration he felt when publisher Arianna Huffington killed what the former legislator claims was a completed story approved by editors and ready for publication.

When it became clear the story would never be published, Maxey started writing his book.

In his book Maxey does not name any of the sources he cites that claim knowledge of Perry's alleged sexual escapades, nor does he

■ **ACTIVIST**, Page 10

RCD receives Elton John grant

Money targeted at reaching Latino community is believed to be the first grant from the foundation to a Dallas organization

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Elton John AIDS Foundation has given Resource Center Dallas a \$38,000 grant to be used in targeting HIV prevention efforts within the gay Latino community.

Community Health Programs Manager Ruben Ramirez said this week that the money will allow RCD to expand its outreach and testing program to a population that has seen a dramatic rise in infections.

"The grant will be used to expand the activities we do now and give it more visibility, and then to provide a social support group on a monthly basis," Ramirez said.

When the organization had city funding, the center provided more testing and social support to the Latino community than is currently available, Ramirez said. The increased programming begins next month.

The Elton John AIDS Foundation generally funds innovative programs that are already successful in reducing the spread of HIV. So rather than create something new, Ramirez said the center will use the money to enhance the outreach that's already working.

In other target groups, RCD has followed up testing with support groups and social networking that has reinforced the safer-sex and prevention message.

Ramirez said that within the Latino community, he has heard quite a bit of misinformation.

"We're still seeing the old myths from way back when about how people get HIV," Ramirez said, adding that he had recently spoken to someone who thought he could get HIV from sipping from the same glass as someone who was positive.

"I was astounded," he said.

Ramirez said that although information is readily available, language and immigration barriers stand in the way of some people learning about HIV.

"And some folks just bypass the sea of information of HIV information that is out there," he added.

In addition, those with information don't necessarily access testing. Ramirez said

■ **RCD**, Page 12

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Family angry at Balch Springs PD's response to brother's death

Duby Redburn says police failed to respond to the first calls for help, and that an officer made an anti-gay comment while discussing the case with her

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

BALCH SPRINGS — The sister of a gay Balch Springs man said this week she believes the Balch Springs Police Department's failure to answer a call at his home may have contributed to his death last month. And she claims that an officer's anti-gay response to her inquiries make her question how thoroughly her brother's death will be investigated.

Duby Redburn said that her brother Rodney Johnson's body was found by another brother, laying face down on the floor of his mobile home, in a pool of blood.

But when Redburn spoke to Balch Springs police Investigator Thomas Clements, she said he told her they found her brother sitting at the computer with his pants down. Redburn said the cop told her, "I don't know what sort of lifestyle he led," and snickered.

"He was very insensitive," she said.

And Redburn wondered why calls to Balch Springs police two nights before the body was found went unanswered.

When Johnson did not show up for work at his job as a security guard at a Bank of America branch on Thursday, Nov. 10, his supervisor, Cheri Mendoza, became worried. And when she couldn't reach him by phone, her worry grew.

It just wasn't like Johnson to just not show up for work, Mendoza said, adding "You could set your watch by him."

So Mendoza drove to the mobile home park where Johnson lived. Unable to get into the trailer and convinced something was wrong, she called and asked police to help.

Mendoza said she called both 9-1-1 and directly to the Balch Springs Police Department. But no officer showed up.

Mendoza's calls are not listed on the police report.

Two days later, Rodney Johnson's boyfriend, who lives in Canada, called Rodney's brother, Roger Johnson. The boyfriend told Roger that while he and Rodney ordinarily spoke by phone every day, he had been unable to reach Rodney for two days.

So Roger Johnson called his brother, and when he got no answer, he took his key to Rodney's home and went to check. That's when Roger went into the trailer and found his brother's body.

Redburn, who lives in California, this week

told Dallas Voice she is frustrated after getting no answers from the police and the delays from the Dallas County Medical Examiner. She is also angry over the officer's anti-gay comments about her brother.

She said her brother Rodney Johnson was diabetic, but was otherwise a healthy man. She described him as "good, honorable and upstanding."

Redburn said her brother's arms were underneath him as if he was trying to catch his fall. He was found naked but she said Rodney always slept in pajamas.

Several days later, Roger found that the mobile home had been broken into. Among the things taken were his sheets as well as jewelry, a camera and his Bank of America badge. On Monday, Nov. 14, someone tried to access Rodney Johnson's bank accounts.

Redburn wondered if that was related to the death or if someone simply broke into the home because it was not occupied.

Redburn said the missing sheets bothered her. She wondered if someone had returned to the house to take any possible DNA evidence that might be found or if someone simply used the sheet to carry out other items.

The Dallas County Medical Examiner told the family that test results would take three months to come back, the standard amount of time for toxicology tests to be returned.

Balch Springs police confirmed this week that they had no investigation open. Clements, who was assigned to the case, is out of the office for the week and was unavailable to comment.

The police report doesn't indicate receiving a call from Mendoza but begins with the call from Roger Johnson on Nov. 12.

The report states that Rodney Johnson advised that "he thinks his brother is dead," and that "he hadn't heard from his brother in awhile so he went over there to check on him."

The account ends two hours later with transferring the body to Dallas County.

Redburn was concerned that Balch Springs police weren't investigating the death. She said her brother might have died of natural causes, but she questioned the police response to her.

She wondered why the police account of how the body was found differed from what her brother reported. The police report does not mention blood on the floor or position of the body.

Redburn doesn't know if foul play was involved. She wonders if her brother was still alive when Mendoza arrived at the house. Had police responded to Mendoza's call, Redburn wonders if her brother could have been saved.

Redburn said she hopes the medical examiner's report will reveal whether there was a physical attack, if he died of natural causes and why there was no investigation when blood was found. ■



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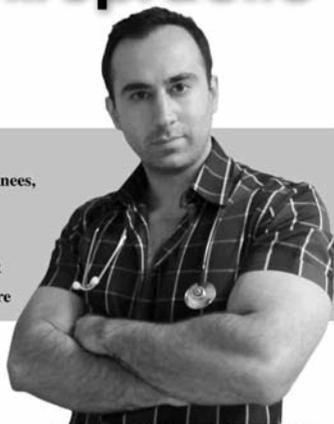
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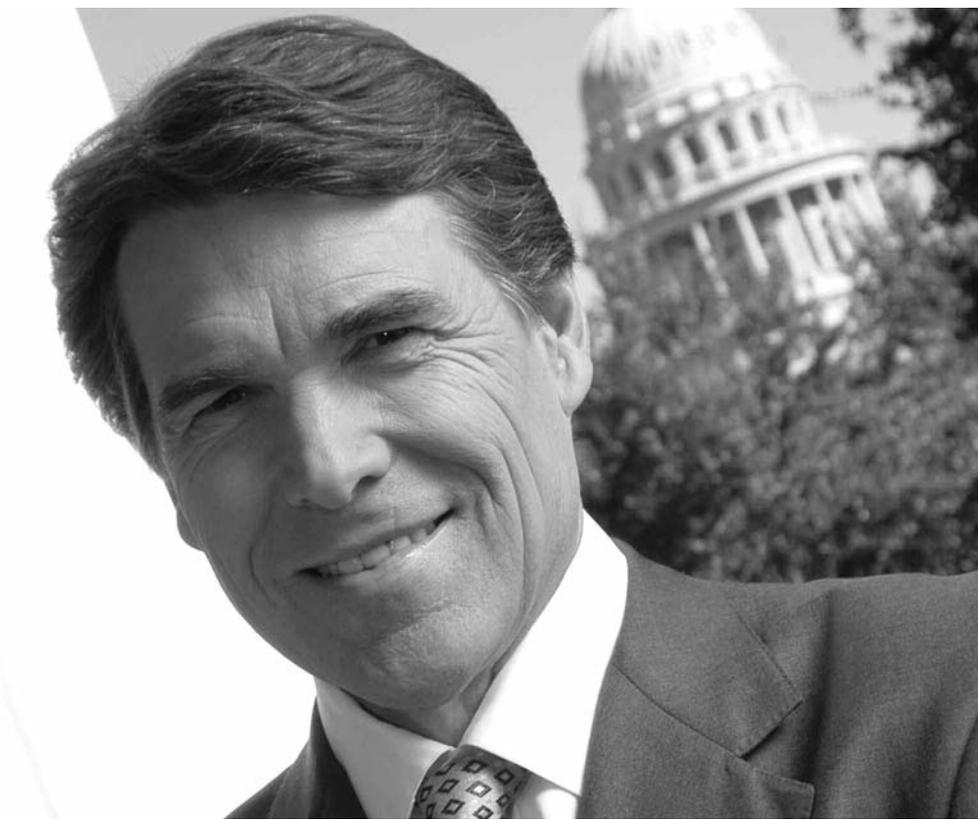
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Gov. Rick Perry

ACTIVIST

From Page 6

name the Huffington Post reporter, whom he refers to only as the national journalist.

The book was at first only available online, but now is available as a paperback through Amazon.com.

Maxey said other publications were interested in talking to him and his sources about the allegations of extramarital homosexual pursuits by Perry, but both he and the men who claimed to know the governor in the biblical sense were reluctant to start over with a new reporter.

"That was a mountain I couldn't climb again, and the other folks had the same reaction," Maxey said. "It's difficult to get people to talk about sex in general, it's more difficult to get them to tell their story to a reporter, and it's an even bigger climb when it's Rick Perry they are talking about."

Maxey disputes Huffington's claim to Politico that the story was never ready for publication, and that there was no real story. The activist claims the publisher killed the story after Perry's campaign hired famed libel lawyer Lin Wood, and the lawyer wrote a letter to the Huffington Post threatening to sue if the story was published.

Huffington denied that the lawyer's letter had anything to do with her decision.

But, Maxey said, "Arianna Huffington told a bald-faced lie."

No response has been received to an e-mail sent by the Dallas Voice to Huffington Post's media relations department seeking comment on Maxey's claim.

Maxey concedes a high-priced call boy who

claimed to have engaged in sex with Perry and another man for hire in hotel rooms several times never went on the record, even though celebrity attorney Gloria Allred reportedly was signed on to represent him when the story hit. An affidavit signed by the prostitute — whom Maxey said was feeling "traumatized" by the prospect of going public with his allegations — might have convinced Huffington to go with the story. But the activist maintained there was already enough documentation to justify publication.

Maxey claimed Huffington exercised a "double standard" when she decided against publication of the Perry story, probably on the advice of AOL parent company corporate attorneys. If the story had involved extramarital heterosexual activities, the story would have run, he claimed.

In late August, the Huffington Post reporter, who made several trips to Austin and had contacted the Dallas Voice for information earlier in the investigation, wrote in an e-mail seeking clarification that he was putting finishing touches on the story before it ran.

Some political observers have speculated Perry's drastic drop in the national opinion polls from frontrunner status might have contributed to Huffington's decision to kill the story.

Another source familiar with the investigation said it appeared the publisher — for reasons only she knows — was never interested in outing Perry, and the story will never be published. The Huffington Post scribe reportedly indicated he had no problem with Maxey's book, and that he thought Maxey needed to write it.

For his part, Maxey said that he is not worried about Gov. Perry filing a lawsuit against him, and he doubts anyone from Perry's camp

■ **ACTIVIST**, Page 12

On behalf of the volunteers, staff, clients and Board of Directors of Resource Center Dallas, we offer a heartfelt thanks to Black Tie Dinner for its continued support. Your generosity guarantees that we will continue to make a difference in the lives of the LGBT community and all people affected by HIV and AIDS.

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RCD

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RCD will collaborate with area bars to provide testing as well as with other groups.

"We've worked very well with AIDS Interfaith Network in the past, and the gay LULAC group," he said.

Ramirez said plans for implementing the grant, which appears to be the first the Elton John AIDS Foundation has made to a Dallas organization and is the largest the foundation has given to an agency in Texas, are still under way.

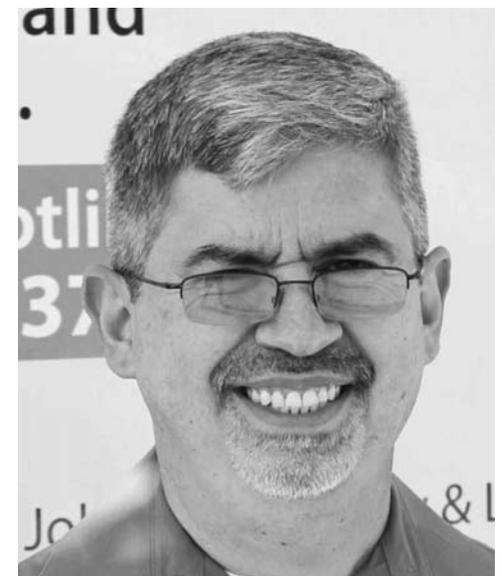
In 2010, EJAF gave OutYouth Austin \$25,000 for its HIV prevention program that included testing that targets those ages 14 to 20.

Metropolitan Community Church of Abilene received \$25,000 in 2008 for its drug intervention program for people who are HIV-positive.

EJAF was established in 1992 by the singer and is based in London. John's husband, David Furnish, is chairman of the foundation.

EJAF supports programs that aim to reduce the incidence of HIV as well as end the discrimination and stigma associated with the disease. Other grants fund direct care for people living with HIV.

Ramirez said that RCD was particularly honored to receive this grant because it was competing with other organizations around the



STEPPING UP PREVENTION EFFORTS | Community Health Programs Manager Ruben Ramirez will target the Latino community for HIV prevention funded by the Elton John AIDS Foundation. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

world to get the funds.

The EJAF has raised more than \$225 million and funded projects in 55 countries since its founding. ■

ACTIVIST

From Page 10

will ever contact him. The former legislator also doubts that he would lose a lawsuit if Perry filed one against him.

"Everything I said in this book is my opinion," Maxey said. "I believe Rick Perry is homosexual or had relations with gay men. The evidence points to that conclusion."

Maxey said it is unlikely Perry would file a lawsuit against him because if he did, the governor and his wife, Anita, would be forced to answer questions under oath about the widespread rumor that she caught Perry and another man having sex in the governor's mansion six years ago.

At the time, a story was widely circulated that the governor's wife had checked into the luxurious Driskill Hotel in Austin and hired a prominent divorce attorney. The story became so widespread that Perry and his wife — who typically avoid one-on-one media interviews — sat down with an Austin American-Statesman reporter to refute the tale.

"If Perry was bold or stupid enough to file any action against me, my lawyers would welcome the opportunity," Maxey said. "I don't think Perry would take that risk."

There has been no response to a telephone request by the Dallas Voice for comment from the Perry campaign.

Maxey said that although he is gaining widespread attention for the book, his only motive in writing it was to expose the alleged hypocrisy of Gov. Perry, who is recognized as the most viru-

lently outspoken anti-gay governor to ever hold office in Texas. The governor's claim to conservative religious leaders after he announced for the presidency in August that there was nothing in his personal background to embarrass them rankled him, the Maxey said.

"How amazingly hypocritical he was, claiming there would be no scandal," Maxey said. "It was astonishing to me. That was the impetus for writing the book."

Maxey said at the time he wrote the book there were only a dozen men known who had claimed to have had sex with Perry. Now, there are twice that many, and new tips come in daily, he said.

"I went into publishing this with no real expectations," Maxey said. "The story may get retold in a more comprehensive way, and people can make their own decisions about it. I think the rest of this will play out in the public discussion."

Maxey said one thing is for certain: Perry will be a bigger enemy to the state's LGBT community than he ever has before if his bid for the presidency continues on its failure track and he returns to Texas. The activist said he wouldn't be surprised if Perry attempted to call the Texas Legislature into emergency session on an anti-LGBT initiative to pacify his conservative religious supporters.

"When you see a snake in the grass, you chop off its head," Maxey said. "I believe this snake is coming back to Texas. He is going to be a meaner snake. He will have something to prove. He will take it out on gay people."

And that threat is likely to keep Maxey, the author and the activist, busy on his anti-Perry campaign for a very long time. ■

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A win-win arrangement

The generosity of Bert Gallagher and Hudson Ferus Vodka is paying off for the new company and for the LGBT community

TAMMY NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Gay Realtor Brian Bleeker knows how difficult it can be to raise money for a cause. And he knows how difficult it is for someone planning a small-scale fundraiser to find corporate sponsors for those events.

It's not that companies don't want to help, Bleeker said. But they plan their budget, including their charitable giving, months in advance, usually too early for those planning smaller or last-minute events to apply. The companies also usually want a lot of information on the event so they can gauge what kind of return they expect on their investment. And that is often information that organizers for smaller events don't really have.

And then Bleeker met Bert Gallagher, co-founder and co-owner of a relatively new company producing Hudson Ferus Vodka, and that changed. Bleeker said he met Bleeker through a representative for a local liquor distributor, and he invited Gallagher to attend a mixer for the DFW Federal Club.

"It was almost two years ago, and I think he was just really impressed by the amount of time and effort people were willing to put into something we believed in," Bleeker said.

Gallagher asked to meet with Bleeker and other local organizers, and at that meeting, "He said, 'What can I do to help?'"

Before long Gallagher had joined the DFW Federal Club and the Lambda Legal Liberty Circle, and he was donating vodka to events for those organizations and more.

And although some might be amazed that a straight man is so willing to be involved in LGBT activism, for Gallagher, it's a no-brainer.



Bert Gallagher

Gallagher and his business partner Doug Jacobson had a publication based in San Antonio before they got into the vodka business, and their first real exposure to HIV/AIDS and LGBT activism came when they were asked to sponsor the

Fashion Nation event benefiting AIDS service organizations in that city.

Working with Fashion Nation organizers, Gallagher said, "gave me the chance to see firsthand how events like that can impact people's lives. We knew then that we wanted to continue to be involved in events like that." And when he met Bleeker and other activists in Dallas, Gallagher saw a natural extension of that involvement for Hudson Ferus.

"It was so impressive to see how organized the people are, how galvanized they are to make a difference," Gallagher said. "The work these organizations are doing is really amazing, and that feeling has been reinforced each and every time we have sponsored an event," he said.

Gallagher and Bleeker said that the sponsorships are definitely a win-win arrangement: Event organizers get the chance to offer free drinks made with a premium vodka, giving those attending events the chance to donate more to the cause; and the folks at Hudson Ferus are seeing their popularity rising steadily in the LGBT community.

"Folks are going in to their favorite bars and asking for Hudson Ferus, and when enough people ask for it, the bars will start stocking it. That's how we are getting into places," Gallagher said.

Bleeker noted that he is constantly astounded by the generosity of Gallagher and Hudson Ferus. "He has given away hundreds, thousands even, of bottles of vodka," Bleeker said.

But for Gallagher, again, it is a no-brainer. "To whom much is given, much is expected. We have been given so much, and this is one way to give back."

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LGBT Person of the Year



CAPITOL GAINS | Equality Texas Executive Director Dennis Coleman said two anti-bullying bills passed this year represent the first successful pro-equality legislation the state has seen since 2001.

In his first year as ED of the state's LGBT lobby organization, Coleman led the way in getting anti-bullying bills passed. Now he's setting his sights on marriage equality

JOHN WRIGHT | Senior Political Writer
wright@dallasvoice.com

Shortly after he took over as executive director of Equality Texas in July 2010, Dennis Coleman

was faced with a tough decision.

Thanks to the economic recession and several months without an ED, the organization could barely pay its bills and was surviving from fundraiser to fundraiser.

In a move he now says should have come sooner, Coleman was forced to lay off three people — or half of Equality Texas' staff.

"The unfortunate thing was that I had to come in as a new person and make that very hard decision," Coleman said recently. "In order for the organization to breathe, it was going to have to

■ **LGBT**, Next Page

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ar: Equality Texas' Dennis Coleman

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happen, because there had been so much cutting already done, that there was nowhere to go except to the payroll. And it was not even an option of making the recommendation of reduced salaries. It had to be a complete cut of those positions. Those cuts were in our field and our political department, which was a very hard decision considering we were heading into the session."

Those who were let go included Randall Terrell, the group's chief lobbyist, and with the biennial Legislature set to convene in January, Coleman acknowledged that board members and donors were nervous.

Riding a Tea Party wave, Republicans had seized a supermajority in the Texas House in November elections, and there were fears that anti-gay legislation from past years could be revived.

But Coleman said in retrospect, the layoffs brought together Equality Texas' board members and remaining staff in an unexpected way. Volunteer board members were motivated to not only raise money like never before — but also to roll

up their sleeves and help with the day-to-day work of the organization, especially lobbying.

Still, no one harbored any illusions about passing pro-LGBT legislation in 2011. Coleman said with right-wing lawmakers apparently preoccupied by immigration and women's rights, he was just hoping for an "opportunity to get my feet wet."

"Little did we know what really awaited us, and I think once again credit goes to the staff that's there right now, as well as the board members, how we were able to adjust and take advantage of the opportunities that were opening up before us," he said.

Those opportunities took the form of anti-bullying legislation, which Equality Texas had backed repeatedly in previous sessions to no avail. But this time, in the wake of a series of highly publicized teen suicides across the nation, even conservative lawmakers wanted to get something done.

Under Coleman's leadership, Equality Texas was able to seize upon the momentum, forging a coalition alongside groups including the Texas

Freedom Network and the Anti-Defamation League.

Equality Texas also brought in advocates like gay Fort Worth Councilman Joel Burns, by then a celebrity for his "It Gets Better" speech, and reached out to the parents of suicide victims — including gay 13-year-old Asher Brown of Houston.

Six months later, the result was passage of what Coleman called the first two pro-equality bills to become law in Texas since 2001, when Gov. Rick Perry signed hate crimes legislation.

While the anti-bullying bills don't include specific protections for LGBT youth, Coleman said they would not have passed if they did.

"The final version is not the ideal policy, but at the same time, we were not excluded," Coleman said. "I know that's a difficult thing to try to explain to a community that not just feels but knows it's targeted because of who they are. But it was important for us to get something passed to protect children. ... That was one of the things that we had promised to the families, that we would get something passed."

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coverstory

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Meanwhile, Equality Texas also managed to fight off anti-gay legislation — including efforts to eliminate funding for LGBT resource centers on college campuses, and ban transgender marriage.

And today, as the group prepares to enter 2012, its finances are looking up. Coleman said the recently approved budget for next year includes funds to reinstate two positions that were eliminated in 2010.

For his role in turning around Equality Texas — the statewide LGBT equality group in the nation's second-largest state — Coleman is Dallas Voice's LGBT Person of the Year.

'It's been a great year'

Jeanne Rubin, an Equality Texas board member from Frisco, said it was only her first or second meeting in early 2010 when former Executive Director Paul Scott announced he was stepping down.

"It's been a great year," Rubin said this week. "We really have come full circle, and Dennis really had to hit the ground running. If we were going to get anything done, it had to be a non-partisan effort, so we had to go out of our comfort circle. I think maybe partially because Dennis was new, he was really able to do that and forge those relationships with legislators."

Anne Wynn, an Austin attorney who chairs the group's board, was one of those who drew on her own lobbying experience to help out after the layoffs. During the session, Wynn, Coleman and Deputy Director Chuck Smith became "the three musketeers of Equality Texas," she said.

"Since he got here, we have righted the ship, and he's done a good job of helping us do that," Wynn said of Coleman. "He'd never spent any time at the Capitol. I didn't have any idea that we'd be able to pass not one but two anti-bullying bills. Dennis did a great job of meeting the legislators and their key staff people, and establishing relationships with them, so that we could help get those bills through the committees, and then back on the floors and eventually passed. For a person that was a complete novice about the legislative process, he really did a great job."

Although Coleman was relatively new to the State Capitol, he had plenty of experience in the LGBT equality movement. Prior to joining Equality Texas, Coleman spent seven years as executive director of the South Central Region of Lambda Legal, based in Dallas.

Ken Upton, a senior staff attorney at Lambda Legal who worked closely with Coleman, recalled him as "very jocular."

"He laughs, he smiles a lot, and I think that's one of the things people like about him. He brings kind of a fun-ness to the job," Upton said. "He'd walk into a room and talk to anybody. That really was his strength."

Upton also noted that Coleman is one of the few local activists he's met who's originally from here.

Coleman, now 48, said he grew up in an upper middle class household in the heart of South Dal-



STEPS TO EQUALITY | Coleman, shown with Deputy Director Chuck Smith, said the group is now looking at ways to begin chipping away at Texas' 2005 marriage amendment.

las. His parents were members of the Methodist church at Malcolm X and Martin Luther King boulevards, just west of Fair Park, and Coleman graduated from Bishop Dunn High School.

After studying communications at the University of Texas, Coleman first became an activist when he volunteered for the speaker's bureau at Resource Center Dallas, educating people about HIV/AIDS in local churches.

From there he got involved with the Black Tie Dinner and served on the board of the LGBT fundraiser for four years. He then joined the Board of Governors of the Human Rights Campaign, which he eventually co-chaired.

"Like a lot of people, I started really on the ground," Coleman said.

In 2003, Coleman left a career in sales and marketing at Sprint to join Lambda Legal.

He said he was happy there and had no intention of leaving, until being approached last year about the Equality Texas position.

His only reservation was the prospect of a permanent move to Austin, which wouldn't have worked for him and his partner, fellow activist Gregory Pynes.

Coleman met Pynes when they were both volunteering for HRC. They've been together nine years and share a home off Garland Road near the Dallas Arboretum.

But Coleman was open to commuting from Dallas and living part-time in Austin — so he took the job.

From bullying to marriage equality

Since then, Coleman said he's logged more than 30,000 miles on his car, driving back and forth from Big D to the capital — which he said makes a good time for conference calls.

When the Legislature isn't in session, his focus

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is fundraising and education, and he's traveling throughout the state, meaning he doesn't need to be based in Austin.

Equality Texas recently completed its strategic plan for 2012, which focuses heavily on civic engagement, Coleman said.

The group is scrapping its State of the State conference — previously held in Austin in off legislative years — and replacing it with a series of 12 regional equality projects throughout Texas.

"We want to, instead of saying come to us, we want to go to you," Coleman said. "We want to work with you in your own community."

Utilizing college interns, a project called "Real Texas, Real Lives" will document the experiences of LGBT people and their allies.

The aim is to build political power and create more advocates like David and Amy Truong, Asher's Brown's parents.

"Here was this family who had never been to Austin, never lobbied before, never spoke publicly before, but saw this thing through," Coleman said. "Sometimes Amy would beat me to some of the meetings I had set up. I wish everyone could experience that and see that if we just got people to do phone calls, what a difference that can make, or show up to hearings, what a difference that can really make."

Coleman said Equality Texas' relationships with the families of bullying victims likely was the group's biggest contribution to the passage of the anti-bullying bills.

"No other group in the coalition had those relationships," he said. "When it was time for the hearings, we had Montana Lance's family, we had Jon Carmichael's family, and we were working with them. No other organization was working with them, and when the session was about to end and there was not any traction, Equality Texas was the organization that at that moment could call those families and say, 'Hey, we need you here in Austin to go with us, because we need this to move, and it can move with you.'"

In addition to passage of the anti-bullying bills, Coleman said committee hearings were held on 10 other pro-LGBT measures. And at most of those hearings, the group was able to call witnesses.

Coleman recalled one hearing on an employment nondiscrimination bill, in front of a committee made up of all Republicans.

"The conversation was not around sexual orientation, it was really around gender identity and expression," he said. "We didn't talk about gay. We talked about transitioning in the workplace. What an eye opener to me."

He added that he believes the threat of anti-gay legislation in Texas is nearing its end.

"You're going to have your Wayne Christians," he said, referring to the author of the failed effort to de-fund LGBT resource centers. "But people are slowly moving away from using gay people as punching bags."

Coleman said he now knows what it takes to get a bill passed, and with a large number of incumbents retiring, Equality Texas is re-energizing its PAC and focusing on voter registration.

One of the keys for the group will be the ability to hire staff to help out with development and field operations.

"Right now there are three of us trying to do the job I wouldn't even say of six but of 10," Coleman said. "In a state of this size, we need people on the ground. ... I'm in the very cautious growth stage, but I know that we need to have people that can implement the field programs, as well as someone to help raise money. Right now I'm the sole fundraiser for the organization, and so we need someone who can definitely help us with our monthly donors, our capital club members, while I concentrate on engaging

corporations with our work."

In the 2013 session, Coleman said, Equality Texas' two legislative priorities will be employment nondiscrimination and relationship recognition.

Armed with results from its 2010 Equality Poll showing broad support for relationship recognition, Coleman said the group's strategy will include incremental gains, but with the ultimate goal of marriage equality.

He said legal experts are already looking at how to chip away at the 2005 constitutional amendment, which banned both same-sex marriage and civil unions.

"It is definitely a multi-year strategy, but I think that as our poll indicates, we have over 63 percent of voting Texans who would support civil unions, and we have almost 45 percent that would support marriage. That's double what it was in 2005," Coleman said.

"We're talking to our colleagues in New York. We're talking to our colleagues in California. We're talking to folks at Freedom to Marry, about what does it look like here in Texas, and what have you seen? We're going to be engaging our friends at Lambda Legal, who won Iowa. What does that look like and what should our steps be?" ■



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7 p.m. Congregación Latina
Interfaith Peace Chapel
Rev. Alejandro De La Torre, preaching
11 p.m. Gospel Christmas Eve
Rev. Dr. Stephen V. Sprinkle, preaching

December 25, Christmas Day

11 a.m. Traditional Worship
Rev. Dawson B. Taylor, preaching
Marvin Matthews, guest soloist

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viewpoints

What's next for HIV/AIDS services?

With drastic budget cuts looming, federally-funded HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention and education programs could be lost completely

On Dec. 15, four HIV/AIDS policy, planning and treatment groups offered a webinar entitled "Is No Deal a Good Deal? Deficit Reduction, HIV Services and What Comes Next."

Experts from the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, AIDS United, Harvard Law School Center for Health Law & Policy Innovation and the Treatment Access Expansion Project took turns speaking about different aspects of the challenges HIV/AIDS service providers face in light of political realities in DC. They divided their presentation into four parts and used 50 illustrative slides.

Part 1 was the overview: Deficit Reduction and the Budget Control Act of 2011.

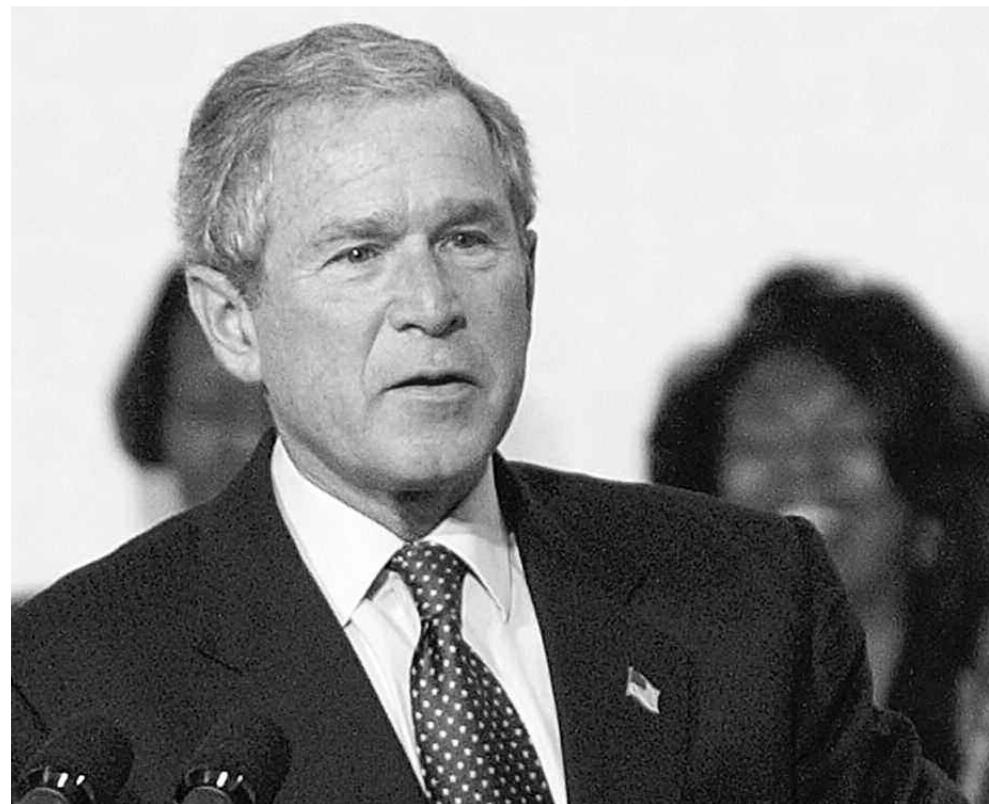
So why does the U.S. have a deficit when, as George W. Bush took over the White House in January 2001, the federal government had a surplus of more than \$237 billion? The answer is a trifecta: Bush-era tax cuts ("It's your money!"), war in Afghanistan ("Gotta get al-Qaida") and war in Iraq ("Weapons of mass destruction!"). Thus, in a single decade, we went from the largest surplus in U.S. history to the largest deficit.

The fiscal woods thicken here, so let's just note that Congress has passed and the president has signed the Budget Control Act of 2011. The act pledges the federal government to sharply reduce the deficit over the next 10 years.

What will such deficit reduction mean for HIV/AIDS programs? According to the webinar presenters, if there is no agreement on revenue increases and the deficit reduction comes solely through spending cuts, it will severely impact three programs of interest to many of us: Ryan White, prevention funding and two so-called entitlements, Medicaid and Medicare.

A spending-cuts-only approach would affect the HIV/AIDS community in several ways. First, cutting prevention efforts would mean higher rates of infection, worse health outcomes and higher long-term health care costs.

Since Medicare and Medicaid help millions living with HIV/AIDS, cutting the former would likely cause more physicians to drop Medicare patients, and cutting federal funds for the latter



THEN AND NOW | When George W. Bush took over the White House in January 2001, the federal government had a budget surplus of more than \$237 billion. In 2011, the deficit stands at \$1.3 trillion.

would shift the cost to treat very low-income persons to the states. (Good luck with that, Texans.)

Cuts to general health care reform efforts would virtually assure higher costs going forward.

Still with me? Good.

So when the Congress and President Obama could not come to any fiscal agreement, they punted to the Super Committee. The Super Committee was tasked with recommending huge changes to taxes, entitlement programs (including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid) and discretionary spending (including Ryan White).

The SC came up with nothing. Nada. Zilch.

That means there will be no immediate spending cuts to entitlement programs. But automatic spending cuts — sequestration — will kick in January 2013 for both defense and non-defense programs.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, without new revenues, domestic spending will drop from about 4.4 percent of Gross Domestic Product this year to about 2.7 percent in 2021. It will then be much lower than it has been since the end of WWII.

Looking at appropriations for the year we're entering now, suffice it to say that the differences between what the HIV/AIDS research and health care community is seeking and what the Congress is proposing are huge.

Also, the community "vehemently" opposes two policy riders added by Republican members

of Congress. The first bans the use of federal funds for syringe exchange programs. The second funds abstinence-only programs.

The webinar ended with a plea for advocacy. Here are the talking points the experts hope we will use:

- The Super Committee actually succeeded in one area: It prevented major cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and other essential programs.
- The president and Congress must stick to their promise to cut defense and non-defense spending equally; no caving to deep-pocketed militarists.
- New revenue is essential; without it, HIV/AIDS outreach, prevention, education and treatment programs are lost.
- Preventing new HIV/AIDS cases, providing early treatment for those who do get infected, and funding support services such as housing are not just humane; they are cost-effective.

HIV/AIDS is still running rampant, and no magic cure is in sight. Call, fax, email and snail mail every member of Congress as well as the president.

Work with other activists. Think of other things to do, and do them all. Jan. 2 is not too soon to begin.

Phyllis Guest is a longtime activist on political and LGBT issues and is a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. Send comments to editor@dallasvoice.com.



Phyllis Guest
Taking Notes

All I want for Christmas ...

World peace, a new leather jacket and a healthy dose of resoluteness top this list of Christmas wishes

I received a most unusual early Christmas gift from a couple of dear friends. It is a Christmas ornament, and what makes it unusual is the subject matter: It features a very bearish traditional Santa bent down on one knee smiling broadly. Nothing out of the ordinary as far as ornaments go, except that he is holding a tiny baby Jesus in swaddling clothes.

Say what?

This strange, mixed-up ornament really is meant to hearken back to one Christmas Eve when we were driving around looking at lights and decorations in Highland Park. There on Beverly Drive was a full-blown nativity with shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph and — you guessed it — Santa Claus!

Theologically as well as historically, this just offended my sense of style. Talk about mixing

your metaphors! But I guess I should expect it in the rich hole of the donut that is Dallas.

Santa, in the popular imagination, is that jolly fellow who brings you everything your heart desires, especially if you are well-heeled. According to a lot of folks who ascribe to the “prosperity gospel,” he’s a lot like Jesus: If you are good you succeed and if not, well you must have done something wrong to keep you off the “A” list.

It’s no wonder kids grow up confusing the two figures, and in fact, I suspect a lot of kids would much rather have a visit from the Jolly Old Elf than the Prince of Peace.

And that brings me to my point: As we bustle about helping to fuel our slow economic recovery, it’s a good time to take stock of what is really important in your lives.

I have a tradition in which I make a list of what I would ask for each Christmas if I could have anything in the world. Funny thing is, it sounds a lot like a Miss America acceptance speech.

“World peace” is always at the top of the list,



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

followed by a lot of other altruistic wishes before I get down to me.

Now I say this not to claim any moral high ground, for I suspect my list would look a lot like most folks to a point. Oh, my list includes lots of things like a gym

membership (that I will use), a new leather jacket to replace the one that has become worn and ratty. It also includes that one thing that doesn’t cost a penny: resoluteness.

I want to remain active and engaged and continue to have fixity of purpose. I want to remain somewhat altruistic when cynicism threatens to get the best of me, to be able to look at silly things and not take them too seriously.

I want to be able to listen to politicians and pundits and not lose faith that I can still make a difference, to be able to write this and not dismiss it as a load of sentimental tripe.

Seriously, what more could anyone ask than that?

It’s not a big deal, just some little purpose that

keeps me going and fires my spirit. Now wouldn’t that would be a really nice gift to find under your tree? ■

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.

Feedback

Senior housing in Houston

I am very interested in this article as I have been dealing with some of these issues here in Houston. As a 75-year-old gay male who lost a partner to AIDS back in 1995, and then lost my business in 2004, I have had great difficulty in surviving. Only recently, through the help of some fellow gay seniors, I was able to move into the Allen Parkway Village, run by the Houston Housing Authority. I have a quite comfortable small apartment, with my faithful basset hound, for a very low rent with all bills included. I contacted the publisher of a local gay magazine, OutSmart, suggesting they do an article on this resource for seniors, but never received a response. And a few years ago I attended a weekly support group called SPRY at the Montrose Counseling Center and curiously this resource for living was never mentioned.

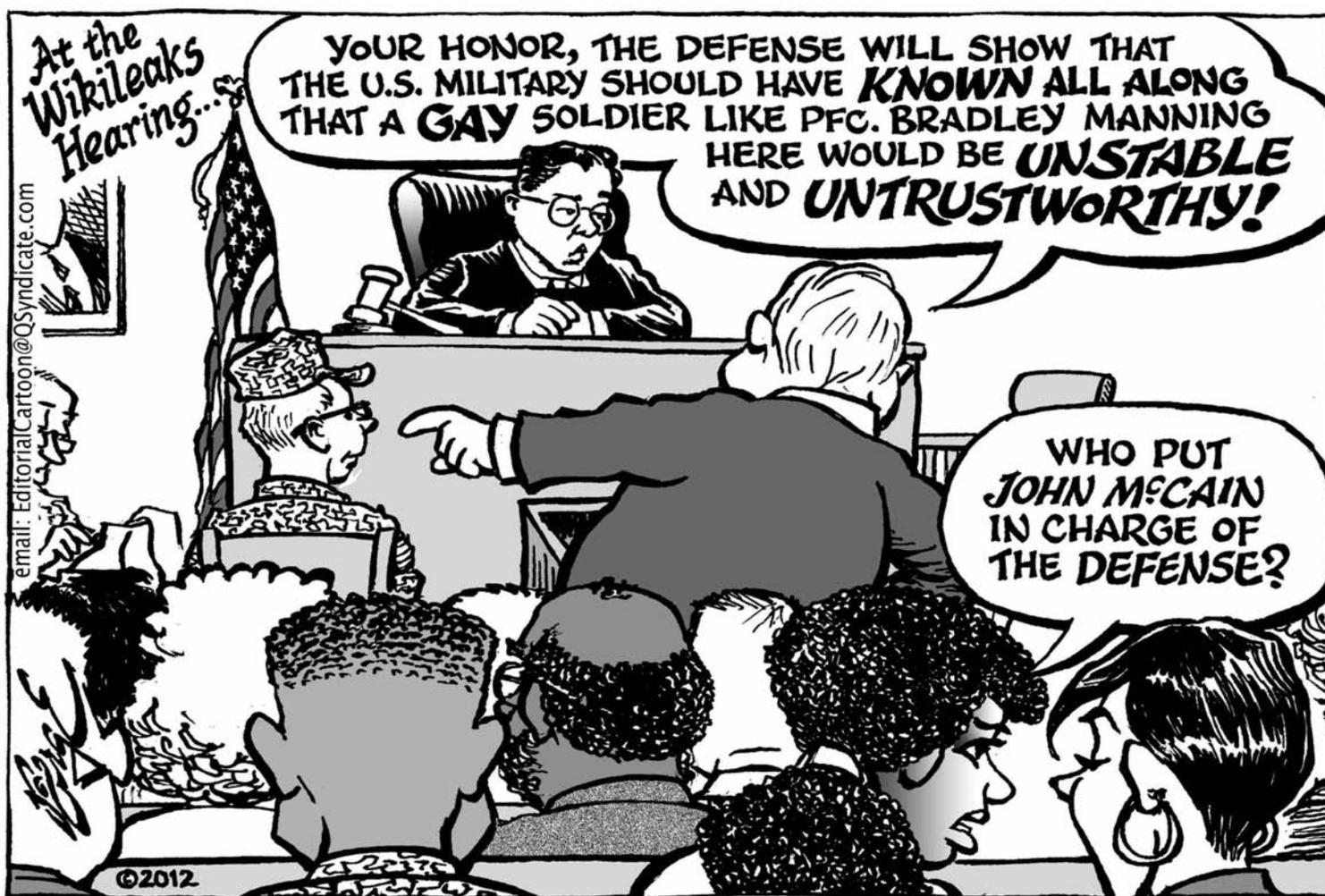
Larry Lingle, Houston

Gay marriage: Healthy and easy

My husband and I recently discovered how relatively easy it is to get married in New York. After doing our online application, once we got to the City Clerk office, we were married within three hours, including time to go across the street to get a judicial waiver for the 24-hour waiting period. EVERYONE was very helpful and they obviously think it’s really cool that people come from all over the country to get married there. The Officiant in the City Clerk Office was very professional.

Stan Guy, via Instant tea

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RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK’S POLL:

- Is Rick Perry gay?
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349 Votes cast

Woman's world

LIFE+STYLE
screen

Rodrigo Garcia has made a career telling stories from a female perspective, a style he turns on its head in 'Albert Nobbs'



THE BUTLER DID IT
Rodrigo Garcia, above right, directs Glenn Close, left in the gender-bending drama 'Albert Nobbs.'

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



It's not even 7 a.m. in California, but Rodrigo Garcia has already been awake for hours. He's been in production on a series he's shooting for the web about female characters.

It is nothing new for Garcia to be telling stories about women, although the format — webisodes — may seem a bit out of place for someone best known for writing and directing feature films and premium cable series. But it doesn't bother Garcia — he lets his interests lead his career, not vice versa.

"What's still driving my interest is the content — issues of identity, family dynamics ... those kinds of things," he says. "The studios are making less of those now, and more tentpole and high concept movies for young people. So why not the Internet? The platforms are still being explored. The draw is where can you tell stories that interest you."

And the stories that have interested Garcia have often been those related to women, and fre-

quently gay characters, as in his new film *Albert Nobbs*.

This is not unique in Hollywood, although it does put him in some rarefied company.

"There is a long line of male directors interested in female characters, from Bergman to Truffaut and Antonioni, all of whom had female characters at the center. Also Cukor and Minnelli in Hollywood. It's not uncommon for guys to just go there."

Garcia's career arc has been rangy but compelling. He received an Emmy nomination for directing the pilot of *Big Love*, the HBO series about modern-day polygamists — another topic rife with women's issues. He helmed several episodes of *Six Feet Under*, which famously had several gay characters, and was even invited by his friend Ilene Chaiken to direct *The L Word*, though he was never able to schedule it. ("I liked that show, obviously I felt comfortable with the

subject matter," he says.) His feature *Nine Lives* told interconnected stories of women, many about gay life.

But it started for Garcia with his first film, *Things You Can Tell Just By Looking at Her*, a portmanteau of shorts about women. It wasn't his initial intent, though, to tell only women's stories.

"When I was writing that movie, I wrote the women first. They were so complex, I just kept going. Ultimately, I don't feel the movies are about women or female problems but things that interest me. But the subject matter could be male also, like the ties that bind us."

Garcia walks the razor's edge between male and female with his latest film, *Albert Nobbs*, which begins a staggered release this week (it opens in Dallas in late January). In it, Glenn Close plays Albert, a servant in an Irish hotel who for 30 years has been a gentleman's gentle-

man.

Only Albert was born a woman, and has chosen to live her life as a trans man in an era where there simply was no definition of that. When Albert meets another woman living on the down-low, and begins to explore his feelings for a young chambermaid, his life is turned upside-down. The set-up means Garcia addresses issues of male-female identity with rare depth.

"The themes and conflicts were very strong. Albert is *beyond* from being 'inside a closet' — she has erased herself and supplanted it with her butler, now in her 50s. I've started to recognize [the theme in my work] where you can't live with someone and you can't live without them. In the movie, the young girl that was Albert — I don't even know what the young girl was called — and [the adult] Albert is that relationship."

It was a reunion of sorts with Close, who

■ WOMAN, Page 22

Queer locals of 2011

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW
PEOPLE

As we crown our local LGBT Person of the Year on the front page, over here in Life+Style we've been thinking

about the locals who we will forever relate to helping define 2011 from the standpoint of entertainment and culture. Here are the ones who made the year memorable.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



Anthony Chisom, activist, left
Derrick Spillman, activist, right

In a short time, these two have made waves across the local LGBT African-American community. Chisom erased lines of gay and straight to focus on Dallasites with his foundation's inaugural South Dallas AIDS Walk, which raised more than \$10,000 in March. Spillman's work with the DFW Pride Movement stepped up Dallas Black Pride. With marquee speakers and a schedule of both educational and got entertaining sessions, The Movement the rep it's been working for.



Joel Ferrell, theater queen

Whether producing *Arsenic and Old Lace* or directing two of the best shows of the year, Ferrell has been a force in Dallas theater since joining the DTC as an associate artist, and the community is richer for his vision and tireless work as a director, choreographer and all-around talent.



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- HRC Fire & Ice Christmas Party Dec 2010
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- Dallas Diablo's Hospitality Suite
- LGBT Chamber of Commerce Events
- Lambda Legal's Men's Event at Saks Fifth Ave. Galleria
- Lambda Legal's White Party Gala and after Party to benefit Legacy Counseling Center
- 2011 Red Party Pre Party & Red Party
- Dallas Voice Cocktail Party at Wisby Smith Gallery
- Ben Cohen's Stand Up Against Bullying during Pride week

... and we continue to add events

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■ WOMAN, From Page 20

worked with Garcia on both *Things You Can Tell* and *Nine Lives*. Close also produced and co-wrote the screenplay to *Albert Nobbs*.

As unusual as the plot may seem, Garcia says there are “many, many instances” of women hiding out as men to make their livings, working as butlers, or even as coal miners. Making the *audience* believe this could happen, though, is another matter.

“It’s happened many times where you’re in a public place and you see someone and you think, ‘Is that a man or a woman?’ But you would never consider asking them, ‘Are you

something else?’ As long as you believe those around her couldn’t see it, you believe it. It’s extremely hard to pull off, but it didn’t worry me with Glenn.”

Garcia insists Close wore very little makeup to achieve the effect. “You don’t want the audience to feel like they didn’t even *try* so the nose is sort of a masculine version of the nose that sits on Glenn’s face and the ears are a little bigger — that’s it,” he says.

“The movie is about closets and what you have to repress to fit in, but it was not *about* a gay character because she’s not gay *or* straight — she’s erased that, too. It’s so sad she has to hide who she is.” ■

Respect the board

Filmmaker Israel Luna gambles with his supernatural indie thriller ‘The Ouija Experiment,’ a remake of his own earlier film ‘Is Anybody There?’

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer

lopez@dallasvoice.com

Israel Luna learned quickly when he was in junior high this lesson: There are three rules when it comes to playing with a Ouija board.

Luna’s phase — or rather, his creepy curiosity — lasted long enough for him to turn his own paranormal activities into the basis for his new movie, *The Ouija Experiment*.

Rule No. 1: Never ask the spirit how it died.

“*Ouija* is actually a remake,” Luna, formerly based in Dallas but now making his home in San Francisco, says. “It was originally shot in 2001 as *Is Anybody There?*, which had low production quality. [Then we realized] we had access to all this cool equipment, so we remade one of our own movies!”

Not that he spent a fortune on the remake. Luna and his crew worked on the movie for nine days and with a budget of just \$1,000, but he knew the story could be shot on the cheap and still look good. Without the need of a special effects monster, Luna felt the tone created a scarier environment by suggesting more than showing.

Four friends, gathered to play on a Ouija, encounter three spirits who instill a sense of suspi-

cion in the gamers. The “found footage” of them playing gives it a *Blair Witch* feel, but Luna says the film is based on his own actual experiences with the board. And those were kinda scary.

“When I had the rules, I knew this would be easy to write basing it on the real things I experienced,” he says. “My

own scariest moment is in the movie. We were playing with a friend who didn’t believe in it and asked it to prove itself. The board spelled out *BDRM*, and later we saw a picture of his wife and girl face down in his bedroom. He got really upset by that.”

Rule No. 2: Never ask a spirit how you are going to die.

With the success of his film *Ticked Off Trannies With Knives*, Luna felt some pressure to come up with a big follow-up. He knew this would be the movie that gets compared to *TOTWK*, though he is working on a companion piece for that. With *Ouija*, he’s managing expectations.

“This is not at the scale of *Ticked*, but I hope people see it as a different kind of movie,” he says. “This was just an experience in shooting a



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Linda Moore &
Laurie Foley,
dog lovers

Moore and her partner Foley are devoted dog breeders, and in 2011 their cocker Beckham stormed Westminster, and ended the year as the top dog of *any* breed, *anywhere*, in America. Wow.



Charles Santos,
task master

As executive director of TITAS, Santos is used to bringing talent to Texas, but it was his inspired idea of celebrating AIDS at 30 with *A Gathering* that reminded locals of his devotion to AIDS fundraising.



QUEER CLIPS: Indie gay films on DVD with Texas roots

We love our indie movies by gay filmmakers, but we *love* them even more when they have ties to Texas. This year, a horror movie made a hero out of a Plano man, a quirky film brought big names to town and another strove to be the romantic of romantic comedies while eschewing usual gay cinematic plays.

Adding to vampire lore, Mark Bessenger's directorial debut **Bite Marks**, pictured, enlists both humor and horror. Gay backpacking couple Cary and Vogel and not-so-straight trucker Brewster, who picks them up, venture into scary territory with a cargo of coffins. As Brewster, SMU grad Benjamin Lutz charms with good looks and off-kilter heroism against hunky shirtless vampires.

For his sophomore film, East Texas native Ash Christian was able to nab familiar names like John Waters, Jennifer Coolidge and Heather Matarazzo for the irreverent **Mangus!** Not bad for a film about small town Texas boy who wants to play the lead in the local production of *Jesus Christ Spectacular*, and loses his legs. D'oh!

Another SMU grad got in the filmmaking mix. Wade McDonald finished his film *Hold Your Peace* in April and quickly got it into the film festival circuit. A couple tests rocky waters with an ex-boyfriend in the mix as they plan their big day.

— Rich Lopez

All titles now available on DVD.

quickie project."

That was the plan, at least. But after seeing the finished product, he became dubious about *Ouija*. At first.

"I was nervous before the Dallas screening [this month] so I called my producer, Toni Miller," he says. "We agreed that we didn't think the movie was very scary. And we weren't thrilled at all by that."

But the audience reaction contradicted Luna and Miller's fears. Then he took the film to screen in his home town.

"I screened it in Wellington when I went home for Thanksgiving and there were so many screams! It wasn't until then I realized I might have something," Luna says.

Rule No. 3: Most importantly, do not stop playing without saying goodbye.

Despite the success of *TOTWK* on the festival circuit, it didn't help Luna's bottom line all that much. More money was going out than coming in, so taking a note from Kevin Smith's model for *Red State*, Luna decided to show the film himself. He says his plan poses the \$64,000 question.

"You've caught me at a big change in my career," he admits. "I am going to experiment with this and I think I'm going to be four-walling the movie. We'll book the theater, screen the film and come out ahead."

The only trick at this point is marketing and getting exposure. Luna wants to take the movie to smaller towns *without* indie art houses. If all goes according to plan, the movie goes into release in February — just as he wants it.

"We got a small chunk of money the last time around, but this is the fight for indie filmmakers," he says. "I'm kind of excited but I'm kind of scared. I don't know what I'm doing!" ■



Mark Trimble,
bear-ish fundraiser

Trimble and the guys of BearDance came into their own this year with their dance party nights. The highlight was the TBRU party, and with three events during 2011, BearDance raised an impressive \$22,000-plus for area charities.



Luke 2:9-12 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

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Whatcha watchin'?

Our guide to Christmas movies: 'War Horse,' 'Girl with the Dragon Tattoo'

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

There's something vaguely profane about opening *War Horse* on Christmas Day. True, it's a heartwarming family film suitable to share with kids — Spielberg's most gooiily inoffensive film since *E.T.*, in fact — but it's also a movie where the main character is treated with the same reverence as the Christ Child. I mean that quite literally: From the moment his mare foals, people look at the Thoroughbred Joey with the awed humility of the Magi bestowing frankincense and myrrh.

War Horse, in fact, is so relentless in its nudging, reassuring you, *This is a magical horse! This beast is special! Take your eyes off him at your peril!!!* that it in fact loses almost all sense of genuine cinematic magic. Imagine a comedian who spent more time telling you his jokes are the best and you'll be wowed by how funny he is, and you approach the counterproductive quality of this movie.

★★★★★

WAR HORSE

Emily Watson, David Thewlis.
Rated PG. 135 mins. Opens
Christmas Day in wide release.

That's surprising, because if anyone knows how to make wonder seem affectingly cinematic, it's Spielberg. The moment the scientists see the living dinosaurs roaming about *Jurassic Park* is justified because *freakin' dinosaurs are walking among us!!!* But a maverick quadruped at a livestock auction deserves it? Spielberg is getting soft. This is the most inept heartstring-tugging he's done since *Always*, one of his few genuine flops, both commercially and artistically. And for someone who directed one of the great war movies of the modern era (*Saving Private Ryan*), this one contains tamely mediocre battle scenes.

It doesn't need to be a hard R, but World War I should look at least as harrowing as *Saving Private Ryan*.

Still, it would be unfair to say *War Horse* has no merit. The reunion of boy and horse is memorably charming (Hey! You can't

seriously think I'm giving anything away), and Janusz Kaminski's cinematography is staggeringly beautiful and versatile (the finale looks like it was lifted right out of the climax of *Gone with the Wind*). And Joey — at least, the computer-gen-

'War Horse' opens Christmas Day.



Leslie Ezelle,
cancer survivor/TV star

Just weeks after completing chemotherapy, Ezelle landed on TV's *Next Design Star*. She didn't win, but her celebrity, paired with the experience of beating breast cancer, has made her a devoted fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.



David Berryman,
gayborhood cheerleader

For years, Berryman has been the largely quiet behind-the-scenes guy for events like the Pride parade, but in 2011, after talks of the possible cancellation of Easter in the Park, Berryman stepped in, offering to coordinate it and obtaining the funding, literally saving Easter in the gayborhood.

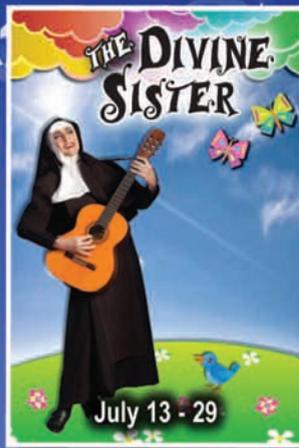


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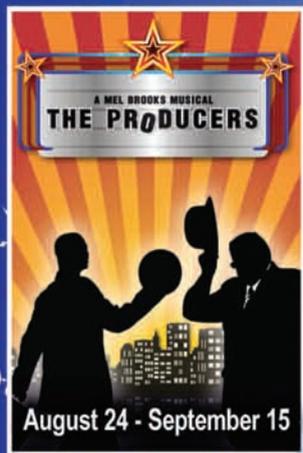
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Daniel Craig stars in 'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo,' now playing in wide release.

erated version of him — conveys a lot with a glance of those big eyes. It says a lot when the best performance in a movie is from a 2,000-lb. beast, and Oprah's nowhere to be found.

When Stieg Larsson's first book, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, debuted, it captured imaginations because it was at once a typical example of genre-fiction — the set-up, a sort of locked-

room mystery about a girl who disappeared from a remote Swedish island 40 years earlier, invoked a standard whounnit structure — but also a deeply detailed screed against... well, against a lot of shit Larsson felt passionately about. Corporate control. Violence against women. Personal privacy. Journalistic ethics. By the time you sorted all those things out, you had a novel so plump with plots and subplots, it felt more like Tolstoy than Turow.

The Swedish-language film version, while altogether serviceable, had a rocky time balancing those elements, but this territory is right up director David Fincher's alley. His English-language remake is almost as bleak as his modern quasi-masterpiece, *Seven*, but the topics and the tone? Pure Fincher.

He declares his own stylish mantra during the opening credits: Organic, abstract, even desultory and festishistic images to Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross' pulsating punk score establishes this as Fincher's version of a Bond film. (It's perhaps no coincidence the lead actor in the proposed trilogy is Bond himself, Daniel Craig.) Mechanical, urban, oppressive — welcome to the worlds of Larsson and Fincher.

But *The Girl with a Dragon Tattoo* doesn't weigh

on you so much as it assaults you with its brazenness. The girl, Lisbeth (Rooney Mara), is a waifish and strange bisexual, antisocial to the point of psychopathic. She is clever but not subtle and without traditional cultural mores, so she has no problem hacking into the computers of industrialists if it suits her.

She eventually teams up with a disgraced journalist, Mikael (Craig), hired by a rich businessman (Christopher Plummer) to solve the enigma of what happened to his great niece on that summer day in 1965. That investigation leads down rabbit holes that uncover a serial killer half a century in the making, fueled by religious fervor and a Fascist past.

The pacing of this version has an energy the Swedish version did not, and Fincher excels during several violent ballets: A subway mugging, a harrowing rape scene (two rapes actually, but that may be saying too much), a chamber of horror torture sequence. He and screenwriter Steven Zaillian also streamline the plot, balancing Larsson's philosophizing with dramatic tension (though they do tip their hand too soon with one key plot point and rushing some others).

Mara does a lot with a little; her Lisbeth is emotionally stunted but she moves and thinks deftly — she would be at home with Tom Cruise on the next *Mission: Impossible*. Craig also plays it close to the vest expertly. But the star is really Fincher, whose visually fluidity make you crave the next installment, and the next. It's like *Harry Potter* for cynics. ■



THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

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Craig Lynch & Jeff Rane, theatrical impresarios

Ten years after founding Uptown Players as an upstart theater troupe doing gay-themed work, Lynch and Rane launched the first-ever gay theater festival to coincide with Pride Week at the historic Kalita Humphreys Theater, their impressive new home. Way to go in a decade!



Chris Heinbaugh, re-committed arts lover

After years as Mayor Leppert's right-hand man, the former actor and TV reporter left politics to return to his first love — the arts — by working with the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

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Denis the menace

Gay actor Denis O'Hare, TV's reigning villain, is far less creepy than his roles

Meeting Denis O'Hare should be scary as hell. After all, this is the man who plays two of TV's reigning supervillains: The horny vamp leader on *True Blood* and a mysteriously deformed psychopath who just suffocated a potential homebuyer on *American Horror Story*. But today, in the back of homo-hot-spot Saint Felix in West Hollywood on his day off, O'Hare doesn't project any of that eeriness.

So far during the debut season of the smash FX show, O'Hare, as the scarred weirdo Larry Harvey, has doused a house in gasoline, killed another man's mistress and fought fervently for a home that's become a tough sell — and not just because the economy sucks.

"I don't think he's evil," O'Hare says. "He's acting out of a particular desire for something. For me, all characters have a justification for their behavior; they always think that what they're doing is necessary for a reason. Even the Phantom of the Opera has a real reason: He was in love with someone, he was scarred, he wants love and revenge."

O'Hare orders a smorgasbord of nibbles in between talking of Ryan Murphy's *AHS*, the upcoming season of *True Blood* and the foster child he's caring for with husband Hugo Redwood, who lives in Brooklyn, N.Y. Holding his phone up, O'Hare flips through photos of his family, looking for the one of the kid flashing his happy-as-can-be grin. Like O'Hare's partner, the actor's nearly year-old baby is black, and when he comes upon one pic — of the boy atop O'Hare's lap and a friend's child, who's white, sitting on Redwood — he finally breaks into a maniacal smirk.

"We're the right wing's worst nightmare," O'Hare says. "Wrong color baby on the wrong person's lap — oh my god!"

And you thought *Larry* was scary.

Before getting the call from Murphy, who desperately wanted O'Hare to take on Larry, the actor was already creeping out audiences on



AMERICAN HORROR ACTOR | Denis O'Hare adds grotesque intensity to Ryan Murphy's creepy series, which wrapped its first season this week.

True Blood as Russell Edgington, the ancient former vampire king of Mississippi.

Premiering next summer, Season 5 will see the return of the Master of Nutcases, when the 2,800-year-old bloodsucker makes a comeback after skipping out on the last go-round. What's

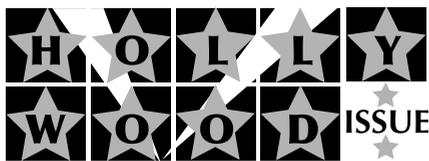
to become of him after rising from the cement he was buried under?

"Nothing I can share," O'Hare says, noting a recent lunch he had with out *True Blood* master-

mind Alan Ball, also the creator of *Six Feet Under*. "We talked about what's going to happen and I was definitely surprised. It's good stuff. It's always good stuff. With him, and with Ryan, they don't go to obvious places. They go where you wouldn't expect them to go."

And so does O'Hare. The actor, who's actually down-to-earth and chatty, is good at playing bad. He was relentless at getting Sandra Bullock kicked out of the country in rom-com *The Proposal*, and played way against type in *Milk* as Sen. John Briggs, who proposes a California ballot initiative to outlaw gay and lesbian teachers. Recently, O'Hare had a blink-and-you'll-miss-it scene in the Hoover biopic *J. Edgar*, a chance to work again with Clint East-

■ DENIS, Page 28



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■ DENIS, From Page 27

wood (O'Hare starred alongside Angelina Jolie in *Changeling* as, what do you know, a psych-ward bad guy).

O'Hare, who turns 50 next month, got his start while growing up in Michigan, where he sang in the choir and, in 1974, landed a chorus part in a community theater production of *Show Boat*. He parlayed his humble beginnings into a Broadway career — in Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins* in 2004, then scoring a Tony Award for his performance in *Take Me Out*. In January, O'Hare heads back to New York stage where he'll act in *An Iliad*, off-Broadway run, before heading back to L.A. for more of *True Blood*.

The best part of being in NYC? Seeing his family. O'Hare married Redwood, an interior designer, over the summer, and the two have been caring for their foster child since April.

"I could've gone to my grave without having kids, but I came around to liking the idea," O'Hare admits, noting he warmed up to the thought after seven years of talks with Redwood. "As a gay man, I find my biggest stumbling block was my own homophobia, my own sense of feeling that gay people shouldn't have kids. I felt pressure from society that we're not supposed to have kids" — not to mention, he adds, that once you do, it's like wearing a gay yarmulke — "and I was also shy about being a spokesperson for gay adoption."

And now he's the gushing father who's looking for just the right pic to show off the kid's smile. His foster child laughs a lot, but how could he not? "I speak to him in bad French," O'Hare

says, "and he dies."

O'Hare's encounters with gay couples and their kids helped him shake off his internalized homophobia, something he says is difficult to diagnose in ourselves, and he finally accepted the idea of having his own with Redwood. "It's been normalized for me," he says, deliberating. "But it's like being married. It's so hard to say the word 'husband' at first. I say 'partner,' and then suddenly realize if I say 'husband,' it might be aggressively political. But then it's like, what the fuck? What else am I gonna say? He's my husband. We are legally married."

Part of his hesitation is that common desire not to be defined by his sexual orientation.

"For me, an actor is an actor. Years ago someone said to me, 'How do you feel about being a gay actor?' I said, 'I'm not a gay actor. I'm an actor. I'm Irish. I'm an atheist. And a bridge player. I ride my bike. And I'm gay.'"

He fits right in on the set of *American Horror Story*, one of the gay-friendliest projects he's ever worked on. No surprise there: This is a Ryan Murphy production. "I've met more lesbian gaffers on Ryan's show than I've ever met anywhere else in my life!" O'Hare explains with delight.

When O'Hare was sent the script directly from Murphy back in March, just a few weeks before shooting was set to begin, he was immediately intrigued. The show takes cues from many of his favorite horror classics and the legendary names behind them: Vincent Price, Peter Lorre, Bela Lugosi.

"What I think is great about the show is that Ryan's kind of consciously quoting from great works," he says. "'Don't go in the basement' is one of the biggest horror tropes, or 'don't open the door' — they're all horror tropes, and he's using all of them in a really cool way. And I hear some people say, 'Well, it's unrealistic. Who'd stay in the house?' That's just a given. Let's just let them stay in the house."

Now he's starting to sound a lot like Larry, who's so insistent that the Harmons stick around, you wonder what the dude's got up his sleeve. "I think Larry has a very clear overarching goal, which is redemption and release," O'Hare says, "and that is all tied up in the house."

For O'Hare, the role requires three-and-a-half hours of makeup, transforming the actor's face into the questionable burn victim and leaving him with only half his hearing and sight. On the first day of shooting, Murphy walked him through Larry's limp and shriveled arm. "He's got the vision in his head, so he had to be very clear about what we should do and I like that about him — he's a very clear director."

That helps, but with *True Blood*, O'Hare knew what he wanted for Russell Edgington.

"I felt no need to make Russell act gay, because he is gay," he says, adding that because the vamp's so ancient, homosexuality didn't even really exist then. "I know as a gay man I don't have to demonstrate that I'm gay. The fact that I'm sleeping with a man is the demonstration."

And that's gay?

O'Hare smiles big and non-creepy smile. "Not always, but for the most part." ■

—Chris Azzopardi

At the barricade

A newly imagined 'Les Miz' is just as grand, less operatic

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

Chances are if you have ever seen **Les Misérables**, you think that it is either the greatest musical ever conceived, or precisely what's wrong with musical theater since Mary Martin retired from playing a pre-pubescent boy. Of course, it's possible both are true.

Detractors claim the musical — adapted from Victor Hugo's massive novel about a thief, Jean Valjean (J. Mark McVey) pursued relentlessly by obsessive Inspector Javert (Andrew Varela) — slogs through French history with bombastic pretension and repetitive musical motifs. Admirers — whom I happily number myself among, and have ever since I saw the original London production 25 years ago — fall sway to its sweep, its Big Themes, its thrilling score. And the ideas that right wingers can't beat down the common man forever and get away with it resonate especially strongly even today. There's no way you can see *Les Miz* and not think the distinction between musical and opera is all but irrelevant.

You might feel differently, though, with the

current national tour, now at the Winspear. It reconceives the original with mind-blowing rear projection (Valjean's escape through the sewers of Paris is as cinematic as anything I've seen on a stage; Javert's suicide is a technical marvel) and a more intimate, almost claustrophobic staging. The show is still grand, though it feels less like grand opera.

That's also a side effect of the singing, which has been modified from the rich, fluid style of the original to a more conversational, pop sensibility. It's almost as if the creative team figured everyone already knew the songs and wanted to give them a more radio-friendly, Susan Boyle-ish treatment. That may be arresting only to nerds like me who can recite the score by heart, but I bet there are a lot of us out there.

Even so, the "money songs" — especially Valjean's haunting "Bring Him Home," that ravaged the house on opening night, and the Act 1 finale, though also Fantine's "I Dreamed a Dream" and Eponine's "On My Own" — are as stirring and flamboyant as they ever were, and the bawdy "Master of the House" remains a comic gem.

The latter is due in great part to Richard Vida

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OCCUPY PARIS | 'Les Miz's' theme of proletarian revolt resonates as strongly as the thrilling score.

and Shawna M. Hamic (looking like Edna Turnblad) as the Thenardiers, whose comic mugging steals scenes, and McVey's Valjean grows in depth and power throughout the three hour runtime.

But the length is almost inconsequential. *Les Miz*, of necessity, rushes through great swaths of emotions, and it's occasionally difficult to toggle through them; your heart can't keep up with your head. But when it does? Well, that's when *Les Miz* is as touching as a musical can be. ■



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A quick trip to Cars.com summons a long list of vehicles that fit the above criteria. Boring is definitely on the menu, and that's OK. Some sporty cars pop up, too. Don't expect to find many Toyotas and Hondas — everybody on the planet knows they hold up well over time. But there are many great cars that people may overlook.

For instance, Pontiac G6 and Saturn Aura sedans are available by the dozens with prices under \$15K. A 2007 Aura with 24,000 miles was listed for \$14,999; a 2008 G6 with 29,000 miles went for a flat 15 thou, while a two-year older G6 with 16,000 miles was priced at \$14,999.

The G6 and Aura are essentially the same vehicle as the current Malibu, look sporty, and get decent gas mileage. If you want something larger, a Chevy Impala is not exciting, but is a well-made car with 25,000 miles and \$14,995 price. It achieves around 30-MPG Hwy.

There are a couple of Corollas I could highly recommend. A 2009 Corolla S with 18,978 miles was offered for \$14,995, as was a 2010 with 23,500 miles. Here's a secret for those who really want Corolla but can't find one: The Pontiac Vibe was essentially a clone of the Corolla-based Toyota Matrix. Being a Pontiac, people don't always know the lineage. A 2009 Vibe listed for \$15K with only 26,000 miles is a great compromise; it also gets very good mileage and has tons of interior space.

Don't overlook Korean cars. Hyundai and Kia both offer 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranties. While not as exciting as the current Sonata, a 2007 edition with 25,000 miles was listed for \$13,988. A 2009 Sonata with 23,610 miles went for \$14,988, while a 2010 Hyundai Accent and Elantra were listed for \$14,995 with about 25,000 miles. I'd have no hesitation buying any of these.

If a sedan is not your thing, hang tough. I found a 2007 Pontiac Solstice roadster with 17,000 miles for \$14,995. A 2007 Mitsubishi Eclipse GS, with the four-cylinder engine and 22,000 miles, was listed for \$13,700. A Subaru Impreza with AWD hit the page with 23,495 miles and \$14,995.

If fuel cost doesn't matter, buying an SUV or pick-up truck can be bargains. Trucks last forever, are simple to maintain and are dropping in price. Choose a V6 instead of the up-level V8 to



APPRECIATION WITHOUT DEPRECIATION | A used Pontiac Solstice, top, is hot and affordable, while a Mitsubishi Eclipse, above — also from 2007 — is one sexy sedan.

In a tight economy, previously owned cars can be a godsend to your bank account. Here are great deals on late-model winners

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com



save money and fuel; or go for a baby crossover like the Nissan Cube, Kia Soul or Scion xB to get below \$15,000 with 20,000 miles. My best friend bought a pre-owned xB and loves it.

Those cars are built by world-class manufacturers, get great gas mileage, and have cavernous interiors: All prime attributes for a used car on a budget. ■



SHOPPING GUIDE

Your search for a good used car should start by visiting a website like Cars.com or Edmunds.com. That will give you a good idea of prices, typical mileage and available vehicles in your area. (I have issues with Consumer Reports' testing procedures, but the publication provides another data point.) Check owner reviews on the search sites above to get real-world feedback.

Given that, keep a few guidelines in mind:

- Go for the base engine. It may not be as sexy, but will cost less up front and generally turns in better fuel economy.
- Discontinued brands like Pontiac, Saturn and Mercury offer great used cars that can be serviced indefinitely by their manufacturers.
- Hyundai and Kia offer 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranties - great peace of mind as the miles pile on.
- Boring sedans can be great used car values. So can sports cars, but they are harder to find.
- Pickups last forever and are cheap to own. Keep in mind high fuel consumption.
- The baby cubes from Scion, Nissan and Kia, pictured, offer a lot of bang for the buck.

— C.W.

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Tony Cragg, *McCormack*, 2007. Bronze, 48 x 51 1/2 x 29 1/2 in. (117 x 130 x 75 cm) Courtesy of the artist. © 2011 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn. Photo: Kevin Todora

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In the Butte

Remote and charming, Crested Butte, Colo., spreads warmth even in the winter months

You can imagine that when locals in small towns hear that “the gays” are on their way — for a Pride parade, or a dance party or a protest — some will react with a disdainful shiver. But when Crested Butte, Colo., hosted its first-ever gay ski week earlier this year, the news didn’t even warrant a shrug. Indeed, the entire town seemed to get its Pride on.

The local gays there — and there are a few, a very few — were of course happy to be with family, as were the resorts glad to host a late-season influx; so were the businesses in the very walkable downtown area. But the *people* were just as excited — stores proudly flew rainbow flags for the first time, and diners at restaurants chirped with delight that the gays were coming. Good for business, of course, but also good for the Butte. (Unfortunately, there are no current plans to hold another gay ski week there.)

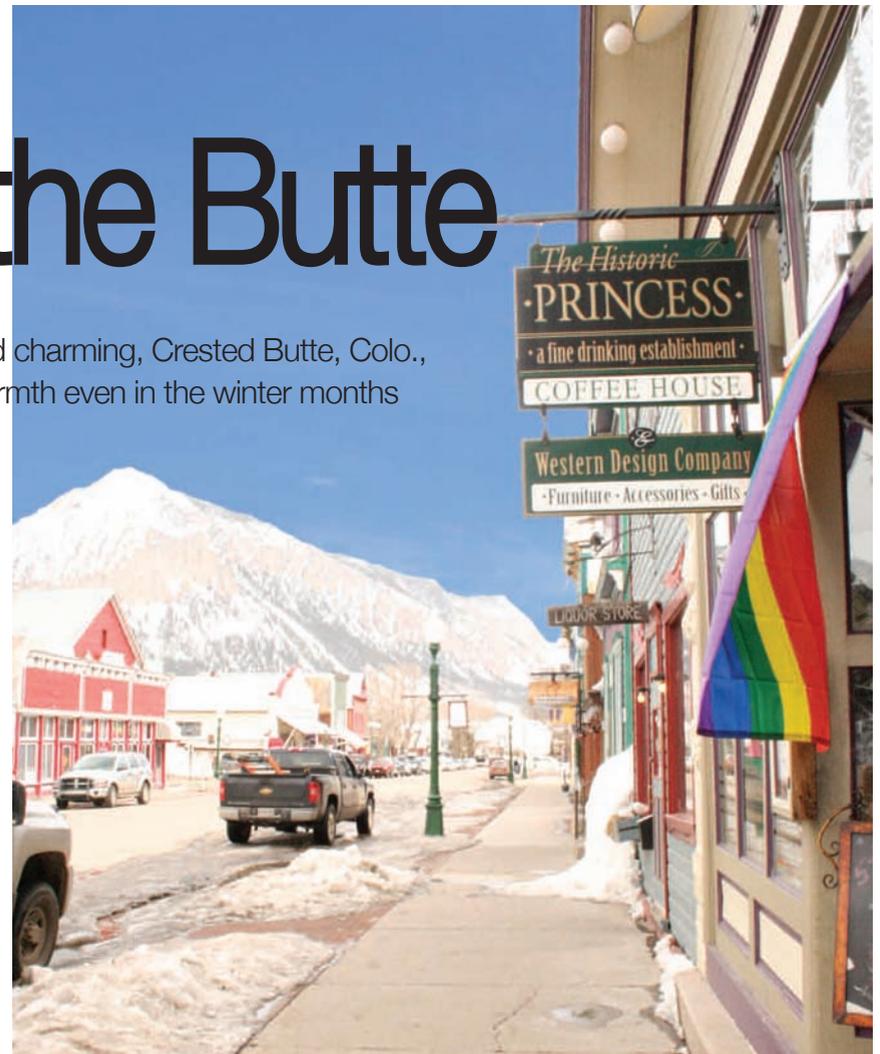
Crested Butte, after all, isn’t located along I-70 and the string of famed ski resorts; don’t like Vail? Drive another hour and settle in Beaver Creek. Wanna resort hop? Breckenridge, Copper Mountain and Keystone are in the same county 90 minutes from Denver. No, if you wanna go to Crested Butte, you gotta really wanna go.

There are two different kinds of ski-resort towns in Colorado: The rich man’s playgrounds and those with a roughing-it, low-stress country ruggedness, where the Doobie Brothers are still considered pop music. Crested Butte is the latter — unfussy and without the pretensions of a Vail or Aspen, but with just the right amount of sophistication to make it a savvy destination for those who like to stumble off the beaten path but still appreciate a few creature comforts.

That’s certainly the case at the Elevation Hotel and Spa, a large, comfortable resort standing at nearly 9,400 feet above sea-level. (The friendly café at the lift base, 9480 Prime, is named for the elevation.) Clean, warm and well-appointed, with an excellent spa and salon, the hotel provides super-convenient access to the slopes and its 16 lifts. (The summit is at an ear-popping 12,162 feet.)

For skiers or snowboarders, the snow provides a great powder, though even diners can appreciate the mountain: The ski-in, ski-out restaurant Uley’s Cabin is accessible by lift and short slalom to mid-mountain, or if available, a “ski taxi” can take you here like a passenger on the Iditerod. It’s worth a visit, too, with excellent haute cuisine and a cozy, rustic atmosphere.

Indeed, the dining in Crested Butte is remarkably diverse and satisfying. It may seem counter-intuitive, but some of the best seafood dishes I ate this



FLY THAT FLAG | Quaint Crested Butte went all out to welcome the gays for Shoot the Butte gay ski week in March, with many local businesses proudly displaying gay-friendly banners and residents abuzz about the event. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

year were in Colorado. (The landlocked types know how to cook a scallop.) But the range of choices for Crested Butte is as good as any 10-block stretch of a major city.

Stay on the mountain to indulge your tastebuds at Django’s. This high-end, intimate resto, draped in sheer curtains and with a wide, open kitchen, serves gourmet tapas just steps from the slopes. “Date with a pig” isn’t as dirty as it sounds — Medjool dates wrapped in Serrano ham — but it is decadently enjoyable, as are the crispy Brussels sprouts and braised spiced boar belly.

Off the mountain, in downtown Crested Butte, the not-to-miss steakhouse is Maxwell’s. Warmed by a beautiful fireplace and welcoming décor, it serves some unmatched dishes. Of course, you have to try the rack of (Colorado) lamb, crusted in pistachios and drizzled with a blueberry demi that makes it both sweet and savory, as well as the smoky wagyu tartare. The wine list offers some bold, interesting choices as well.

Over at the West End Pub, enjoy high-end bar food with a sense of humor. The “ubiquitous fish and chips” may sound tired, but it’s well prepared, as are the oysters on the half shell and clam chowder. (*I told you about the seafood.*)

For something even more casual but also extraordinary, The Secret Stash is a must-do. It’s no accident that the name sounds like a head shop — the place, opened in 2002, has the hippie-dippie vibe of a stoner hangout. It also serves some of the most inventive pizzas you’ll ever encounter, like the Mac Daddy, their lettuce-covered take on the Big Mac that will wow you. (Just a slice is huge.)

You can grab a brew at Dogwood, a hole-in-the-wall bar with pool tables and sports on the TVs that’s cool, friendly and hip, and LoBar, which serves sushi. (Fish! Again!)

For an exquisite brunch, East Side Bistro is a sure-bet. Looking out on the mountain, it has the feel of an Old West saloon but the cuisine of a sly master, including the deconstructed doughnuts and coffee, and the chilaquiles, a tortilla-chip-and-egg dish with poblano molé that will spoil you for all Mexican-themed brunches for all time.

Crested Butte may not be the first resort to occur to you when you think of ski destinations, but as most everyone from Colorado will confess to you, it’s one of the best.



CUISINE ART | Dining in the Butte, including mountainside dining at Uley’s Cabin, is diverse and delicious. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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2012 READERS VOICE AWARDS
Announces the

MY GAY
A DALLAS VOICE



TEXAS
PHOTO CONTEST



The winning photograph will be featured in the March 13, 2012 **Dallas Voice Readers Voice Awards** special edition. The contest winner's designated beneficiary will receive a \$1,000 donation in their name.

Go to DFWReadersVoice.com for entry information, and win a cool grand for your favorite non-profit organization.

**Contest deadline is this
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27!
Enter NOW!**

Dallas Voice editors will choose My Gay Texas finalists. Finalist's photos will be used for promotional materials and online balloting. Readers will pick the 2012 My Gay Texas winner by voting online Jan 3-28, 2012.

Only original photos taken by the entrant are qualified for entry. Full details at www.dallasvoice.com/MGT

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Friday 12.23

Maximum Christmas overdrive

Whether you're staycating or visiting the Gaylord, prepare for a glorious onslaught of holiday cheer. If the million-plus lights and 52-foot tree aren't enough, how about the resort's famous ICE! show featuring *Shrek the Halls* which they keep at nine degrees? Don't worry, they provide coats.

DEETS: Gaylord Texan Resort, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine. Through Jan. 1. \$26.95. GaylordHotels.com

Friday 12.23

Hey DJ, pump this party

The GayDays tour comes to town, bringing with it cutie DJ Randy Bettis. He mixes and remixes on tunes by gay artists Matt Zarley, Ari Gold and Briant Kent along with some diva faves like Britney and Adele. The party will give away 500 free music download passes. So go dance to the music and then take it home.

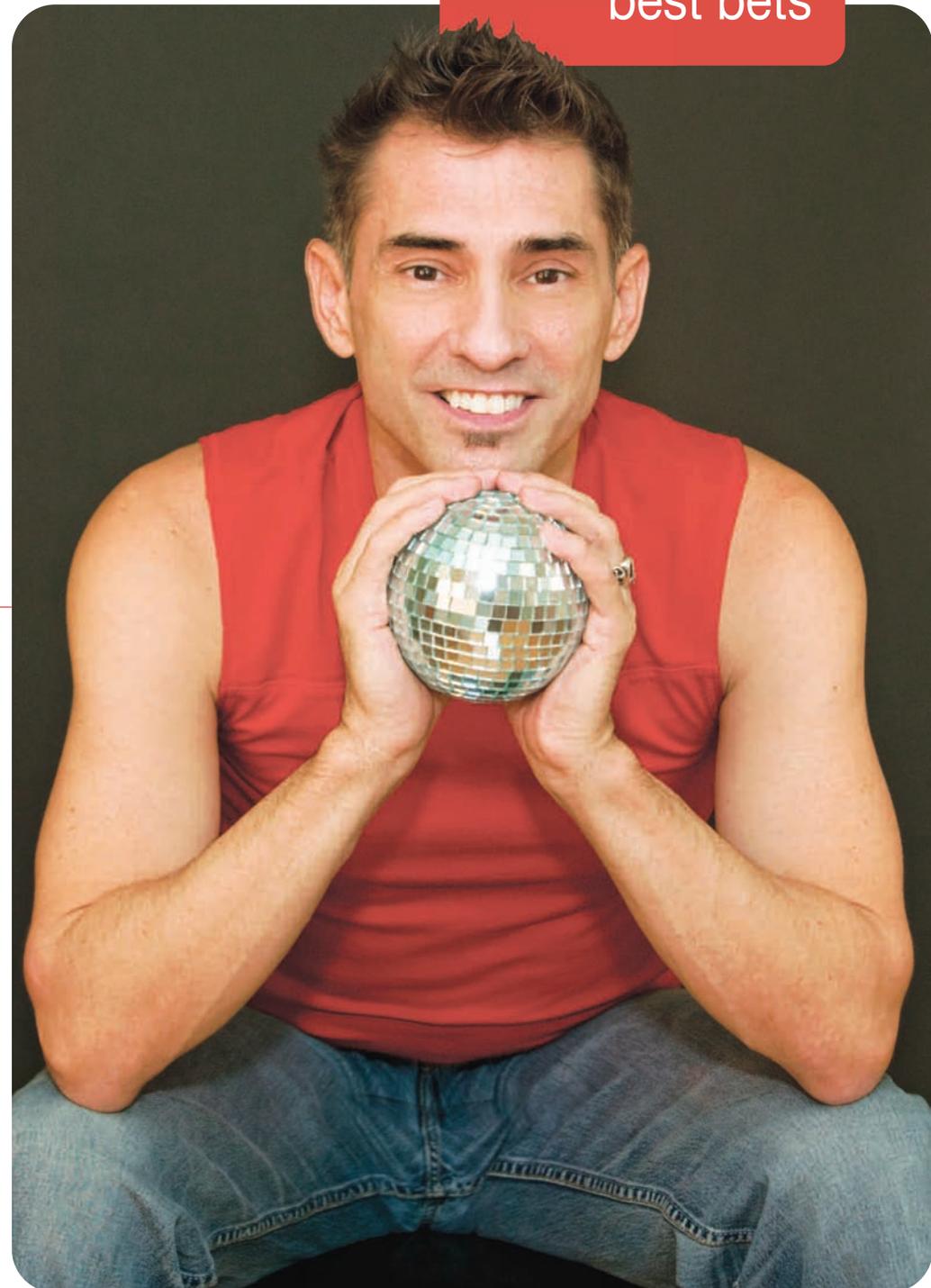
DEETS: The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. 9 p.m. BrickDallas.com.

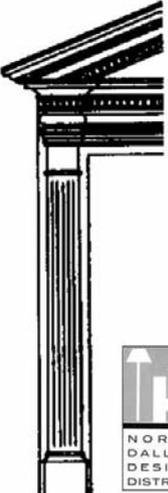
Monday 12.26

Steamroll the holiday season

Between Mannheim Steamroller and, um, Blitzen, the former may have more influence on Christmas, being the best-selling group for holiday tuneage. Sorry, reindeer.

DEETS: Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Through Tuesday. 7:30 p.m. \$40-\$110. DallasSymphony.com.





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Dance into the New Year with no cover!



partyattheblock.com

21 and up only. Cruisin' the Crossroads suspended for this special event. No passes.

Due to the holidays, please check directly with the organizations for any scheduling changes.

FRIDAY 12.23

COMMUNITY

Lambda Pride Toastmasters Club meets. Members and friends of the LGBT community are invited to learn how to develop speaking, listening, and leadership skills in a fun and supportive environment. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Lambdapride.freetoasthost.us.

Business Network Collin County luncheon. Fox Sports Grille, 5741 Legacy Drive, Plano. 11:30 a.m. \$20. BusinessNetworkCC.org.

Oak Lawn Group for Gays Lambda (formerly CODA) meets on Fridays at the St Thomas Episcopal Church, 6525 Inwood Road. 6:30 p.m. Call 214-868-7350 for more information.

FUSE drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Tuesdays-Fridays at 2 p.m. DFWFuse.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. Youth-FirstTexas.org.

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.

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m. 2438 Butler St., # 108.

ART

Divine featuring the art of lesbian artist Cathey Miller and Norbert Kox. Recapitated porcelain figures by Click Mort are also on feature in the upstairs gallery. Webb Gallery, 209 W. Franklin Road, Waxahachie. Through Feb. 5. WebbArtGallery.com.

Every Then...And Now featuring the art of R. Mateo Diago. Ro2 Art Downtown, 1408 Elm St. Through Jan. 28. Ro2Art.com.

Holiday Presence annual art show featuring local out artists Erica Felicella and Robb Conover and more. Most art is priced under \$200 and the works are rotated in as pieces sell. Kettle Art, 2714 Elm St. 7 p.m. Through Saturday. KettleArt.com.

DANCE

The Nutty Nutcracker performed by Texas Ballet Theater. Bass Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. \$19-\$99. TexasBalletTheater.org.

THEATER

A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker. MBS Productions brings back its annual holiday show that's been nominated for a Goldstar National Nutcracker Award. Stone Cottage Theater, 15650 Addison Road., Addison. Through Dec. 27. \$18-\$21. MBSProductions.net.

A Christmas Carol presented by the Dallas Theater Center. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Saturday. \$15-\$85. DallasTheaterCenter.org.



HIGH SPIRITS | The ghosts of Christmas haunt Ebenezer Scrooge in Dallas Theater Center's annual production of 'A Christmas Carol' which finishes its run on Saturday.

Dick Whittington. Traditional British panto play by Theatre Britain. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H. Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 28. \$15-\$18. Theatre-Britain.com.

SATURDAY 12.24

COMMUNITY

Beth El Binah Hanukkah celebration and Havdallah service with Rabbi Steve Fisch. Thai-rific, 4000 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m.

Dallas FrontRunners fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet on the patio of the recreation house at Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake Park. 8 a.m.

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

Legacy social group of adults 50 or older from Cathedral of Hope. Monthly event. 972-387-3345.

Fuse: Core Group for gay men ages 18 to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2-5 p.m. 214-540-4435. DFWFuse.com.

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 12.25

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Agape MCC 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. 10:30 a.m. AgapeMCC.com

Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 11 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

Cathedral of Hope Mid-Cities, 2400 School Lane, Bedford. 11 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth. Christmas Day communion, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Celebration-Community-Church.com.

Celebration on the Lake, 114 Golden Oaks Dr., Mabank. 10 a.m. COTLChurch.org.

Harvest MCC 725 N. Elm St., Ste. 18, Denton. 10 a.m. HarvestMCC.org.

MCC of Greater Dallas, 1840 Hutton Dr. Ste. 100, Carrollton. 10 a.m. MCCGD.org.

Promise MCC, 2527 W. Colorado Blvd. 10:30 a.m.

Trinity MCC, 1846 W. Division St., Ste. 305, Arlington. 11 a.m. PromiseMCC.org.

White Rock Community Church, 9353 Garland Road. 10:45 a.m. WhiteRockChurch.org.

MONDAY 12.26

COMMUNITY

Log Cabin Republicans. Mattito's, 3011 Routh St. 6:30 p.m. 214-346-2115.

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

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

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

The Women's Chorus of Dallas holds rehearsals. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 7-10 p.m. 214-520-7828.

TUESDAY 12.27

COMMUNITY

JEWEL Writing Discussion & Exchange meets on the fourth Tuesday. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Visit website for the discussion topic and assignment for the month. RCDallas.org.

QLive! Open Mike Night for comedy. Percussions Lounge, 426 S. Jennings Ave. 10 p.m. QCinema.com.

Q's Day Potluck. Friendly LGBT gathering every Tuesday evening. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-446-3395.

Sista to Sista support group provided by AIDS Outreach Center. Meets every first, second and third Tuesday. 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.

Miracle Workers (formerly Peace Builder Leadership Team) meets. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

FUSE Movie Night every week. For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

Stop Smoking psycho-educational group by the AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 12.28

COMMUNITY

Firedancers Dallas Tribe club night at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. 7-10 p.m. Free. Facebook.com/TheHiddenDoor.

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

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

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is former State Rep. Glen Maxey who authored the book *Head Figure Head: The Search for the Private Life of Rick Perry*. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 12.29

COMMUNITY

The Rotary Club of Dallas-Uptown meets every Thursday. All visitors welcome. Hully and Mo's, 2800 Routh St. 11:45 -1:00 p.m. DallasUptownRotary.org

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.

Brokeback Dallas. Support group for gay men married to straight women. St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, 6526 Inwood Road. 7:30 p.m.

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

Have an event to share? Upload it directly to our online calendar. Visit DallasVoice.com and click on the Calendar tab in the top banner and follow the prompts to Add Event.

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



David Sedaris turns 55 on Monday. The openly gay author first came to attention with his 1992 broadcast of his *SantaLand Diaries* on NPR. He's written iconic best-sellers such as 1997's *Naked* and 2000's *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, but received major criticism for an article in *The Guardian* this past summer about exotic Chinese food and culture that was deemed insensitive.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

While your intuitions about money are on the mark it helps to double-check the facts. Avoid dithering and second-guessing yourself. Being rigorous is good; beating yourself up isn't.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

There is such a thing as being too nice when you can't hide bitchy undertones. There are no secrets. Whatever you say will slip out. Talk about celebrities instead of gossiping.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Your intuition and advice are worth more than you realize. If you listened to yourself, you'd be better off! Blurting out a secret proves to your advantage if it's your secret and nobody else's.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Sudden outbursts reveal hidden depths and secret strengths. Open up to your insightful friends. Working too hard can upset the apple cart. Pace yourself to be effective with your colleagues.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Sassy, daring boldness is atypical for Taureans, but work whatever energy you have to get ahead. You reveal more of yourself than you had intended, but that should work in your favor, too.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Any simmering domestic problems are sure to boil over. To head off resentments, open up to your partner first about personal fears and anxieties and see how that feeds the other issues.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Holidays put stress on relationships. This decade is especially tough for that, and the next few years will be worse. Talk about your shared commitment and learn from rough spots.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Being nice with people can be a challenge, but honing your teamwork skills makes it worthwhile. The real trick is to balance that with creative impulses that require your individual initiative.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Working at enjoyment misses the point. Working toward an accomplishment can slide into obsession. If something is supposed to be fun isn't any more, step back and think about it.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

When the going gets tough, the tough get creative. A spat shows serious problems unsuspected, but the solution is within reach. It's not easy, but small sacrifices on both sides fix it.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Your revolutionary ideas are on the right track, but discuss them with an expert who shares your ideals. If your partner feels neglected swallow your pride, apologize, and deal with it.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

What would your perfect job look like? You will have the opportunity to improve your work situation. For now, nurture the ideal.

THIS WEEK

The sun conjoining Pluto in Capricorn heightens awareness of authority and bureaucratic structures that hem us in, as well as the revolutionary urge to smash them. Impulsive acts of rebellion are disastrous. Revolutions need careful planning.

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

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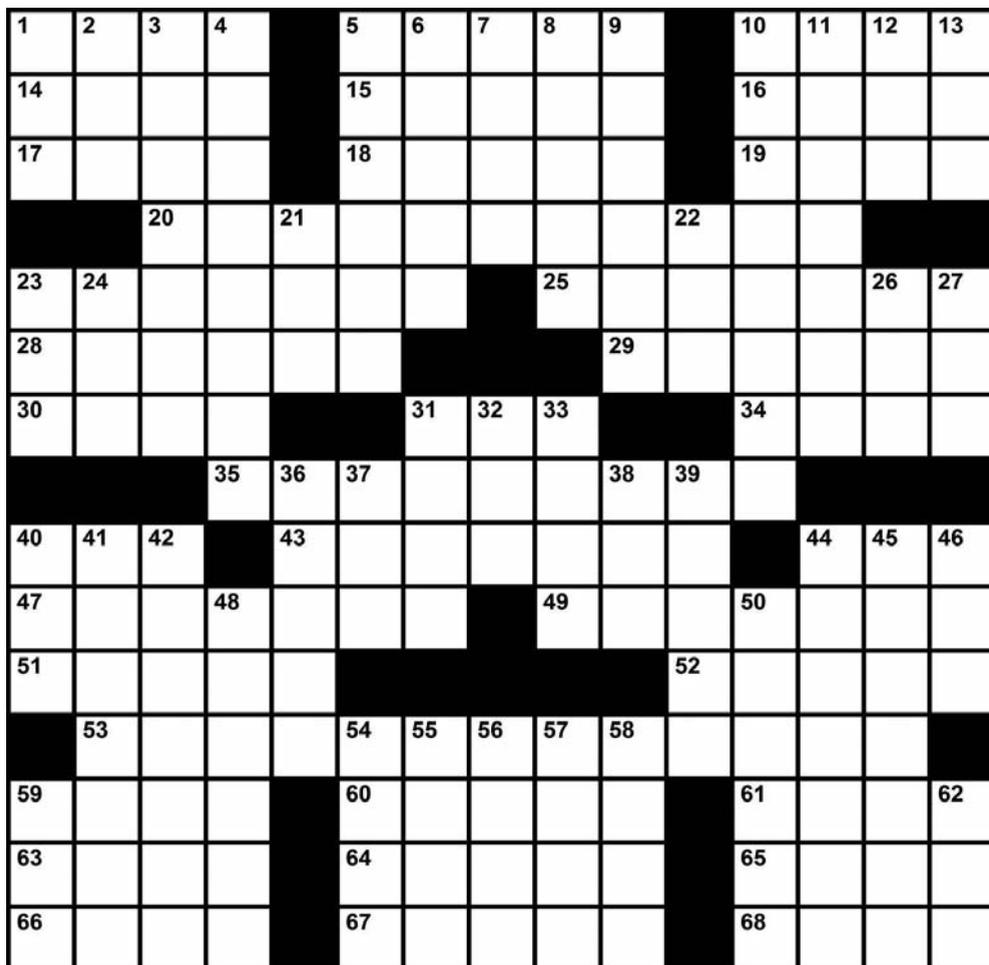
bitter girl

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The Apology

Solution on page 37

Across

- 1 "Move your butt!"
- 5 Pinch pennies
- 10 Good buddy on a radio
- 14 Native American tongue
- 15 Bill T. Jones' partner Zane
- 16 Award for Ursula Le Guin
- 17 Place of the first fig-leaf codpiece
- 18 "Filthy" money
- 19 Sex party
- 20 With 28-Across, he apologized for saying 29-
- Across on 53-Across
- 23 "Some nerve!"
- 25 Coming more quickly
- 28 See 20-Across
- 29 Start of a description of an angry drama
- 30 Word before buco
- 31 More of the description
- 34 Get one's feet wet
- 35 Like McKellen's Magneto
- 40 "___ you serious?"
- 43 End of the description
- 44 Monk's title
- 47 Cartoonist Alison
- 49 Paul Cadmus work
- 51 Ike's opponent

- 52 Strides easily
- 53 Talk show of this puzzle's theme
- 59 Snowman prop
- 60 The Mystery of ___ Dood
- 61 Film pioneer Marcus
- 63 Words before many words
- 64 Top
- 65 Barbra's Funny Girl guy
- 66 Pounder part
- 67 Hard to penetrate
- 68 Tight-assed

Down

- 1 Antonio's Evita role
- 2 Stylish, '60s-style
- 3 Tools in kitchen drawers
- 4 Club for Patty Sheehan
- 5 Rimbaud's rooms
- 6 Drummer Gene
- 7 Peruvian friend of Maya Angelou?
- 8 Gaiety
- 9 Watch closely
- 10 Mississippi natives
- 11 Africa's ___ Faso
- 12 One that gets laid
- 13 Singer Orbison
- 21 The Last King of Scotland character
- 22 Land of the cut (abbr.)
- 23 However, to Emily Dickinson
- 24 Laugh track sounds
- 26 It was sometimes split, for Kopay
- 27 Reuben bread, usually
- 31 Dying one in a Craig Lucas title
- 32 Blow it
- 33 Buster Brown's dog
- 36 Partner of Steve, but not Adam
- 37 One on the other side
- 38 Not closet-bound
- 39 Paul Lynde, on Bewitched
- 40 Attorney's org.
- 41 It divides a hockey rink in half
- 42 Total ___
- 44 Graduation handout
- 45 Like many leases
- 46 Classic two-seaters
- 48 Wear
- 50 Like aluminum bats
- 54 Herbicide target
- 55 Spamalot writer Eric
- 56 Castor, to Pollux
- 57 Flirts with, with "on"
- 58 You may go down on one
- 59 Citrus fruit seed
- 62 Like some grins



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com

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Odd and Ashley at the Round-Up Saloon.



Dancers at Pekers.



Vince, Cody, Adam, Jerr and Dave at Station 4.

Once you're done with the **gift-giving and caroling**, take some time for yourself. Oh, and **Merry Christmas!** ... Not to take away from the **Kathy Corbin Band** who performs Friday at **Sue Ellen's**, but whatever you do, do not miss the **Jackie Hall Experience**. She and her group perform Saturday and her voice will pretty much kill the entire room. She doesn't just sing, she throws down **DJ Randy Bettis** is on the **GayDays Tour** which stops in town Friday at the **Brick** **DJ Perry** takes you on a trip at **Dark and Dirty** Friday night at the **Dallas Eagle**. The party continues on **Christmas Eve** as **DJ Paul Kraft** gets nice and naughty for **Dance Your Ass Off** on Saturday. The club opens late **Christmas Day** to keep the **Sinner's Sunday Social** going Adult film star **Lucas Knowles** performs nightly at **BJ's NXSI** from Christmas to **New Year's Eve**. Just don't tell any holiday visitors you're stepping out to see a porn star. Kinda awkward The **Hidden Door** loves for you to play with its balls at the **Weekly Pool Tournament** every Thursday The newish restaurant **Lolita's Cafe** hosts more than just tamales. **Luis Delgadillo** brings the music to **Salsa Thursdays** at the eatery. And you even get a free dance lesson **DJ Vice** headlines Friday night at the **Lizard Lounge** with local support by **Johnny Funk, Raydar & Shaolin** and **DJ Yōsh**. The club hosts its Christmas Eve dance-tacular **Locals Unite VII**, featuring more local music by **Jeremy Word, Sno White, DJ Titan** and more. What's the holiday without a little oonce-oonce-oonce? ... Get some tantalizing entertainment at **A Nearly Naked Nutcracker** burlesque show. **Angela Ryan, Pearl Lux** and boylesque boy **Stephan** from San Antonio spice it up at **Trees** on Friday **Happy holidays!** ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT DALLASVOICE.COM.



Mike and Larry at the Hidden Door.



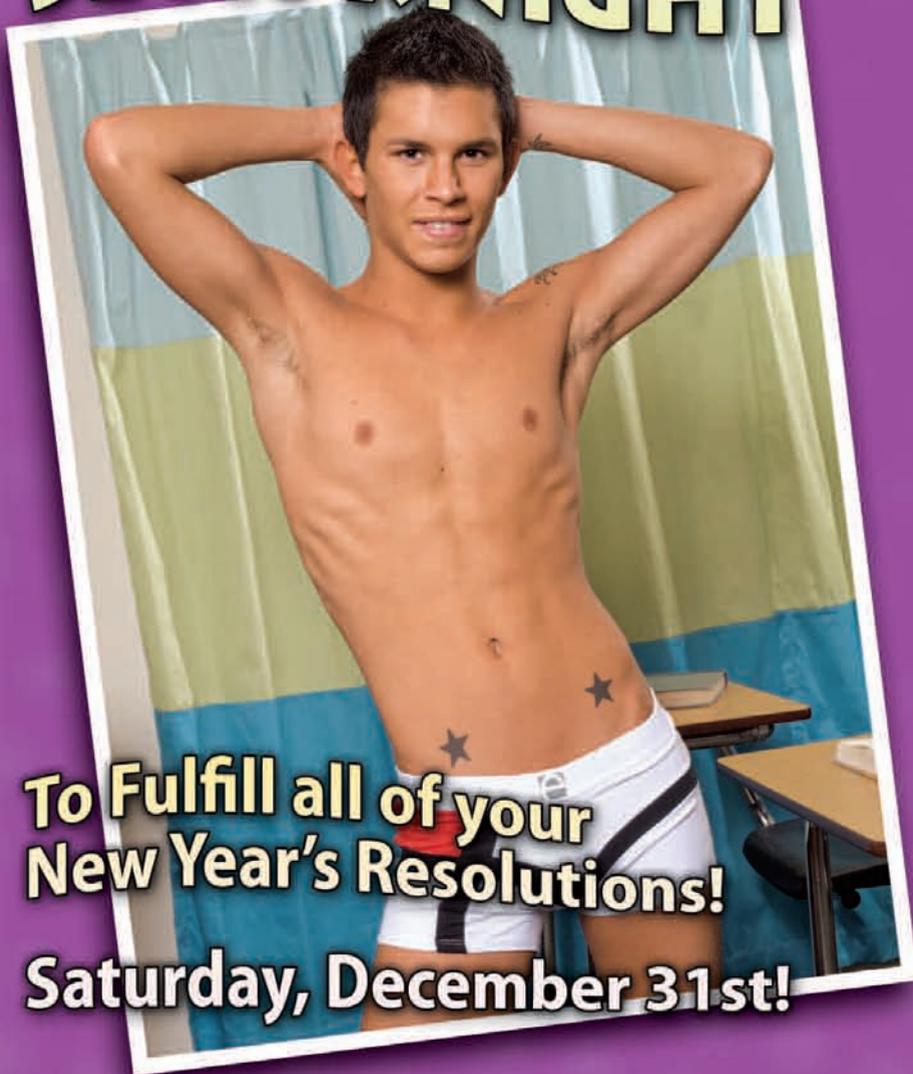
Doris, Johnny, Jessie and Gary at Alexandre's.



Selya and Melissa at the Rainbow Lounge.

drama room
Cruise Lounge

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with The World Famous
TIN ROOM for a
chance to win and start
your New Years in a
HAWAIIAN DREAM!

December 31, 2011
Tin Room
Must be present to win!

**TIN
ROOM**

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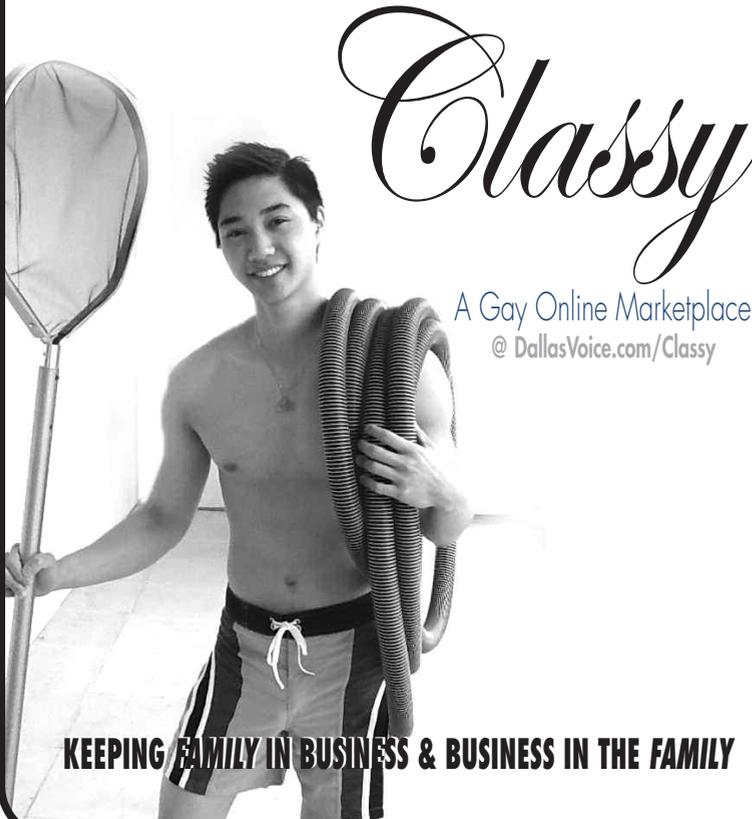
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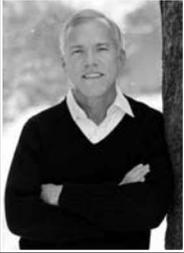


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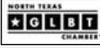
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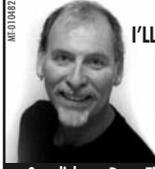
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