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Plus: Our critic singles out the top local actors of the year

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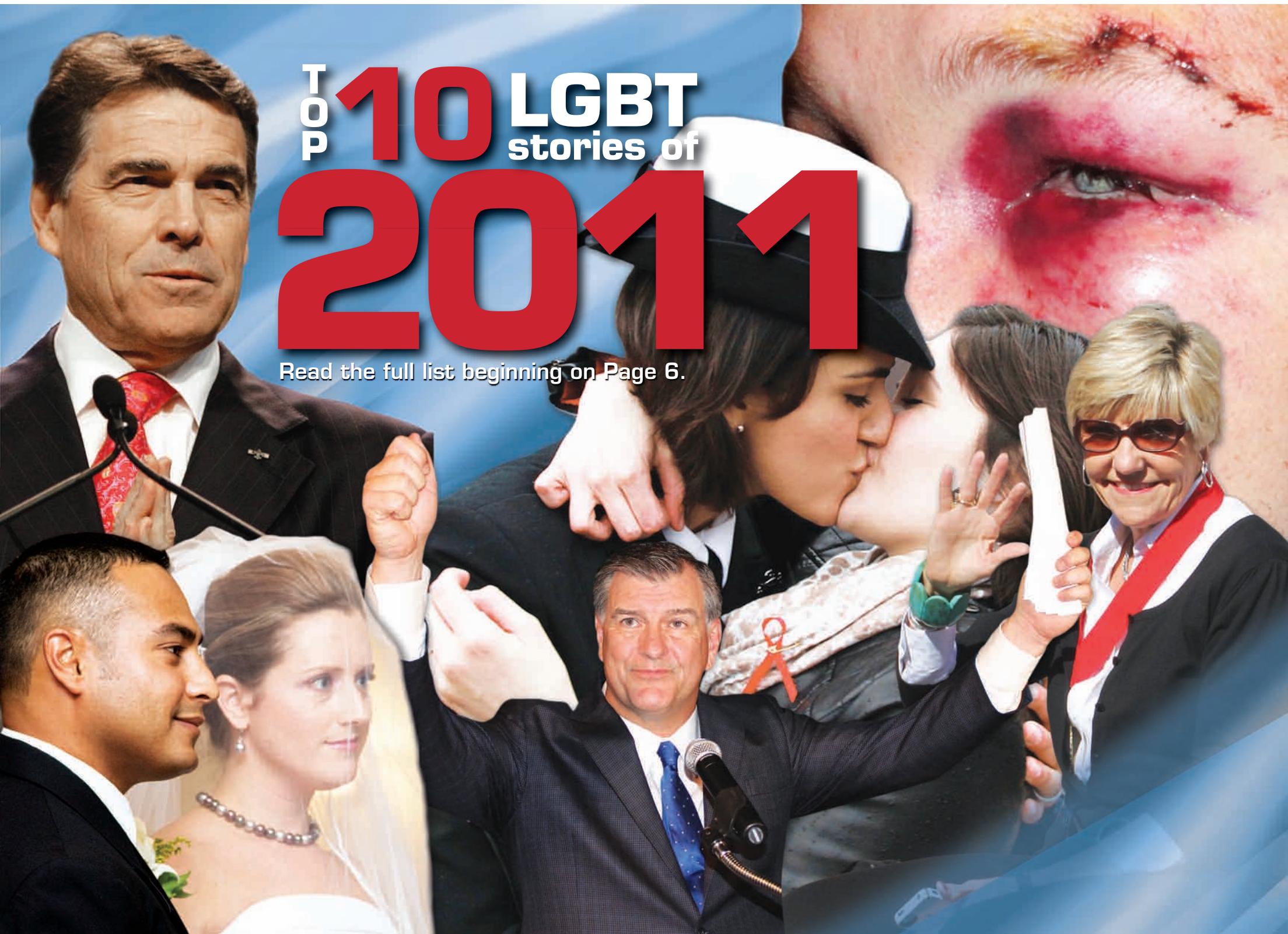
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FREE | Friday, December 30, 2011

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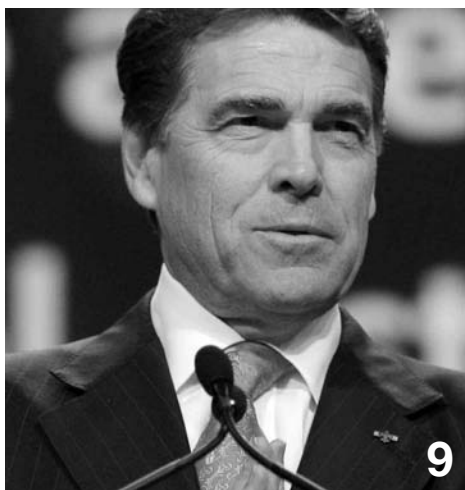
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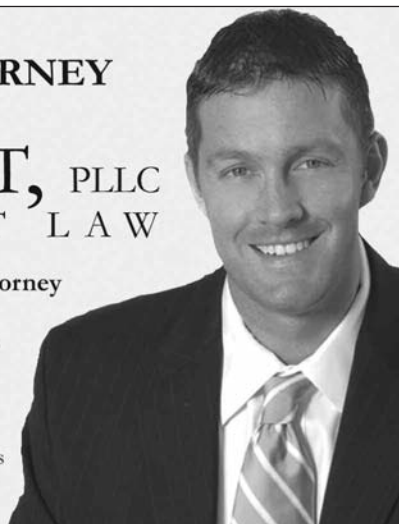
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HISTORIC VICTORY | John Lawrence, right, and Tyrone Garner, at a press conference in Houston in 2003. (Associated Press)

John Lawrence, the man behind Lawrence v. Texas, dies

One-time Houstonian John Geddes Lawrence, the "Lawrence" in Lawrence v. Texas, passed away last month at the age of 68.

Lawrence and Tyron Garner were arrested and charged under Texas' Homosexual Conduct Law after police entered Lawrence's home on Sept. 17, 1998, and saw them in bed together. They challenged the law as unconstitutional.

I was 22 and living in Dallas in 2003 when the Supreme Court issued its opinion in Lawrence declaring Texas' law against "homosexual conduct" unconstitutional. A group of more than 100 people gathered in the parking lot of Resource Center Dallas as Lee Taft, then regional director of Lambda Legal, read excerpts of the decision. I remember the exuberant electricity in the air, the crowd bubbling with joy and the relief of centuries of official oppression finally coming to an end. Similar get-togethers took place across the country, as an entire community breathed a collective sigh of relief.

That relief has turned to frustration over the years. Although the Supreme Court decision rendered Penal Code Section 21.06 unconstitutional, the law remains on the books, and efforts to remove it have met with significant resistance. During a hearing this spring on finally removing the unconstitutional law, Rep. Jose Aliseda, R-Pleasanton, lamented that repealing 21.06 would also entail removing portions of the Health Code requiring that HIV education efforts include information that "homosexual conduct is not an acceptable lifestyle and is a criminal offense under Section 21.06, Penal Code."

Before Lawrence several attempts were made to remove the law against "homosexual conduct." The Texas Legislature voted to remove it from the Penal Code as part of a complete rewrite in 1971, but the measure was vetoed by Gov. Preston Smith. In 1973 the Legislature again undertook a rewrite of the code, keeping "homosexual conduct" a crime but making it a class-C misdemeanor. In 1981 a U.S. District Court ruled in Baker v. Wade that the law was unconstitutional, but as that case was winding its way through the appeals process, the Supreme Court ruled in *Bowers v. Hardwick* that a similar law in Georgia was

constitutional, making the questions in Baker moot. Similarly, in the '90s there was hope that Texas v. Morales might finally prevail in defeating the "homosexual conduct" prohibition, but the Texas Supreme Court decided that since, in their opinion, the law was rarely enforced, there was no reason for them to rule in the matter.

John Lawrence's legacy lives on in a scholarship named after him and Garner that is administered by the Houston GLBT Community Center. The scholarship "recognizes outstanding leadership shown by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Texas high school seniors and college students by contributing to the cost of their continuing education. Selection is based upon character and need."

— Daniel Williams

Another pedestrian hit on strip

A 72-year-old pedestrian was struck in the crosswalk on Cedar Springs Road at Knight Street at about 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 22. He was taken to Parkland Hospital and released on Christmas Day.

Lyle Bainbridge said he was crossing the street in the crosswalk and vehicles had stopped in both directions, when a motorist sped around the stopped vehicles and hit him.

He said he was thrown and his head landed in the gutter just inches from the car that hit him.

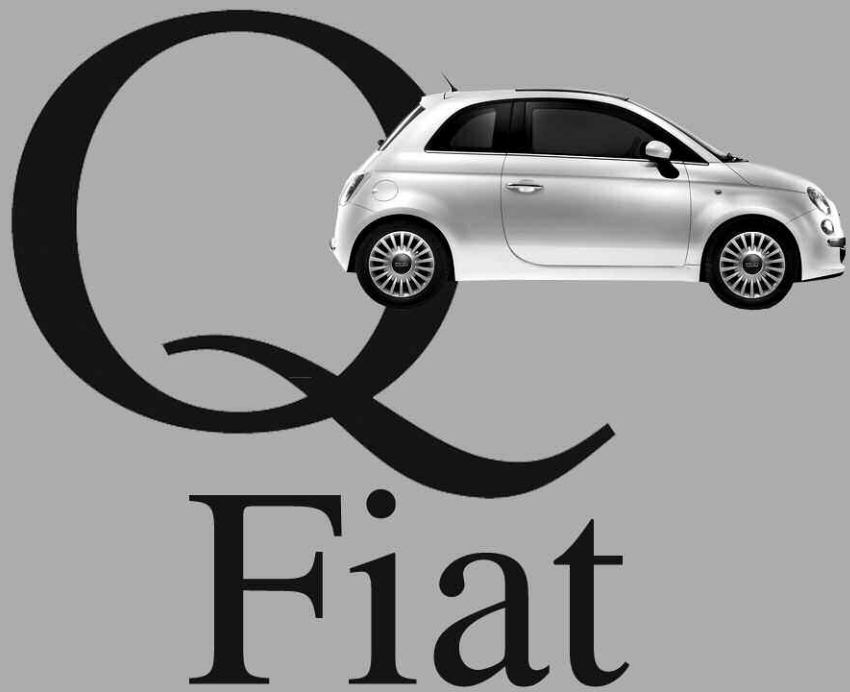
The driver of that vehicle stopped and told Bainbridge that he was delivering pizzas and was on his cell phone talking to the owner of his store. Bainbridge said the man was apologetic and in tears when he got out of his car.

Bainbridge has a broken collar bone. Doctors detected heart defibrillation problems that may have been a result of the accident. He said he had not been diagnosed previously with heart problems. Bainbridge, who is from California, is in Dallas for the holidays house-sitting for a friend.

This is the fourth time a pedestrian has been hit on Cedar Springs Road in two months and the third time near this same location.

It was unclear whether the driver who hit Bainbridge received a citation. Sr. Cpl. Melinda Gutierrez, a spokeswoman for the Dallas Police Department, said an accident report was not yet available.

— David Taffet



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Gays began serving openly in U.S. military

1. Legislation to repeal “don’t ask, don’t tell” passed Congress last year and was signed by President Barack Obama on Dec. 22, 2010.

But 2011 was the year of implementation. While other countries that changed policies about gays and lesbians serving in the armed forces recommended a quick implementation, the U.S. chose a slow, methodical approach.

Before repeal went into effect, the defense secretary, chairman of the joint chiefs and president had to certify that the military was ready for implementation.

Among the delays in implementing the repeal was to give the Pentagon time to change regulations and benefits, according to Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

Next, training materials had to be prepared and, finally, 2.2 million troops had to be trained. In February, the military announced some of its plans.

The idea of building separate bathroom facilities was rejected and personnel wouldn’t be given the option of refusing to serve with gays and lesbians.

The Navy announced its training schedule to be complete by June 30.

Support for the repeal grew and came from some surprising sources.

Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld even announced: “We know that gays and lesbians have been serving in the military for decades with honorable service. We know that [repeal] is an idea whose time has

■ MILITARY, Page 8



KISSING DADT GOODBYE | Petty Officer 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta, left, kisses her girlfriend, Citlalic Snell, at a Navy base in Virginia Beach, Va., on Dec. 22. According to Navy tradition, one lucky sailor is chosen to be first off the ship for the long-awaited kiss with a loved one. This time, for the first time, the happily reunited couple was gay. (Associated Press)

City elections proved groundbreaking for LGBT community



VOTERS LIKED MIKE | Mike Rawlings defeated David Kunkle in a runoff for Dallas mayor in June. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

2. With former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert announcing that he was stepping down early to run for the U.S. Senate, and long-time Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief announcing he would not be running for re-election, candidates were lining up early this year for both offices. And the LGBT community on both sides of the Trinity River played a more visible and more vocal role than ever before in city elections.

In Dallas, businessman Mike Rawlings, former Dallas Chief of Police David Kunkle and City Councilman Ron Natinsky, who had reached his term limit representing District 12, quickly emerged as the frontrunners in the mayoral election. All three candidates came courting the LGBT community, participating in the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce’s mayoral debate and asking for endorsements from individuals in the community, as well as from the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance and Stonewall Democrats of

Dallas.

Kunkle’s involvement with the community during his days as police chief helped him win the Stonewall Democrats endorsement in the general election, while Natinsky withdrew his name from contention for the Stonewall endorsement after questions came up over whether his Republican voting record disqualified him.

DGLA threw its weight behind Natinsky, then went a step further to issue a warning against Rawlings, saying that based on his answer to a question during the confidential interview, they feared the candidate’s commitment to business interests might override his commitment to civil rights.

In the general election, Kunkle won in precincts considered to be heavily LGBT and came away with 32 percent of the vote overall to claim a place in the runoff against top-vote-getter Rawlings,

■ ELECTIONS, Page 12

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the top 10

MILITARY

From Page 6

come.”

As implementation progressed, conservative members of Congress continued to try to derail it. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., introduced an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would have required all four service chiefs to certify that DADT repeal wouldn't hurt the military's readiness.

Another amendment by Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., would require the military to “accommodate” servicemembers who believe that “homosexual or bisexual conduct is immoral and/or an inappropriate expression of human sexuality.”

The Navy previously announced that it would allow same-sex weddings on bases in states where it's legal.

In May, it reversed course saying that the Defense of Marriage Act precluded it from allowing chaplains to perform marriages for gay and lesbian servicemembers on base.

As certification approached, the Pentagon made it clear that same-sex spouses of military personnel would not be recognized and would receive none of the benefits opposite-sex spouses receive.

On July 22, Obama, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen certified that the U.S. military

was ready for DADT repeal.

Repeal would be final 60 days from certification.

On Sept. 20 gays and lesbians could serve openly, if not equally, in the military. Members of the military began coming out without fear of expulsion, but those who had same-sex spouses were still not given 40 benefits that opposite-sex couples enjoy.

Those benefits include healthcare for the spouse and housing allowances that can be substantial.

Even if the couple has children, the spouse cannot be issued an identification card to get on base with the military member's child for healthcare and cannot access the base attorney to write wills and other papers normally drawn up before an overseas deployment.

Servicemembers dismissed under DADT began to consider re-enlisting.

Cully Johnson, an owner of Dallas Eagle, said at a Sept. 20 DADT repeal celebration that he would like to return to complete his military career.

Although gays and lesbians can now serve without fear of dismissal or rebuke, the ban on transgenders serving remains in effect.

More than 14,000 men and women were discharged under DADT during its 18-year existence with some estimates of the cost to taxpayers running as high as \$700 million.

— David Taffet

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BROKEBACK PERRY | Rick Perry's 'Strong' ad, in which he's wearing a jacket similar to the one worn by Heath Ledger in 'Brokeback Mountain,' has the second-most dislikes of any video on YouTube.

Perry presidential bid galvanized gays

3. Rick Perry began 2011 being sworn in to a third four-year term as Texas' governor. He ends it on a bus tour of Iowa, where he's trying frantically to climb back into contention for the GOP presidential nomination as the Hawkeye State's Jan. 3 caucuses near.

Perry is perhaps the most anti-gay governor in Texas history — and that's saying something. So, when rumors began to swirl this spring that "Governor Goodhair" was planning to run for president, the LGBT community seemed to collectively grimace. For most, the downside of Perry holding national office would far outweigh one small consolation: At least he would finally have to depart the Lone Star State.

Longstanding rumors that Perry is a closeted homosexual quickly resurfaced. And, as if to try to put an end to them once and for all, Perry organized a "day of prayer" at Reliant Stadium in Houston, called The Response and funded by the American Family Association. The AFA is considered an anti-gay hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, and those who signed on as endorsers of Perry's prayer rally certainly had the views to back up the designation.

The Response drew a huge response from, among others, the LGBT community, with activists staging counterdemonstrations in H-Town during a sweltering first weekend of August. Perry insisted The Response wasn't political, but a week later he announced his campaign for president.

Republicans were smitten, and Perry skyrocketed to the top of GOP presidential polls — positioning himself as a highly-sought-after, more conservative alternative to presumptive frontrunner Mitt Romney.

Just before he formally launched his presidential bid, Perry stated at an event in Colorado that he believed marriage is a state's rights issue and New York's decision to legalize same-sex marriage was "fine with me." Under intense pressure from

social conservatives, he quickly retracted the statement and came out firmly in support of a federal marriage amendment.

But that didn't stop Rob Schlein, then president of Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas, from writing a controversial column in which he said he would vote for Perry over President Barack Obama, despite the governor's anti-gay record. The column was one of several factors that led National Log Cabin to de-charter the Dallas chapter, which is now known as Metroplex Republicans.

Perry would go on to sign a pledge from the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage and come out against the repeal of "don't ask don't tell." But in the end, it appears his right-wing credentials weren't enough to overcome major, repeated gaffes during nationally televised debates this fall.

In the most memorable one, Perry forgot the third federal department he would eliminate as president in what has become known as his "oops" moment.

Desperate to recover from the gaffes, Perry's campaign lurched even further to the right — releasing a campaign ad called "Strong" in which he declared: "I'm not ashamed to admit that I'm a Christian, but you don't need to be in the pew every Sunday to know there's something wrong in this country when gays can serve openly in the military but our kids can't openly celebrate Christmas or pray in school."

"Strong" spawned many parodies, with some harping on the fact that Perry's jacket in the ad resembled the one worn by Heath Ledger in *Brokeback Mountain*. "Strong" also garnered the second-most dislikes of any video on YouTube. Above all, though, where it really counts among Republican voters, the ad didn't work.

As of this week, Perry was polling fifth in Iowa — and second among candidates from Texas behind Congressman Ron Paul.

— John Wright



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the top 10



PARENTAL RESPONSE | David and Amy Truong, the parents of 13-year-old gay suicide victim Asher Brown, became tireless advocates for anti-bullying legislation this year. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Suicides led to anti-bullying law

4. In the fall of 2010, a number of high-profile suicides brought attention to the problem of bullying in schools. This year, the LGBT community worked to change laws and save lives.

After helping to push through policies in the Dallas and Fort Worth school districts, as well as a few others around the state, the LGBT community focused on passing statewide anti-bullying legislation in the 2011 session of the Legislature.

Equality Texas made the legislation a priority and a number of bills were introduced.

In February, Equality Texas hosted a Lobby Day. Several hundred people from around the state participated. Among them were Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns, suicide victim Asher Brown's parents — Amy and David Truong — and a group of 10 students from Youth First Texas.

Burns and the Truongs met with key legislators including members of the committees that would hear the bills. The students from YFT spoke to their senators and representatives telling their own stories of being bullied. Legislators not usually considered allies were visibly moved by stories of violence in schools in their hometowns.

Equality Texas board chair Anne Wynn, Executive Director Dennis Coleman and Deputy Director Chuck Smith spent the spring lobbying on behalf of the bills.

The organization arranged for the Truongs as well as the parents of Montana Lance and Jon Carmichael, two other Texas suicide victims, to testify at committee hearings.

As originally crafted, the bills specified categories that would be covered. National studies have shown that the more specific the law, the more effective it is in protecting LGBT students. When sexual orientation and gender identity are not specified, school staff often ignore anti-gay bullying. But to increase the chances that anti-bul-

lying legislation would pass, several bills were combined and all references to specific groups, including sexual orientation and gender identity, were deleted.

The new anti-bullying "super bill" passed unanimously in the Senate and by a wide margin in the House — and was eventually signed by Republican Gov. Rick Perry.

Under the new law, for the first time, the bully rather than the victim can be transferred to another classroom or school. Parental notification rules were strengthened and protections added for the person reporting the bullying. The definition of bullying now includes electronic means, or cyberbullying. And every school district must adopt an anti-bullying policy, including any necessary procedures to address the prevention, investigation and reporting of incidents.

A second bill also passed that provides money for counseling services, which includes services for both the bully and the victim. School staff already receive training to recognize potential suicide risks. That training will be expanded to include victims of bullying.

Meanwhile, although the Dallas Independent School District approved an LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying policy last year, Resource Center Dallas and Lambda Legal accused some DISD officials of blocking its implementation.

RCD Executive Director and CEO Cece Cox along with Lambda Legal community educator Omar Narvaez addressed the DISD board about the problem in December.

Cox said she had gotten word from frustrated school district employees that principals were being instructed not to use the electronic reporting system that the board mandated. She said she would continue to track the district's compliance with the policy in 2012.

— David Taffet



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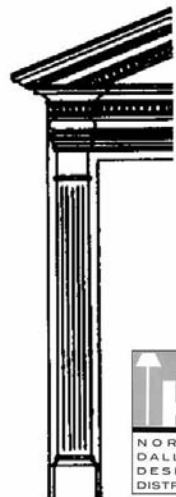


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N. Texas helped mark AIDS anniversary

5. In 2011, the world marked three decades of AIDS. It was June 5, 1981, that the Centers for Disease Control first reported on five cases in which otherwise healthy young men, all gay, had been treated for pneumocystis carinii pneumonia at three separate Los Angeles hospitals since the previous October, with two of them dying of the disease. A month later, on July 4, the CDC reported on 26 cases of Kaposi's sarcoma, again all in gay men, within the previous 30 months, with eight of the patients having died. As scientists struggled to find the cause, the plague became known as GRID, or gay-related immune deficiency syndrome.

But it wasn't until a year later — on June 27, 1982 — that the term AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, was coined. Human immunodeficiency virus — HIV — wouldn't be discovered until 1983 by Institut Pasteur in France, and it was identified as the cause of AIDS by Dr. Robert Gallo in the U.S.

By 2011, more than 25 million people worldwide had died of AIDS, and new infections continue, with men who have sex with men once again leading in terms of new infections, according to the CDC.

Despite the frightening infection rates, federal funding for HIV/AIDS services is dwindling,

with community-based AIDS service organizations struggling to find new ways to raise money, offer services and educate the public. One North Texas organization, AIDS Resources of Rural Texas based in Weatherford, announced in July that it could no longer keep its head above water and would be closing its doors as of Sept. 1.

Most clients who had been accessing services at ARRT were absorbed by the Tarrant County AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth, where Executive Director Allan Gould pledged to continue to provide services to its growing client base, despite increasing cuts in federal and state funds.

In late September, AOC announced its intention to partner with the AIDS Healthcare Founda-



HOLDING VIGIL | Hundreds gathered for a commemoration in downtown Dallas on World AIDS Day.

tion, based in Los Angeles, to open an AIDS clinic in 2012. On World AIDS Day, AHF officials and basketball legend Magic Johnson announced that the planned AOC clinic would be one of three Magic Johnson clinics opening in the next year.

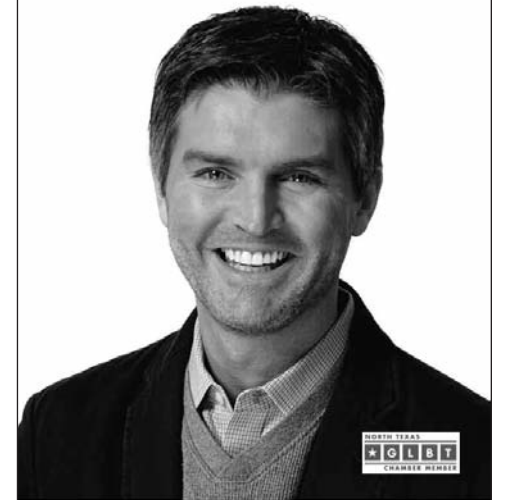
Observances of the 30th anniversary of the AIDS epidemic worldwide began in early 2011, while in North Texas, the first such commemoration came in late June when Dallas Voice and a host of partner organizations and business presented a public forum focusing on the status of HIV treatments today. On July 1, Dallas Voice published a special issue, AIDS@30, focusing on current treatments, research and education efforts, as well as profiles on individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

AIDS service organizations joined together for World AIDS Day commemorations on Dec. 1, including a display of panels from the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in downtown Dallas, and on Dec. 6, Charles Santos spearheaded *The Gathering*, an unprecedented collaboration of performing artists from around North Texas who donated their time to a performance at The Winspear Opera House. About 1,000 people attended the event, which raised more than \$60,000 for local AIDS service organizations.

— Tammye Nash

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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

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■ thetop10

County, DISD, FWISD added trans protections

6. Although transgender rights continue to be the last frontier in the ongoing battle for LGBT equality, the trans community made significant progress in North Texas in 2011.

The all-too-familiar scenario of transgender being left out of laws protecting lesbians and gays played out in March when the Dallas County Commissioners Court voted in favor of adding sexual orientation — but not gender identity and expression — to the nondiscrimination policy covering the county's roughly 7,000 employees.

County Judge Clay Jenkins and Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia, two Democrats who spearheaded the addition of sexual orientation to the policy, said they had not been aware of the distinction between sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

But after Dallas Voice reported on the oversight, LGBT advocates went back to the court to insist that commissioners correct the omission.

Republican Commissioner Maureen Dickey added insult to injury during an April Commissioners Court meeting when she not only announced she would vote against trans protections, but also compared being transgender to being overweight.

But on April 26 — after activists spoke at several consecutive meetings in an effort coordinated by Resource Center Dallas — the court voted 3-2 along party lines to add trans protections. Jenkins, Garcia and Commissioner John Wiley Price voted in favor of trans protections, while Dickey and fellow Republican Mike Cantrell voted against them.

Dallas County is the only county in the state with a trans-inclusive employment nondiscrimination policy — and momentum from the decision appeared to spread as the year went forward.

In late June, the Fort Worth school board added gender identity and expression to the district's anti-bullying policy. And in early August, shortly



STRIKING A POSE | LGBT activists celebrate outside the Dallas County Administration Building in April, after the Commissioners Court voted to add transgender protections to the county's employment nondiscrimination policy. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

before the start of a new school year, came news that the Dallas school board would consider a series of policy changes intended to protect transgender students, faculty and other employees from discrimination and harassment. The vote to add the protections came on Aug. 25.

The wave of transgender victories hit a small snag in November, when the Dallas County Community College District initially refused to add

trans protections, insisting that the district's protections based on sexual orientation covered trans people. But after another effort coordinated by the Resource Center, DCCCD President Wright Lasiter announced in November that an amendment to the district's nondiscrimination policy to specifically protect transgender people is on the agenda for the board's January meeting.

— Tammye Nash

ELECTIONS

From Page 6

who had 41 percent.

The two candidates continued to court the LGBT vote in the runoff, both participating in a second debate on LGBT issues, this one sponsored by Dallas Voice and partner organizations. Although DGLA had shifted its endorsement to Kunkle, Rawlings' performance in the second debate seemed to win over some LGBT voters, and he won the runoff and the mayor's seat, with 56 percent of the vote. Kunkle, however, again captured the most heavily LGBT precincts.

DGLA and Stonewall also split their endorsements in the District 14 City Council race, where longtime LGBT ally Angela Hunt faced three opponents, including one-time supporter James Nowlin, a gay man who filed in the race early when Hunt was still considering a run for the mayor's seat. The race split the community, with Stonewall Democrats endorsing Nowlin, who was a member of the organization, and DGLA backing

Hunt. Hunt went on to win another term of the council without a runoff, taking 65 percent of the vote in the general election. Nowlin was second with 30 percent.

In Fort Worth, former City Councilman Jim Lane, who was on the council when the city became one of the first in the state to include protections for lesbians and gays in its nondiscrimination ordinance, and former Tarrant County Tax Appraiser/Collector Betsy Price were the top two vote-getters in the general election, and during the runoff campaigns, the two met for the first-ever Fort Worth mayoral debate focusing on LGBT issues.

While Price had raised suspicion among some with a vague answer regarding her position on the city's recent decision to include protections based on gender identity and gender expression in the nondiscrimination ordinance, both she and Lane pledged at the debate sponsored by the GLBT chamber and Fairness Fort Worth to support LGBT equality and to maintain an open door to the community.

Price went on to win the runoff, 56 percent to 44 percent, and in October became the first Fort Worth mayor to not only ride in, but also serve as grand marshal of, the Tarrant County Gay Pride Parade.

Also in Fort Worth, the city's first and only openly gay councilmember, Joel Burns, still riding a wave of national popularity following his "It Gets Better" speech during a council meeting the previous October, didn't even draw an opponent in his bid for a second full term on the council.

Down the road in Arlington, Chris Hightower became the first openly gay candidate to run for city council, tossing his hat into the ring along with three others challenging District 5 incumbent Lana Wolff. Hightower, who easily outpaced all the candidates in fundraising, came out on top of the heap in the general election. But he lost the runoff to Wolff by less than 100 votes, an outcome many of his supporters blamed on anti-gay robocalls describing him as a "weirdo," a "convicted sex pervert" and a "sex creep" — even though Hightower has no criminal record.

— Tammye Nash



PARADES AND PARTIES | Razzle Dazzle Dallas returned as a five-day event with crowds filling the street for the big Saturday night extravaganza. (Chuck Dube/Dallas Voice)

Celebrations saw major changes

7 Change was the name of the game when it came to the traditional LGBT celebrations this year, from Easter in the Park in April to the 30th anniversary Tarrant County Gay Pride Week celebrations in October.

In mid-March news broke that the Turtle Creek Association, which had for years been the sponsoring organization for the annual Easter in Lee Park celebration, had decided to move the Pooch Parade to the weekend before Easter, billing it as a “family-friendly” event called Creek Craze. That left the Dallas Symphony Orchestra’s traditional Easter Sunday concert in the park without a sponsor, and many in the LGBT community angry over what they saw as a way to exclude the community.

But after the irate reaction from the LGBT community, the Turtle Creek Association teamed up with Lee Park Conservancy to hire gay event planner Dave Berryman, who quickly put together a plan to fund the usual Easter Sunday celebration by bringing in Cedar Springs Merchants Association member Kroger, along with Park Place Volvo and Metro PCS as title sponsors, allowing TCA to continue with its Creek Craze event and for the traditional Easter in Lee Park party to take place as well, complete with the Kroger Pooch Parade and the DSO concert.

In the fall of 2010 plans began percolating to bring back what had long been Dallas’ annual Gay Pride Month celebration, Razzle Dazzle Dallas. And while some questioned whether organizers would be able to coordinate their planned five-day revival of the event in time, Razzle Dazzle Dallas came back with a bang.

Many in the community reacted in anger again last summer when the Dallas Tavern Guild an-

nounced new rules for the annual Festival in Lee Park, following the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade in September. Under the new rules, the park was fenced in and a \$5 admission fee was charged at the gate. The Tavern Guild also banned partiers from bringing their own coolers and beverages into the park for the festival.

DTG Executive Director Michael Doughman explained that the Tavern Guild was fencing the park for the festival to get ahead of new city regulations set to go into effect in 2012, and that the admission fee was intended to add to the proceeds to be distributed to parade beneficiaries. Outside liquor was banned, he said, because incidences with highly-inebriated partiers in the park had gotten out of control in recent years.

Despite complaints and some glitches, Doughman said after the event that organizers were pleased with the turnout — some 5,300 people paid the \$5 admission — and in December, the Tavern Guild distributed checks totaling \$18,700 to five beneficiary organizations.

Tarrant County’s annual Pride Week celebration also saw big changes in 2012. Organizers consolidated the annual picnic and parade, which previously had taken place on separate weekends, into one weekend, added several events and moved the parade downtown. Despite dire predictions from some quarters that the changes would lead to failure, the community turned out in big numbers to line Main Street in downtown Fort Worth to cheer a parade that included, for the first time ever, a Fort Worth mayor — newly-elected Betsy Price — as a participant. And the following day, the crowds returned to Trinity Park for the annual picnic.

—Tammye Nash



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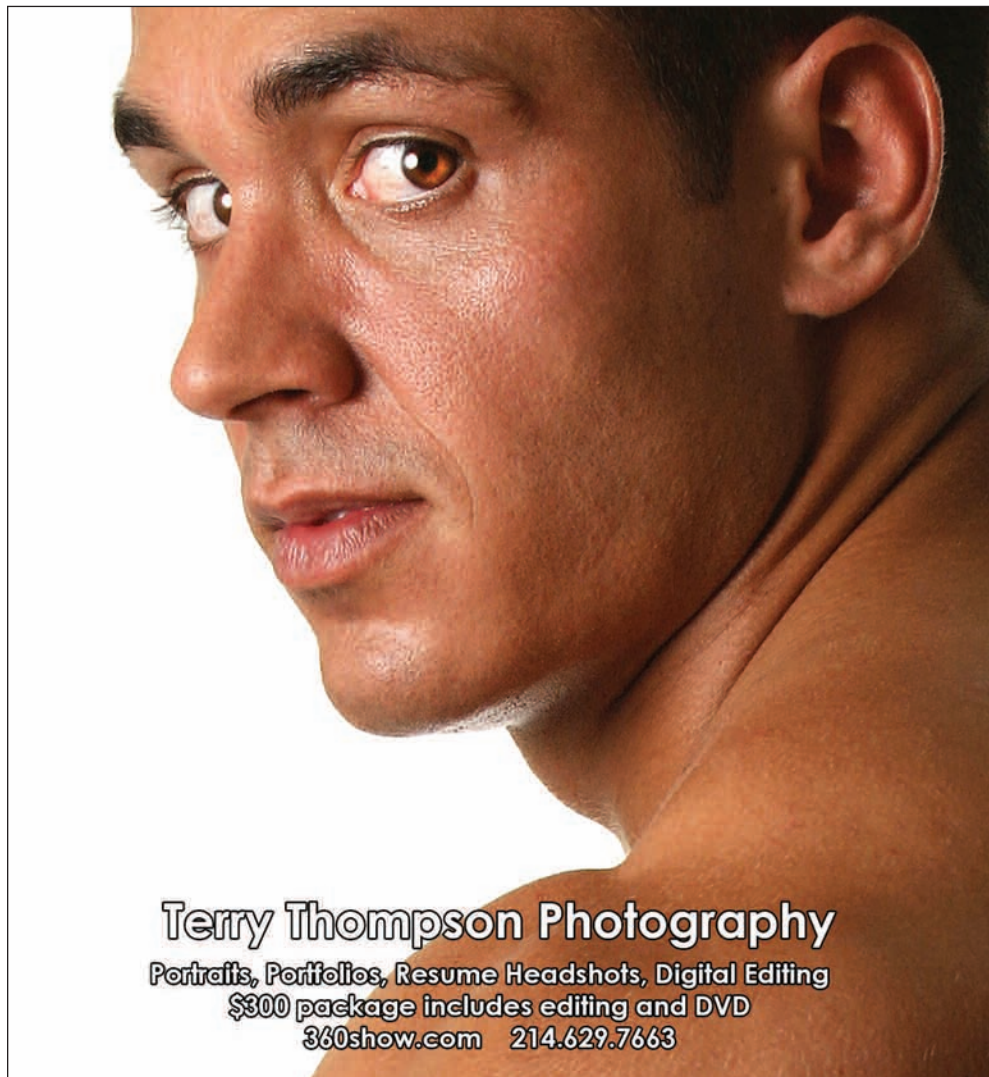
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VOWING TO WIN | Nikki Araguz says she will appeal her case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary. (Courtesy of Nikki Araguz)

Trans widow continued her fight

8. The Texas Constitution bans marriage between one man and one woman, but how will the state define “man” and “woman”?

Transgender marriage cases in Dallas and Houston could force the Texas Supreme Court — or even the U.S. Supreme Court — to ultimately decide the thorny issue.

In Houston, transgender widow Nikki Araguz has appealed a district judge’s ruling denying her death benefits from her late husband, Thomas Araguz III, a volunteer firefighter who was killed in the line of duty in 2010.

The judge, Randy Clapp, granted summary judgment to Thomas Araguz’s family, which filed a lawsuit alleging the couple’s 2008 marriage is void because Nikki Araguz was born male, and Texas law prohibits same-sex marriage.

The Araguz family’s argument relies heavily on a San Antonio appeals court’s 1999 ruling in *Littleton v. Prange*, which found that gender is determined at birth and cannot be changed.

However, LGBT advocates say the *Littleton* ruling is unconstitutional, goes against medical science and isn’t binding in other parts of the state, where it has not always been followed.

In Dallas, a district judge apparently reached the opposite conclusion from Clapp this November — denying a similar motion for summary judgment.

James Allan Scott, a transgender man, is seeking a divorce settlement from his wife of 13 years, Rebecca Louise Robertson. However, Robertson wants to have the marriage declared void because Scott was born a biological female.

District Judge Lori Chrisman denied Robertson’s motion for summary judgment, which leaned heavily on *Littleton*. The judge provided

no explanation for her ruling allowing the matter to proceed as a divorce, at least for now.

It’s unclear whether Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott plans to intervene in the Dallas case. Abbott has intervened in same-sex divorce cases in Austin and Dallas, seeking to block them. But thus far he has stayed above the fray on transgender marriage, even though it presents overlapping issues.

After a transgender woman and a cisgender woman applied for a marriage license in 2010, the El Paso County clerk requested a ruling from Abbott about whether to grant it. But Abbott opted not to weigh in, with his office saying it would instead wait for court rulings in the Araguz case. The El Paso couple was later able to marry in San Antonio, where the county clerk went by *Littleton v. Prange*.

In response to the Araguz case, a bill was introduced in the Texas Legislature this year to ban transgender marriage. The bill would have removed proof of a sex change from the list of documents that can be used to obtain marriage licenses. Strongly opposed by LGBT advocates, it cleared a Senate committee but never made it to the floor.

Trans advocates said the bill also would have effectively prohibited the state from recognizing their transitioned status — or, *who they are* — for any purpose.

The problem for socially conservative lawmakers is, they can’t have it both ways. Marriage is a fundamental right that courts have said can’t be taken away from a person completely. So no matter what, Texas will be forced to allow a version of same-sex marriage.

Which is why some believe the cases could help undo the marriage amendment.

— John Wright

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BEATEN AND BURNED | Burke Burnett was stabbed with a broken beer bottle and thrown onto a lit burn barrel at a Halloween party in East Texas. (Courtesy of Burke Burnett)

Reno attack made national news

9. Burke Burnett says he was inspired to come out as gay at 15 after learning about the hate crime murder of gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard. Thirteen years after Shepard's death, Burnett himself became the victim of a brutal anti-gay hate crime in Reno, Texas, a small town east of Paris and 100 miles northeast of Dallas.

Burnett, now 26, was at a Halloween party in the early morning hours of Oct. 30 when he was jumped by three men who yelled anti-gay epithets as they stabbed him repeatedly with a broken beer bottle, before throwing him onto a lit burn barrel.

Burnett said he'd never before had problems in his hometown due to his sexual orientation, but he believes the men were trying to kill him.

It took 30 stitches to close stab wounds to his back and forearm, as well as a cut above his left eye. He also sustained second-degree burns and severe bruises.

It was arguably the worst anti-gay hate crime Texas has seen since Jimmy Lee Dean was beaten nearly to death in the heart of Dallas' gay entertainment district in 2008. And for many in East Texas, Burnett's beating undoubtedly evoked memories of the 1993 murder of Nicholas West in Tyler.

Fearing that local authorities wouldn't treat

the crime seriously, Burnett's friends contacted the media. After graphic photos of his injuries were posted on DallasVoice.com, the incident quickly made national news.

Reno police were tightlipped about their investigation, but within days they'd arrested three men in connection with the crime — 31-year-old James Mitchell Lasater III of Paris, 25-year-old Micky Joe Smith of Brookston and 33-year-old Daniel Shawn Martin of Paris.

The suspects each were charged with multiple counts of aggravated assault, but under Texas law, it would be up to prosecutors to decide whether to treat the case as a hate crime.

And LGBT advocates weren't terribly optimistic, given that in the 10 years since Texas' statute was passed, only about a dozen cases have been prosecuted as hate crimes.

They would be pleasantly surprised, however, when on Nov. 10 the Lamar County District Attorney's Office announced that that all three suspects would face hate crimes enhancements.

Aggravated assault is a second-degree felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison, but the enhancements would bump up the charges, making them first-degree felonies punishable by life in prison.

— John Wright

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the top 10

Out & Equal summit drew 2,600



CORPORATE EQUALITY | Out & Equal founder Selisse Berry spoke at the Workplace Summit held at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in October. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

10. The Out & Equal Workplace Summit held Oct. 22-25 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel broke records and had a bigger impact on the city than any other LGBT conference Dallas has hosted.

More than 2,600 people registered for the convention, with participants coming from 42 states and 23 countries. That included 60 corporate CEOs, including Wes Bush of Northrop Grumman and Mike Ullman of J.C. Penney, who both addressed the LGBT group.

According to Out & Equal spokesman Justin Tanis, the Workplace Summit raised a total of \$2.5 million.

The Thursday night gala's live and silent auctions brought in \$74,660 that will benefit the Out & Equal Scholarship Fund for LGBT students.

The conference had a big impact on the local economy both in the LGBT community and Dallas in general.

At the Thursday night dinner, Bush handed Youth First Texas' Sam Wilkes a check for \$20,000.

According to Cordey Lash, a senior sales manager with the Hilton Anatole, the conference had a \$3 million impact on the hotel, which included about 6,000 room-nights plus food and beverage sales. During three nights of the conference, the Anatole sold out, so three neighboring hotels filled hundreds of additional rooms.

Lash called the Summit "one of the most im-

portant conferences of the year."

He also expected future business from corporations whose executives attended and were impressed with the city and his hotel's facilities.

The conference had an impact on local LGBT merchants as well. Wednesday was Out & Equal community night. The Cedar Springs strip was as crowded as on a busy Saturday night.

While many of the attendees were from companies that affirm and encourage diversity and have top ratings in the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index, the conference also attracted employees of companies such as ExxonMobil that have poor ratings.

And the conference wasn't all business. Top-name entertainment included Candis Cayne, the first transgender actress to have a recurring role on a primetime network series (*Dirty, Sexy Money*); comedians Margaret Cho and Kate Clinton; actors Meredith Baxter and Wilson Cruz; and the Turtle Creek Chorale.

Speakers included Andy Cohen, Bravo's openly gay senior vice president of original programming and development; and Rick Welts, president and chief of operations for the NBA's Golden State Warriors.

Because evaluations of the event from attendees were so positive, Tanis said Out & Equal is already talking to the Anatole about returning, possibly as early as 2014.

— David Taffet



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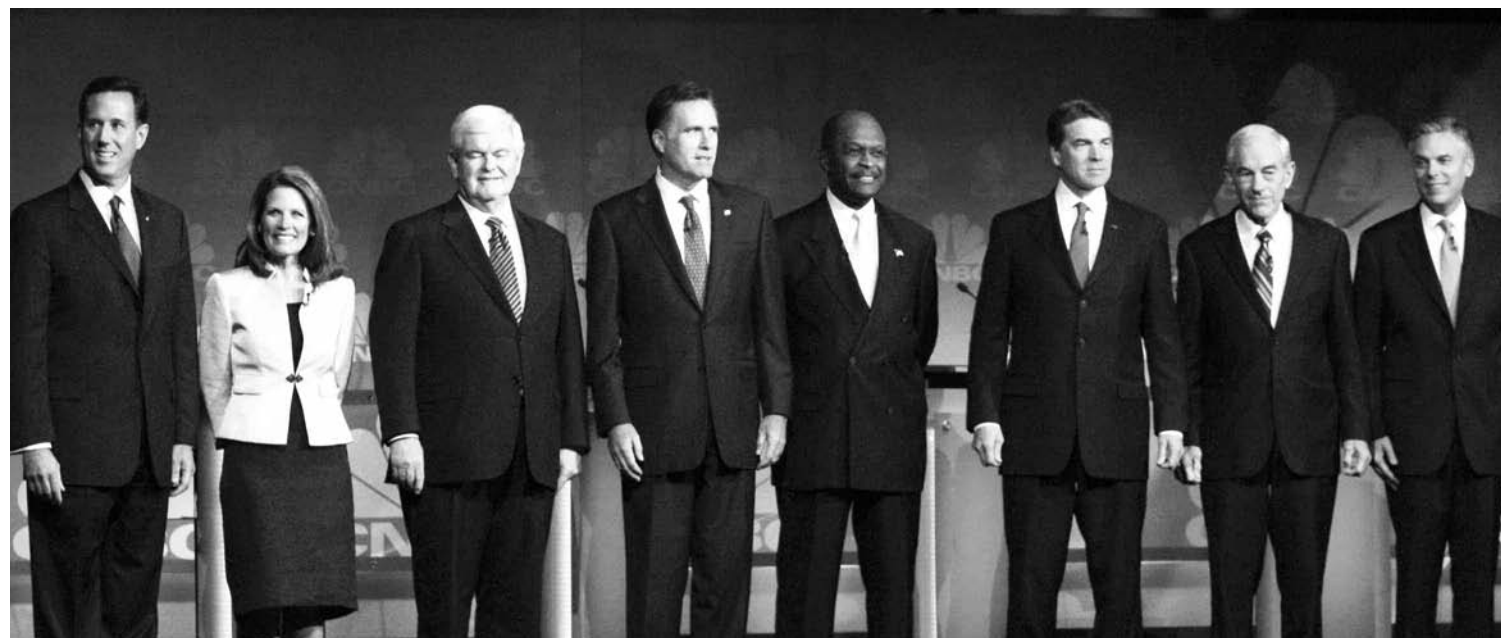
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Associated Press

Has the Republican Party gone nuts?

As Iowa Caucus nears, taking stock of laughingstock that is GOP field

Months ago, in a column I wrote about the Dallas Public Library and some books, I mentioned recommendations for mysteries by gay writer Mark Richard Zubro. I love Zubro and zipped right through all of his books. I bought the only volume the library didn't own through its "Be A Book Hero" program, so I got first dibs when it came into the system.

Zubro's books comprise two series, one built around gay Chicago police detective Paul Turner, the other featuring high school teacher Tom Mason and Tom's partner, professional baseball star Scott Carpenter. In the latter series, when confronted with some monumental idiocy, Tom is prone to say, "Are you nuts?" — which is also the name of one book in the series.

Well, as I take in as much as I can bear of the Republican presidential primary campaign, I keep asking my screens and my radios that question.

Here's an example.

One morning on the local NPR station, a network political reporter was asking Republican debate attendees which candidate they favored. One couple, finishing each other's sentences in their enthusiasm, said: "Newt Gingrich. He's so honest. And honorable."

This, about a man who asked his first wife for a divorce while she was in a hospital bed, recovering from surgery; who betrayed his second wife through an affair with the woman who is now wife three; and who was fined \$300,000 in 1997-98 for violations of House ethics rules. Not to mention that Newt Gingrich was working to impeach Bill Clinton for seducing Monica Lewinsky at the very same time he was boffing a Capitol Hill aide of his own.

Here's another example.

Rick Perry, we have recently learned, not only takes his \$150,000 salary as governor while he travels around Iowa in a big, ugly tour bus labeled "Faith, Jobs and Freedom," but he collects \$92,000 in government retirement pay at the same time. He lives in a taxpayer-funded spread that costs, if the news reports have it right, \$10,000 per month. He hardly governs at all, and as proof that much governance is unnecessary, he proposes to make the U.S. Congress a part-time organization.

This is a man who also benefits from state-funded security protection, doles out jobs to friends with lots of ready money, and subscribes to a Christian faith so profound that he is one lethal injection away from having killed half the persons put to death in Texas since the ultimate penalty was reinstated in 1977.

And a third example.

Mitt Romney, we all know, grew up rich and got even richer. He sells himself on the basis of his business acumen. But he had a huge head start since his father was George Romney, the CEO of American Motors Corp., Michigan's governor and a national Republican political player. He's a very bright guy, no doubt; he has degrees from both Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School. Before entering politics, he ran a management consulting firm and its spinoff, Bain Capital, a very successful private equity firm.



Phyllis Guest
Taking Notes

But there is something profoundly weird about the man. When he sought the Republican nomination four years ago, I bought *Mormonism for Dummies* because I knew almost nothing about that religion. I must say I found it not so much impenetrable as incredible, but don't take my word for it, read about it yourselves. What is weird, though, is not his religion or even the fact that he says, "Corporations are people, my friend." It's his whole persona. He seems to have all the right pieces in all the right places, but with insufficient glue holding them together.

Or how about Michele Bachmann? Shall we talk about her assaults on the LGBT community and apparent astonishment when the daughter of a lesbian confronted her? Perhaps we should consider her husband's "conversion" therapy.

Or what about Ron Paul? For one thing, the man is even older than I am, and given his adherence to libertarian principles, I cannot imagine how he would manage to get anything done in our contentious, contemptuous capital.

Or why not revisit Herman Cain? I could hardly get past the fact that he thought God had called him to run for president so as to pay attention to his sexual exploits. I did manage to notice that his much-vaunted stint as CEO of Godfather's Pizza was a full 15 years ago.

Finally, consider Rick Santorum, who apparently eschews both self control and birth control and so has seven children, and Jon Huntsman, who apparently lacks the gene for the rabid right-wing statements the party base demands.

So, Republican candidates and Republican voters, I put it to you: Are you nuts?

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

Drunken driving takes especially deadly toll during the holidays

Threat even greater for LGBTs, who have higher rates of alcohol abuse

Momentum is building for the last blast of the 2011 holiday season, but not everyone should count on waking up safe and sound in their own bed on New Year's Day with the traditional celebratory hangover.

The more fortunate partygoers will find themselves on an old friend's sofa, in bed with a new friend or even in a jail cell with a bunch of strangers. But the less lucky won't be waking up at all because they will be part of the year's statistics on impaired driving fatalities.

That's why U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said he kicked off a nationwide crack-down on impaired driving on Dec. 13 in an attempt to remind Americans they risk killing others or themselves if they get behind the wheel drunk or stoned.

Impaired driving fatality statistics for 2010 released by the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration showed a decrease in many states in comparison

to the previous year, but 10,228, or one-third, of the fatalities on American highways still involved intoxication.

The fatality statistics spiked during the second half of December, when drinking traditionally becomes more prevalent apparently because of holiday parties. The U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reported that 40 percent of traffic deaths during the Christmas and New Year's Eve holidays involved drunken driving.



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

The risk increases during the holidays because it is a time when many people uncharacteristically drink to excess and take on one of the characteristics of what is known as hardcore drunken driving.

Hardcore drunken driving refers to anyone who gets behind the wheel with a blood-alcohol account of 0.15 or above, does so repeatedly and is resistant to changing that behavior. For the past decade, fatality statistics show that 70 percent of impaired drivers responsible for the deaths had a blood-alcohol account of 0.15 or higher.

It is an issue of particular concern to the LGBT community because many studies have shown a high incidence of alcohol and drug abuse among its members.

In connection with the national anti-drunken driving campaign that carries the slogan, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," alcohol awareness educators are warning revelers to understand how beer, wine and liquor affect the human body. Many occasional and frequent drinkers apparently harbor misconceptions about the effects of alcohol.

Alcohol impairs coordination, driving skills, reflex time and judgment long before the drinker or anyone else notices signs of intoxication, and it can spark aggression that makes the driver more dangerous on the road.

Even after an individual quits drinking, alcohol

in the stomach continues to enter the bloodstream and affect the brain for hours. Coffee or other caffeine drinks do not reduce the effects of alcohol and do not make the impaired driver any safer. Only time can counteract the detrimental effects of alcohol.

Educators advise party-goers to take a cab or to designate someone to drive who isn't drinking. Otherwise, anyone planning to get behind the wheel should not have any more than one alcoholic drink per hour, and it would be a good idea for every other drink to be nonalcoholic.

No one should rely on someone else to monitor and take care of them on New Year's Eve or any other holiday party. No matter whether the reveler is at a private party or a nightclub, the person in charge may be far too busy to notice the drinker is impaired.

The bottom line is that many citizens who typically would not dream of breaking the law risk doing exactly that if they drink to excess and try to drive themselves home. The legal limit is 0.08 in most states these days, and that only amounts to two or three drinks for many people.

Others who have problems with alcohol and other drugs should seek help before they get behind the wheel again and risk the lives of themselves and others.

Anyone who drives drunk this New Year's Eve risks getting arrested, being jailed, bonding out of jail, hiring a lawyer, going to court, possibly going back to jail, serving probation and making huge financial expenditures. It is estimated that a drunken driving charge costs about \$20,000 when all of the expenses — including increased insurance costs — are tallied.

That is the risk if the drunken driver is lucky and doesn't have an accident resulting in an injury or fatality. In a worse-case scenario, there won't ever be an end to the anguish and devastation affecting everyone involved.

That's cause enough not to ever go there in the first place. ■

David Webb is a veteran journalist who has reported on LGBT issues for the mainstream and alternative media for three decades. E-mail him at david-waynewebb@hotmail.com.

TO SEND A LETTER | We welcome letters from readers. Shorter letters and those addressing a single issue are more likely to be printed. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity, but we attempt to maintain the writer's substance and tone. Include your home address and a daytime telephone number for verification. Send letters to the senior editor, preferably by e-mail (nash@dallasvoice.com). Letters also may be faxed (214-969-7271) or sent via the U.S. Postal Service (Dallas Voice, 4145 Travis St., Third Floor, Dallas TX 75204). All letters become the property of Dallas Voice.

On September 17, 1998, a Harris Co. sheriff's deputy burst open the door of John Lawrence's apartment, charging him and Tyron Garner with violating Texas' antigay sodomy law. Lawrence successfully fought the law all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, opening the door to marriage equality, military non-discrimination, and equal justice for LGBT citizens.

e-mail: EditorialCartoon@QSyndicate.com ©2012

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When will President Obama endorse same-sex marriage?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Are you making New Year's resolutions?

- Yes: 38 percent
- No: 33 percent
- Why bother: 29 percent

73 Votes cast

Our critics rank the best movies, theater, music, concerts, TV and books of 2011

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW
MOVIES

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

It took awhile, but 2011 ended up being a decent year for movies, with Hollywood actually financing some edgy stuff and even giving some leeway to their high-concept tentpole movies (four of the best entertainments — *Captain America: The First Avenger*, *Thor*, *X-Men: First Class* and *Mission Impossible 4* — superhero actioners).

10. *Midnight in Paris*. After years of middling (sometimes unwatchable) films, Woody Allen finally found his avatar in Owen Wilson with this, his best comedy since 1995's *Mighty Aphrodite*.

9. *Anonymous*. A huge flop in the fall, audiences failed to connect with this thrilling (though highly fictionalized) riff on whether Shakespeare really wrote his plays. The premise was compellingly told, however, mixing action, a love of language, political savvy and romance in a satisfying way. Biggest surprise of all? Gay director Roland Emmerich of mindless action films like *Godzilla* and *10,000 B.C.* was responsible. Maybe that's what critics couldn't get behind it.

8. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Debate if you will the literary merits of Stieg Larsson's rangy trilogy about a hacker and a journalist uniting to take down Fascists, but David Fincher's thoughtful, well-paced thriller was faithful to the spirit of the book, while turning it into a cinematic mind-fuck of a movie, almost as bleak as his signature piece, *Se7en*.

7. *Shame*. British director Steve McQueen's close-to-the-vest investigation of the modern male psyche was as unnerving to watch as it was captivating, delving into dark areas of sexuality with brilliant visual flourishes.

6. *Weekend*. Two queer Brits spend a night together, but explore something more about the nature of gay relationships of today in this frank, compelling and sexy drama.



INSANE FOR HUSSEIN | Dominic Cooper delivered the year's most overlooked performance: A riveting dual role as Saddam Hussein's gangsta son Uday and the doppelganger who impersonates him in 'The Devil's Double.'

5. *The Devil's Double*. Poor Dominic Cooper seems to have been all but forgotten by most critics, but his dual role as Uday Hussein and his body double was exciting and frightening, but also finely detailed — how many people get to play both the protagonist *and* the villain in the same movie? Vivid and energetic, this is the Scorsese film Scorsese should have made instead of the twee kid's fantasy *Hugo*: It's *Goodfellas* in the desert.

4. *The Skin I Live In*. Pedro Almodovar returned to great Hitchcockian form with this masterful mystery about a beautiful woman held captive by a perverse surgeon (Antonio Banderas). Layers upon layers are revealed on the way to a breathless, fantastical explanation, aided incalculably by Alberto Iglesias' fantastic score — one of the best ever written for the screen.

3. *The Tree of Life*. It may sound like a cop-out, but Terry Malick's tone poem of a film defies critical analysis. You simply allow yourself to be washed away by his experimental filmic mood shifts, or you resist. Giving over resulted in one of the dreamiest experiences I've ever had

■ MOVIES Page 26

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW
STAGE

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES
Life+Style Editor
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Dallas theaters done good in 2011, with many exciting, funny, touching and/or energetic productions to choose from. Here, from No. 10 to the top:

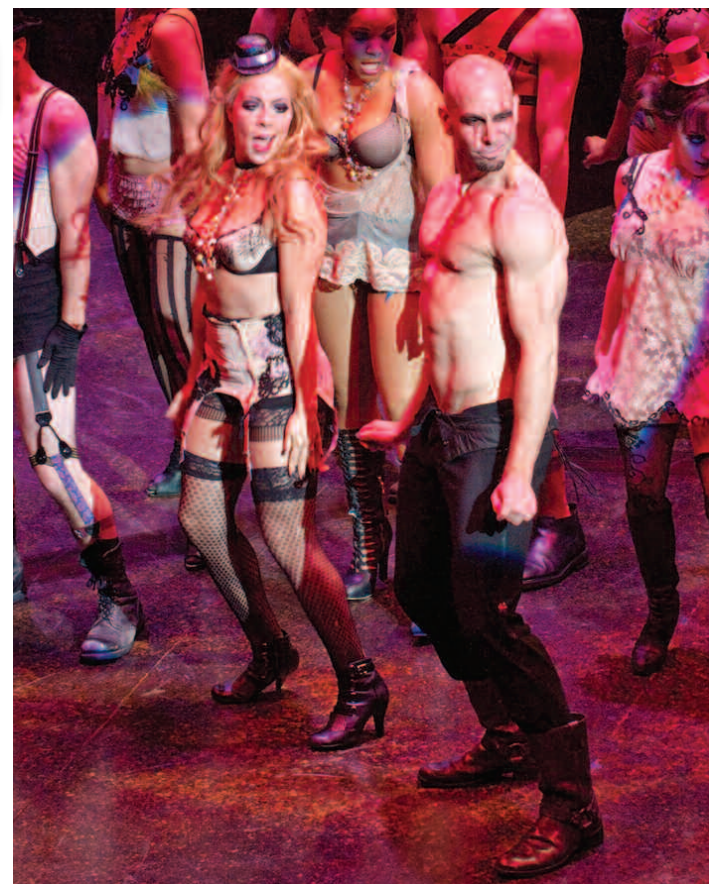
10. *Ovo* (Cirque du Soleil tour). We've come to expect excellence from Cirque du Soleil, but their latest show is probably the best touring production to come to North Texas. Nearly a year later, it lingers for its beauty, derring-do and even storytelling, as it portrays romance in the bug world.

9. *In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play* (Kitchen Dog Theater). Sarah Rule can be an acquired taste, but I acquired it with Kitchen Dog's outrageous comedy of manners about how science adapted Victorian culture's sexual repression to treat female "hysterics" with bizarre blindfolds over what they were doing. It took Freud and Jung to release us from these constraints.

8. *The New Century* and *Beautiful Thing* (Uptown Players' Pride Festival). Uptown's debut festival had some definite misses (the mainstage production of *Crazy, Just Like Me* was unwatchable), but I'll walk away from the festival remembering the touching domestic drama *Beautiful Thing* and the campy Paul Rudnick comedy *The New Century*, which also managed to make audiences cry.

7. *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Dallas Theater Center). This crusty old comedy from the 1930s seemed like an unlikely source of some of the top laughs of 2011, but the Scott Schwartz-directed production, including a magnificent revolving set and a fresh, pixieish energy from Tovah Feldshuh and her co-star, Betty Buckley, was a real hoot — a chestnut roasting into a nutcake.

6. *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying* (ICT MainStage). Max Swarner found his niche in 2011 as the breezy light musi-



KIT KAT KLUBBERS | Wade McCollum, center, almost dominated DTC's 'Cabaret' as the sleazy Master of Ceremonies, but everyone was at the top of their game in this production, directed by Joel Ferrell.

cal comedian — and *How to Succeed* was the perfect vehicle to showcase it. Looking big and expensive on a community theater budget, director Michael Serrecchia made this very-'60s-era comedy feel as modern as *The Colbert Report*.

5. *Dividing the Estate* (DTC). The first entry in the city-wide Foote Festival was also the best, due in large part to director Joel Ferrell's brisk pacing of a Gothic Southern (or in this case, Texas) saga about family sniping and intrigue. Any Southerner will recognize characters from his or her own background in the most sweeping portrait of blood dynamics since *August: Osage County*.

4. *The Hand* (Broken Gears Project Theater). Poor Broken Gears seemed to implode *because* of this show — a quickie little two-hander about men in a bathroom — one of whom is missing a hand... and wants one back. Snappy, gruesome and thoughtful, with a strong undercurrent of homoeroticism, it was guerrilla theater at its best.

3. *Red Light Winter* (Second Thought Theater). Adam Rapp's drama about alpha-males and sexual politics marked the temporary return to Dallas of actor-director Regan Adair,

■ STAGE Page 26

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LIFE+STYLE

year in review



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST | Chillwave specialist Ernest Greene of Washed Out turned 'Within and Without' into 2011's best album — no matter what Adele thinks.

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW MUSIC

You could say 2011 was the year of the superstar. Already-superstars Gaga, Beyonce and Britney dropped new albums confirming their status, while Nicki Minaj and Katy Perry became ones following the continued successes of 2010 discs. Kanye and Jay-Z teamed up to watch the throne and beardos Fleet Foxes and Bon Iver followed up their debuts with dreamy, though sometimes confusing releases.

Ultimately, it was Adele who ruled, leaving all others in the dust with an exercise in modern torch songs and declarative hits — so much so, she and 2011 are now practically synonymous.

But not exclusively. A few others made an impression on smaller fronts — and big ones, too. Each of the following resonated either through a chill groove or a strong beat, and ultimately made 2011 easy on the ears.

1. Washed Out, *Within and Without* — What Ernest Greene does with this chillwave release is somewhere between a dream and astral projection. Each track floats in your ears as wonderful bubbles of music that are airy and delicate, but their impression is far more lasting. This isn't just an album, but a luxury bath for the ears and soul, which made for practically infinite repeat plays. *Key tracks:* "Amor Fati," "Eyes Be Closed."

2. Caveman, *CoCo Beware* — In just two years,

these Brooklyn indie rockers debuted their album with confidence to spare. Giving alt-rock sensibilities to Simon and Garfunkel folkisms, Caveman fits in the Grizzly Bear-Band of Horses vein and yet they still create a sound that will grow into their own. Those drums are to die for as is singer Matthew Iwanusa smooth tenor. Caveman's release is more like a gift. *Key tracks:* "Decide," "December 28th."

3. Death Cab for Cutie, *Keys and Codes Remix EP* — By nature, most remixes are agony resulting in a soulless version of the original. That didn't happen here in DCFC's redux on their already-impressive *Codes and Keys* from earlier in the year. At times, the EP is even *better* than the original, with charged up versions of seven songs. Yeasayer, The 2 Bears and Cut Copy are among the remixers who don't take away from DCFC's spirit, but spike it huge with major beats. *Key tracks:* "Underneath the Sycamore," "Some Boys."

4. Adele, *21* — This is very likely the album of the year for the entire world — and deservedly so. Adele channeled all the emotion of being done wrong by her man into a solid display of music. At times, she gets a little too sappy, but the strength of *21* isn't just in Adele's soulful voice, it's also in her heart that is both pained and strengthened here. Plus, *21* pretty much just says "fuck you" to the ex the way we all wish we could. *Key tracks:* "Rolling in the Deep," "Don't You Remember."

5. Adam Tyler, *Shattered Ice* — In his debut, Tyler broke through pop/dance music apathy to create a

refreshing album of solid tunes. He recalls glorious pop of two and three decades ago but updates it with sexy lyrics and dynamic hooks. Tyler wrote all 11 songs and more than half of those are ready for the radio. Hopefully, someone will take notice, because *Ice* is too spectacular to be overlooked. *Key tracks:* "Pull the Trigger," "I Won't Let You Go."

6. Real Estate, *Days* — Less is more with this complete package by the indie folk rockers from New Jersey. They smoothed out from their 2009 debut and bring a minimalist, but hardly simple approach to *Days* that shows off the band's talents modestly, but considerably effectively with lush cascades of music. *Days* is a facile listen that may sound like background music, but you won't forget it. *Key tracks:* "It's Real," "Younger than Yesterday."

7. Beyonce, *4* — The diva missed out on big radio hits with this album, but she channeled her inner '80s-and-'90s adult contemporaries and created a helluva fascinating album. Sidestepping the obvious, B dabbled in sophistication over aggression and came up with retro vibes without losing her style. She totally didn't give up her skills trying for a big hit with "Rule the World (Girls)" but missed. That's forgivable considering the brilliance of the rest. *Key tracks:* "Rather Die Young," "I Care."

8. CSS, *La Liberacion* — These Brazilian party rockers matured beautifully in their third album. For having a reputation of delivering queer-centric dance rock, earlier releases were a tad unfocused. CSS kept the same amped-up energy, but their songwriting and musicianship has grown into smart and sublime. From irreverence to slightly political, CSS looks like they have finally found their place. *Key tracks:* "City Grrrl," "I Love You."

9. Me'Shell Ndegéocello, *Weather* — Ndegéocello continues to bring the cool, and does so with the ultra-slick *Weather*. Her neo-soul chops have not been lost over the course of her almost two-decade career. Instead, she adds a layer of maturity with each new album and this year practically cultivated it into hip, soulful perfection. And that bass playing is so sexy, it's borderline (but gloriously) obscene. *Key tracks:* "Chance," "Dirty World."

10. Emmeline, *Someone to Be* — Coming in under the wire, Dallas singer Emmeline recently dropped off her disc personally to the Dallas Voice asking for a listen. Good thing she did, as she lies somewhere between Sarah MacLachlan and Regina Spektor. With earnest keyboards and charming vocals, she churned out one of the more delightful packages of tunes with a sugary edge that sticks just right and is wonderfully addictive. *Key tracks:* "Someone to Be," "Dallas."



2011's top LGBT releases

Queer music was in full bloom over the last 12 months, with a wide range of LGBT artists — from veterans to newbies — strongly delivering great music. Here are some of the high-lights that stuck out for us.

R.E.M., *Collapse Into Now*. Soon after this March release, the band announced they were breaking up after 30 years — with the appropriate greatest hits release in November.

Deborah Vial, *Stages and Stones*. The former Dallas gal showed off her chops from Hawaii in her soulful new album.

K.D. Lang and the Siss Boom Bang, *Sing it Loud*. Lang crooned, but also rocked gently with her new band.

Ariel Aparicio, *Aerials*. OutMusic Award winner Aparicio hit a strong note with his alt-rock album from August, fusing it with Latin flair.

Garrin Benfield, *The Wave Organ Song*. This scruffy folk-country artist relaxed into his fifth disc with a languid and poetic song cycle.

Girl in a Coma, *Exits and All the Rest* (pictured). The San Antonio rock trio made waves in 2011, landing on several year-end lists.

Brandon Hilton, *Nocturnal*. Hilton worked the web to his advantage to get his album on people's radar and it worked both ways.

The Sounds, *Something to Die For*. The relentless alt-pop from these Swedes was one of the best music additions of the year. And bi singer Maja Ivarsson sold it perfectly.

— R.L.

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW CONCERTS

The ladies ran the world this year — or at least the concert stage, whether dives or arenas.

1. Bruno Mars and Janelle Monae (Verizon Theatre). These two crashed the venue with the year's most amazing live performances. Monae, in all her spastic glory, ran across the stage and into the audience, proving why she is the next Prince. And with her futuristic-themed album *Archandroid*, her band was loud and live minus any apparent electronic help. Mars did the same but recalled old-school showmanship, channeling Marvin Gaye, James Brown and Smokey Robinson as he and his own band filled the place with raucous horns, slamming percussion and Mars' charisma.

2. Nicki Minaj (American Airlines, pictured). Britney sputtered before her concert hit its stride halfway through, but Minaj brought it from the get-go. With military precision, she and her troupe marched and danced while the audience roared, spanking the American Airlines Center as if she were the headliner, making everyone in the crowd her bitch. And all were on board. Her ovation with Spears was proof that Minaj's star has arrived.

3. Jackie Hall (Lakewood Bar & Grill). A surprise at the May edition of Twist LGBT, stepped in with local band One Night Stand to end the night with a bang. Even as the crowd dwindled, Hall went full bore, working up those left into a frenzy with powerful covers. This lady sings the blues *and* rock *and* pop, but turns them out like no other.

4. Scissor Sisters (American Airlines Center). There is no way to steal a show from Lady Gaga, but the Sisters didn't need to, giving a workout of a show. Ridiculously pumped Jake Shears burned a million calories with his high-energy antics (and that ass-reveal, a great bonus). Ana Matronic held her own as Shears' equal with funk and sass. True fans were breathless.

5. Brandi Carlile (Granada Theatre). Without much fanfare, Carlile and her legions of fans in the mid-sized Granada were like one entity fused together. Her fans gave her space to sing softly, to go unplugged and to simply love her. She gave it right back with both grit and tenderness that were triggering all the ladies' pheromones.

— R.L.



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2011 YEAR IN REVIEW
TUBE

In a year when most people began to feel broadcast and cable television had become all but irrelevant in the era of streaming, the most proletarian of American entertainment still managed some remarkable work — both from returning series and new entries (marked with a ●).

10. American Horror Story (FX)● You have to begin watching this series — as you do Ryan Murphy's other current show, *Glee* — understanding that it's a fantasy that does not, and is not intended to, make a lick of sense. Why doesn't the family in the cursed L.A. "murder house" move out? Why do they constantly lie ... and get caught? How can so much drama happen to just a few people? You're asking for trouble if you think — you're meant to just go along for this ride, a grotesque riff on Gothic horror movie clichés with a spicy bit of kink added. Jessica Lange as a creepy neighbor rockets into a stratosphere of kook that's unmissably delicious.

9. Glee (Fox) Murphy's other series is already showing its age after only after its third season, but whoever expected it would be anything other than what it is, a flash of gay brilliance that couldn't last longer than a high school career anyway? It remains in the top 10, especially for gay audiences, largely because of the end of last season, which featured touching work by Chris Colfer and Jane Lynch.

8. The Killing (AMC)● A moody mix of *Twin Peaks* and *24* with a Scandinavian bleakness, this investigation into the death of a girl in Seattle, laden with dread and impenetrable characters who often do the wrong thing, was an addictive mystery. The season finale didn't quite work, but that only makes me look forward to Season 2.

7. Happy Endings (ABC)●

6. Modern Family (ABC) This one-two punch of queer-friendly

sitcoms — as perfect a pairing of half-hours since *Happy Days* and *Laverne & Shirley* — show the gay experience from the perspective of boring suburbia and slacker 20-something with wit and true character development between *ModFam*'s couple Cam and Mitchell and *Happy Endings*' gay Oscar Madison, Max.

5. Raising Hope (Fox). The sleeper sitcom hit of last year continues to delight audiences who can detect the sophistication lurking in creator Greg Garcia's comedy about lower-class denizens. (He did it before with *My Name Is Earl*.) The clever gay-friendly message is conveyed ironically, but for a story about child-rearing, it's as raucous as a sitcom can be.

4. RuPaul's Drag Race (Logo). The third season of *Drag Race* was just as good as the second (the first was really a training ground for the style). Campy but also incredibly sincere, it's one of the funniest reality shows ever on TV and one where most of the contestants actually seem to have skills. When Season 4 starts next month, we'll be glued.

3. Allen Gregory (Fox)● Jonah Hill had, for me, fallen into the Seth Rogen category of overstayed-his-welcome with a repetition comic persona in his largely crass movie roles, but *Allen Gregory* changed all that for me. A smart, stylish animated sitcom about a pretentious kindergartener and his two-dad family (including a hunky former straight man and an adopted Asian sister) has some of the best jokes about gay characters on any show. Ever.

2. The Walking Dead (AMC)● There is virtually no gay content in this zombie series, just some of the most chilling action sequences ever on TV (and the hottest guy on TV in the totally ripped Jon Bernthal). It's really the sound editing that gets to you



GAY FAMILY TIES | The two-dad household on 'Allen Gregory' takes a big turn from the suburban kookiness of 'Modern Family.'

in this drama about the end of world at the hands of ravaging flesh eaters. Who knows where it will go? But you sure wanna find out.

1. The Daily Show with Jon Stewart and The Colbert Report (Comedy Central). The 12 months leading up to presidential primary season would simply not have been the same without the genius commentary (with Stewart, confrontational; with Colbert, ironic) about the crazed political atmosphere we have found ourselves in. Colbert's establishing of a SuperPAC, which he actually uses to point out the insanity of our laws, was as mind-blowing as comedy has ever gotten. ■

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L+S year in review

■ **MOVIES** From Page 20

at the movies.

2. **Beginners.** Christopher Plummer gave perhaps the performance of the year, if not his career, as a septuagenarian who comes out and enjoys his final years embracing life. Mike Mills' quasi-autobiographical film was humorous, poignant and delightfully quirky.

1. **The Help.** Along with *Dragon Tattoo*, writer-director Tate Taylor showed how to adapt a popular novel to the screen while retaining its literary merits and adding cinematic flair. One of the best shot movies of 2011, it was also exceptionally well-acted by the entire cast, but especially Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer. ■



MAID TO ORDER | Octavia Spencer, right, made 'The Help' one of the funniest and most poignant films of 2011.

■ **STAGE** From Page 20

and it was a fitting swan song for him as he tenderly parsed the most poignant of love stories with a dark, vicious side. The three actors were exceptional handling the explicit sexual content.

2. **Next to Normal** (Uptown Players). Uptown Players scored a coup in nabbing this Pulitzer-winning musical, basically an opera about mental illness. Beautifully sung (especially by the emotionally connected stars, Patty

Breckenridge and Gary Floyd), it was the second major hit from director Michael Serrecchia.

1. **Cabaret** (DTC). It's tempting to single out Wade McCollum, as the seductive Master of Ceremonies, with a large share of the success of this reinvention of the Kander and Ebb masterpiece, but it was not just him but Julie Johnson, David Coffee and especially director-choreographer Joel Ferrell — who turned the Wyly Theater into a seedy Weimar night club — plus everyone involved with making *Cabaret* the not-to-miss production of this, or any, season. ■

ACTOR OF THE YEAR

Stage, it is said, is an actor's medium, and that is true with the local theater community, who did excellent work last year. **Pam Daugherty** and **Jerry Crow** breathed comfortable authenticity in Theatre 3's contribution to the Foote Festival, *The Roads to Home*; seven months later on the same stage, **Sally Soldo** and **Sonny Franks** transformed the domestic musical *A Catered Affair* into a kitchen-sink master class in acting for the musical genre.

Larry Randolph, in the nearly-one-man show *The Madness of Lady Bright*, was a dazzling tragic tour-de-force of a drag queen in winter, nearly matched by **Barry Nash**'s entirely-one-man show *Bob Birdnow's Remarkable Tale of Human Survival and the Transcendence of the Self*, both running at the Festival of Independent Theatres — *Bright* from 1:30 Productions, *Birdnow* from Second Thought Theater. Second Thought was also represented by the threesome of **Drew Wall**, **Natalie Young** and **Alex Organ**, in the most compelling drama of the first half of 2012, *Red Light Winter*; Organ scored again (at comedy) in WaterTower Theatre's *Little Shop of Horrors*, stealing the show in several roles.

The men offered the "wow" factor to DTC's *The Wiz*, with Scarecrow **James Tyrone Lane**, Lion **David Ryan Smith** and Tin Man **Sydney James Harcourt** buoying that production. Oozing charisma, **Wade McCollum**'s sinewy, villainous M.C. in *Cabaret* turned a part often played for androgyny into a testosterone-laden sex show. **Max Swarner** oozed something different — goofy likeability — in ICT's *How to Succeed*. Comic women shone at Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, with **Emily Scott Banks** and **Catherine Wall** standouts in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, while **Shannon J. McGrann** plucked her way through *Bad Dates*. The entire cast of *In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play* at Kitchen Dog Theater "got" the humor in a sickly perverse comedy. **Angel Velasco**'s brain-dead beachcomber was a comic hoot in Level Ground Arts' campacular musical *Xanadu*.

But a trio of actors at Uptown Players made 2011 special. First **Patty Breckenridge** and **Gary Floyd**, pictured, turned the quasi-opera *Next to Normal* into Uptown's best production to date, exploring music, family life and mental illness with tenderness and strength.

If I had to pick one performance I can't shake all these months later, it would be **Lulu Ward** in, of all things, the Paul Rudnick comedy *The New Century*. Over a 25-minute monologue as the craft-happy mother of a son with HIV, she delved into the quirky charms of a kitschy Southerner to the depths of pain a mother feels watching her child die. Between fits of uncontrollable laughter was a cascade of tears from the audience as she choked back hers. You couldn't walk away from what seemed like a frivolous comedy without feeling transformed by Ward's performance. That's what made her the actor of the year.



— A.W.J.



So the year has wound down and you're ready to grab a hot cuppa and curl up somewhere with your Snuggie and a book. Or you're heading to the beach and can't stand to go empty-handed. Whatever your destination, you can't go wrong if you take these books with you — for our money, the best gay-interest reads of 2011.

Now that the holidays are over and you can look back with a grin (or a growl), you can also safely read *It's All Relative* by Wade Rouse. This funny, sad, makes-you-cry book is about holidays: Those you spend alone, those you wish you'd spent alone, and those you'd never in a million years be caught dead spending alone. I loved this book for its humor but the best part is that love — between parent and child, friends or partners — shines through every laugh.

Even though "Don't ask, don't tell" is history, this book can't be dismissed like gay soldiers once were: *The Last Deployment* by Bronson Lemer, a funny, wry, all-around great story of one gay man's reluctant service in the North Dakota National Guard.

Lemer signed up for the education benefits and never thought he'd serve overseas — but overseas he went, and not just once. While he was a soldier, he listened to buddies tease and talk trash about gay men but Lemer never came out to fellow soldiers, friends, or family... until this book hit stands. Even though you can now be loud and proud in uniform, it's definitely worth reading.

If a weekend in the country sounds good to you about now, first read the memoir *Sheepish* by Catherine Friend. Friend's partner, Melissa, always wanted to be a farmer. Friend grew up in the city, but she compromised... and hated it. But who can resist a sweet lamb? Who doesn't

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW BOOKS

love baby animals?

Then again, who could foresee the backbreaking work and heart-breaking loss that comes from falling in love with a farmer and her flock? Not you, so if you love a good yarn, you'll want this book ba-a-a-d.

And if you're looking forward to some sun, sand, and pampering this year, then you'll want to take *Concierge Confidential* by Michael Fazio (with Michael Malice) along. This memoir is an intimate look at what goes on at those high-priced hotels and how the concierges will do *anything* to make their clients happy. I loved the gossipiness of this book, mostly because it packs sneaky-peeks but lacks snark.

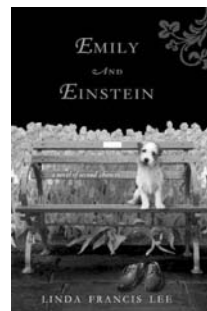
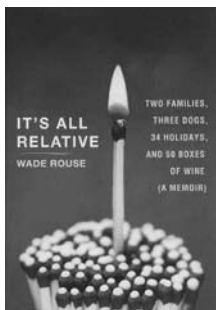
Do. Not. Miss. *Emily and Einstein* by Linda Francis Lee. It's the story of a spoiled man who is killed on his way to tell his wife that he wants a divorce. When a scruffy angel greets him, he begs for another chance and is given it, though he's warned that he won't like what's about to happen. This is a charmer, a book for dog lovers and anybody who wants a book that will make them say "Awwwww" when the last page is turned.

That's our top 5, but these bonus books deserve a mention, too:

Beautiful Unbroke by Mary Jane Nealon is the true story of a nurse who spends her life running away from the one thing she always wanted to do, until she finds the very patients who heal the healer. Also, don't miss *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, a fantasy set in a magical circus where love, distaste and danger are on the same merry-go-round.

There you are, a passel of pages you simply can't miss, for your vacation, your evening alone, your weekend away — or just because you love a good book.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



THANK EWE FOR BEING CATHERINE FRIEND | In 'Sheepish,' an urbanite lesbian becomes an unwilling shepherdess at the behest of her partner, making for a charming memoir of rural life.

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- Lambda Legal 2010 Halloween Party
- HRC Vip Lounge Dec 2010
- HRC Fire & Ice Christmas Party Dec 2010
- DIFFA Dallas event at West Elm
- HRC Holiday Cocktail Party
- The Holly Jolly Ball 2010
- Lambda Legal's monthly mixers
- 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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LIFE+STYLE

sketches

Drawing Dallas

As the New Year begins, some things remain the same — like the reliable **Mario Sultit**, a fixture at Hunky's for 15 years

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

Name and age: Mario Sultit, 52

Occupation: Manager at Hunky's Old Fashioned Hamburgers on the Strip

Spotted at: Hunky's.

Will you have fries with that? This handsome and vivacious gentleman was born in El Salvador to a Filipino father and an Italian mother. He came to the U.S. at age 14 and has made Dallas his home for the past 30 years. Many people may know Mario from his 15 years behind the counter at Hunky's at the corner of Throckmorton and Cedar Springs — a job he loves. Most of his customers feel like family, and he's very grateful for them.

You might spot Mario riding around on his Honda Metropolitan Scooter, his signature vehicle. On rainy days he drives a black Jeep Wrangler, what he calls "the gayest car in the car universe."

Namaste: Mario is obsessed with yoga, sometimes practicing up to 10 times a week. He is also a self-taught chef/home cook. His favorite cuisines are Italian and French. He loves to travel and spend time with his friends and family. His immediate family is spread all over the place, so his vacations consist mainly of family visits. Next stop: Peru!



MONDAY

Hours: 2pm to 2am

\$3.00 You call it - all day and all night

TUESDAY

Hours: 2pm to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm

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\$2.00 Domestic Beer

\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm

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Hours: 2pm to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm

\$2.00 Well Drinks

\$2.00 Domestic Beer

\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm

Dropping Aces Poker \$75.00 Free Roll at 7pm until
Whitney Paige & The Cherry Girls Show at 11pm



THURSDAY

Hours: 2pm to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm

\$2.00 Well Drinks

\$2.00 Domestic Beer

\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm

Coming Soon... Open Mic Comedy Night at 10pm

Hosted by Kyle and Todd of QLive

\$100.00 to the Best Comedian

Patio Bar Open

FRIDAY

Hours: 2pm to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm

\$2.00 Well Drinks

\$2.00 Domestic Beer

\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm

Patio Bar Open

Kelexis Davenport Show at 11pm

Live DJ Michael Jon Spinning

SATURDAY

Hours: 2pm to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm

\$2.00 Well Drinks

\$2.00 Domestic Beer

\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm

Patio Bar Open

Live DJ Michael Jon Spinning

Saturday Night Midnight Madness Show • 2nd & 4th Saturdays

SUNDAY

Hours: Noon to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm

\$2.00 Well Drinks

\$2.00 Domestic Beer

\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm

Patio Bar Open

Texas Hold em Poker \$75.00 Free Roll at 1pm in the Cherry Room

Hosted by Drop-N-Aces Poker

"Rising Star Show" at 10pm



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Saturday 12.31

Black and white all over

Harry Hunsacker is back to crack the case for New Year's Eve in *The Frequency of Death!* But it could be trouble for Hunsacker as the villainous Dr. Big has revenge in sight for the bumbling detective. Done in brilliant black and white, Pegasus Theatre rings in the new year with an old-fashioned homage to detective films.

DEETS: Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. 8 p.m. \$50. PegasusTheatre.org.

Tuesday 01.03

Church on time

Funny man and Emmy-winner Leslie Jordan is back for his Church Revival show. The evening benefits Legacy Counseling Center and features guest hostess Sister Helen Holy. And audiences benefit from Jordan's sassy and sweet Southern musings revival style. Praise Brother Leslie!

DEETS: Sara Ellen & Samuel Weisfeld Center, 1508 Cadiz St. 6 p.m. \$25-\$100. LegacyCounseling.org.

Friday 01.06

Anything for a laugh

We wonder if famous D-lister Kathy Griffin will comment on those boys and gal from *The A-List Dallas*. We know she'll snark on lots of other things when she returns to town. And yes, she'll give appropriate shout outs to the Big D gays.

DEETS: Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. 8 p.m. \$35-\$60. Ticketmaster.com.



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Discount door 8-10P. Anton Shaw in the Vixen Lounge.



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partyattheblock.com

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



NEW RADICAL | A man questions the doctrine of his religion, which doesn't sit well with elders in 'New Jerusalem.' The show opens Thursday at Stage West in Fort Worth.

Due to the New Year's holiday, please check directly with the organizations for any scheduling changes.

FRIDAY 12.30

COMMUNITY

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.

SATURDAY 12.31

COMMUNITY

New Year's Eve Party featuring karaoke and midnight champagne toast. Barbara's Pavilion, 325 Centre St. 9 p.m.

Vegas Night New Year's Eve celebration features casino games, appetizers and door prizes. Axiom Sushi Lounge, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m.

Belmont a Go-Go. DJ Tigerbee spins into the new year as the Lollie Dollies go-go dancers perform through the night. Party favors, dancing and toasts all highlight the evening. Belmont Hotel, 901 Fort Worth Ave. 9 p.m.

Dallas FrontRunners fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet at 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.

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).

COMEDY

Paul Varghese headlines Backdoor Comedy's New Year's Eve Extravaganza. Aaron Aryanpur is also on the bill. Late event includes champagne toast at midnight and dancing. Backdoor Comedy, 8250 N. Central Expressway (in the Doubletree Hotel). 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. \$27-\$43. BackdoorComedy.com.

CONCERT

New Year's Eve Spectacular with The Polyphonic Spree, Deathray Davies and Centro-Matic. House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 9 p.m. \$25-\$40. LiveNation.com.

SUNDAY 01.01

COMMUNITY

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

Order of St. Francis and St. Clare every first and third Sunday. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 12:30 p.m.

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

First Community Church of Dallas worship services. The church is open and affirming. FCC of Dallas, 9120 Ferguson Road. 11 a.m. FCCDFW.org.

Whosoever Dallas Sunday services. 807 Fletcher St. 10:45 a.m. WhosoeverDallas.org.

The ONE Church, 2515 Inwood Road, Ste 213. Services at 11:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Dallas1Church.org.

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

MUSIC

Mi Diva Loca featuring Mel Arizpe and Laura Carrizales. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 7 p.m. SueEllens.com.

MONDAY 01.02

COMMUNITY

Self esteem support group 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 01.03

COMMUNITY

Classic Chassis Car Club. Ojeda's 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-446-0606.

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

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

Q's Day Potluck. Casual 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.

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. AOC.org.

WEDNESDAY 01.04

COMMUNITY

FUSE drop-in weekdays (except Tuesdays). For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3 p.m. DFWFuse.org.

El Sol, an AIDS Outreach Center support group meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 217. AOC.org.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas with David Taffet, Patti Fink and Lerone Landis. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 01.05

COMMUNITY

PFLAG Fort Worth (Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays) meets. First Jefferson UUC, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-428-2329. PFLAGFortWorth.org.

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

The Rotary Club of Dallas-Uptown lunch. All visitors are welcome to this organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Hully and Mo's, 2800 Routh St. 11:45 a.m. - 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 meets. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

THEATER

New Jerusalem: The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza at Talmud Torah Congregation: Amsterdam, July 27, 1656 by David Ives. Yes, that is the name of the play which is the latest production by Stage West. When a man questions Jewish doctrine, regents determine whether to make him recant his thoughts or excommunicate him. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd. Fort Worth. Through Jan. 29. \$15-\$30. StageWest.org.

this week's solution

S	A	T		J	A	M	E	S		H	I	P			
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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Todd Haynes turns 51 on Monday. The gay filmmaker sparked the New Queer Cinema movement with his 1991 feature debut *Poison*. Since then, he's gone in a variety of directions with films like *Velvet Goldmine*, *Far From Heaven* and *I'm Not There*. His most recent work was seen on HBO as he directed Kate Winslet in the title role of *Mildred Pierce*.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Your bleak vision of the future is more accurate than most. Opportunities can still be found. Trust your intuition. It's not cynical if you bring others up with you.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Feeling unsure of what you believe is a healthy step toward deeper convictions. This is a learning opportunity: keep an open mind; listen to different opinions. Then take time to sort it out.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Sexual frustration can reveal spiritual needs more than any lack of quantity or technical skill. If you can't be with the one you truly love, take time out to focus on those deeper needs.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

You are too eager to get ahead, creating discord among co-workers. It takes some effort to focus on an open mind and ears to match. Try talking softer and listening harder.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Focus on how your personal goals can serve the world at large. Keep your critical urges constructive and focused on yourself. Improve techniques at work and play to better your own life.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Much as you want to fix things at home you may be better off out with your friends. Maybe community work? If you need to deal with hypercriticism, target number one is in the mirror.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

You push and work too hard to appear in control. Be on top of the job, not on top of your co-workers. Listen to them and remember you're all on the same team.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Being a drama queen is entertaining to others, but not in the way you want. There are better ways to deal with your worries. Focus. A mature, sensible voice is at hand with any help you need.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Worrying never helps. Put your imagination to better use. Examples and lessons from your family will help and can be a springboard toward new inspiration.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Be alert to hidden enemies. Carelessness in conversations can create more. An air of creative mystery can get you into a torrid affair. It probably won't last, but enjoy it while it does.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You're feeling feisty, ambitious and sharp. To avoid counterproductive arguments, keep your mind on what's important in the long run. Getting bogged down is a great way to lose the war.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Heed those hunches that suggest new job opportunities. Of course you have to check them out with solid info, but take those steps. A new sport helps you keep fit mentally and physically.

THIS WEEK

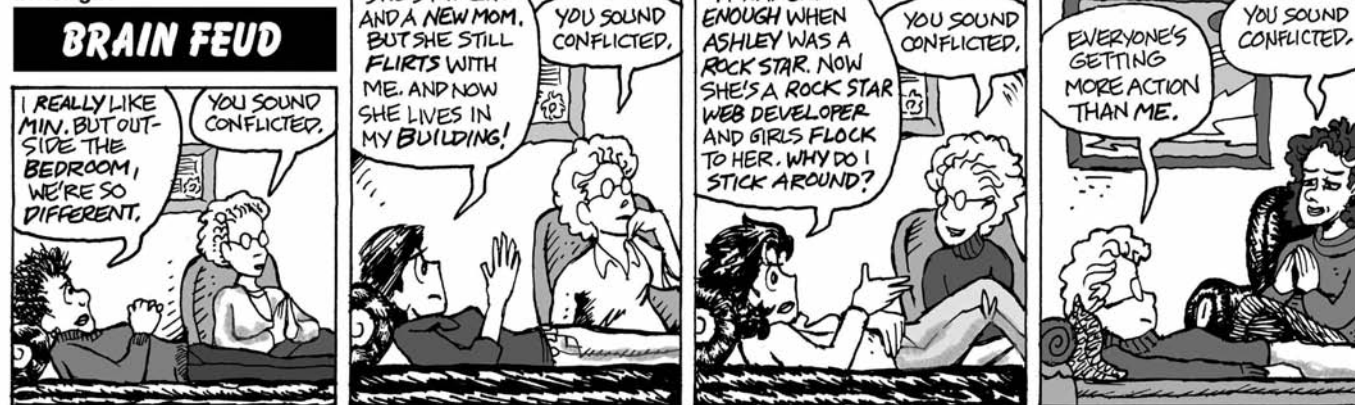
Venus in Aquarius sextile Eris, both quincunx to Mars in Virgo, makes people "helpful" with criticism, but sensitive in receiving it. Those who can take it and use it will benefit most. Put aside any defensiveness; listen and learn.

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

JANE'S WORLD



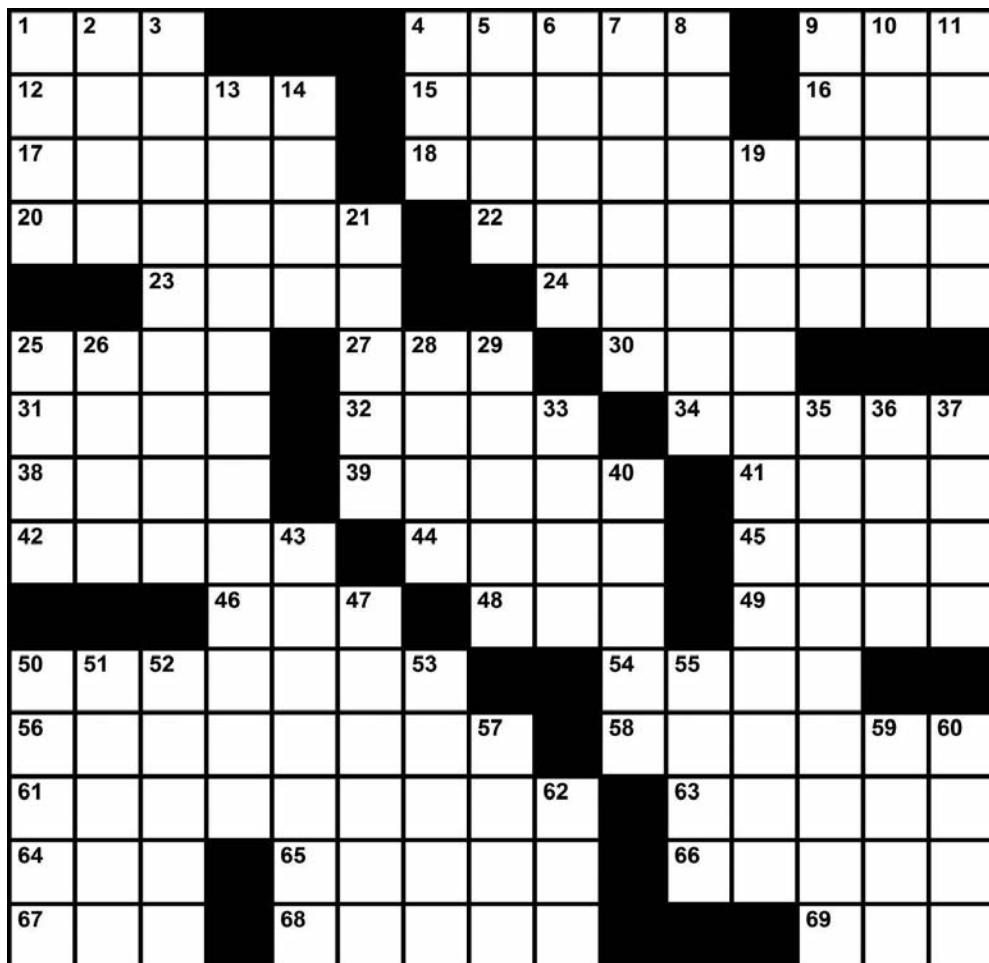
bitter girl



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JOAN HILTY ©2012



Work It!

Solution on page 33

Across

- 1 Posed for Annie Leibovitz
- 4 President without a first lady Buchanan
- 9 With it
- 12 Uncomfortable threesome
- 15 Hersey's bell town
- 16 Crack fighter pilot
- 17 Male type
- 18 Big Easy festival
- 20 Photog Mapplethorpe
- 22 Amelie of tennis
- 23 Word used in dating
- 24 Cuts canines
- 25 Big top, e.g.
- 27 Dave Pallone, once
- 30 Chef Traci ___ Jardins
- 31 State where once two women could be in a marriage
- 32 Joint problem
- 34 Token taker
- 38 Erection, in slang
- 39 Survivor Richard
- 41 ___ about
- 42 Hose woes for drag queens
- 44 Choice for Hamlet

45 Bring down

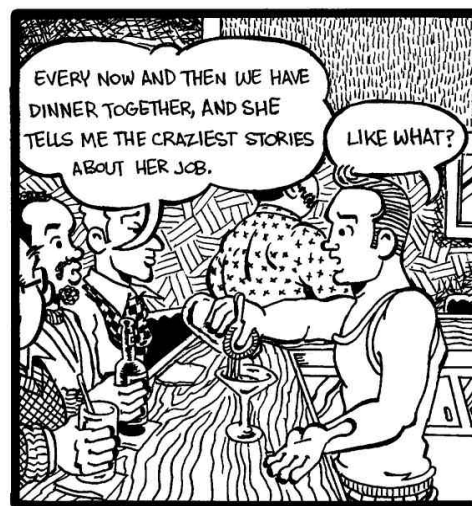
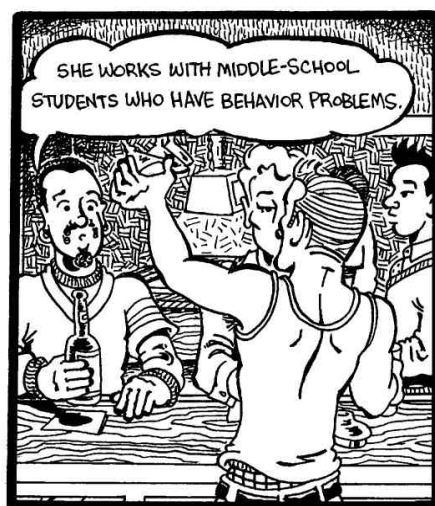
- 46 Eclectic family mag
- 48 "Men Behaving Badly" writer Simon
- 49 Cries of surprise
- 50 Lightweight recorder
- 54 "If I Were King of the Forest" singer
- 56 Like a good alibi
- 58 "Modern Family," e.g.
- 61 Thespian Miriam
- 63 Horny creature
- 64 Saucer pilots
- 65 Choir closet contents
- 66 Brief fight
- 67 "Look at Me, I'm Sandra ___"
- 68 Used brooms
- 69 In the distance

Down

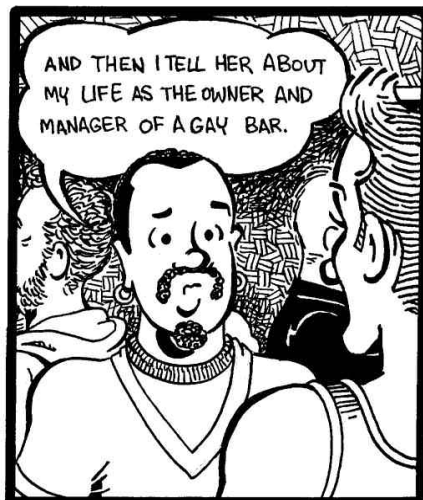
- 1 Fey villain in "The Lion King"
- 2 Folk first name
- 3 Main comic into bottoms?
- 4 Fruity spread
- 5 Gay video directory name
- 6 French Revolution figure
- 7 Invested
- 8 Affairs in the evening
- 9 Like rough trade
- 10 Start of Caesar's boast
- 11 Cuban coins
- 13 Start of the motto of "Work It!"
- 14 "Nuts!"
- 19 More of the motto
- 21 More of the motto
- 25 Rubber ducky spots
- 26 Thames college
- 28 Zoo barrier
- 29 More of the motto
- 33 Frozen dessert chain
- 35 Old part of town
- 36 Valuable vein
- 37 He took a bow
- 40 End of the motto
- 43 Helps in a difficult situation
- 47 Candle material
- 50 Played charades
- 51 Fit to be tied
- 52 Viking-liking
- 53 "We'll see"
- 55 Brings to light
- 57 Bottomless
- 59 Atop
- 60 Show bottom
- 62 Atlantic crosser of old



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Brandon and Nat at the Grapevine.



Jock and Joel at the Tin Room.



David at Station 4.

Time to separate the party kids from the party people for **New Year's Eve** on Saturday. Celebrations are all over and some caught our eye ... **Axiom Sushi Lounge** and **Pocket Rockets Dallas** host **Vegas Night** Saturday. Gamble, drink and be merry to start off 2012 right **Voice of Pride** winner **Robert O.** hosts the **5th Annual New Year's Eve Bash** at **Pekers Bar**. And boy is it. The night includes performances by **Mi Diva Loca**, **Spare Parts**, **Briana Longoria** and more **DJ Blaine** is the musical guide for **NYEagle** party at **Dallas Eagle**. Of course, there's more stuff going on other days. **Bare Chests & Bare Backs** still goes down on Tuesday and Thursday night **Growl** welcomes bears, cubs and admirers for a night out Adult film star **Jesse Santana** appears for the **Brick's Frisky Friday Happy Hour**. We'll definitely take a double of that! Then **Tristan Jaxx** gets your groove on for the **Dannee Phann Productions New Year's Eve** including a cash heavy balloon drop We don't know who he is, but it's **The Matthew Show** at **Sue Ellen's** on Friday. **Anton Shaw and the Reason** welcome 2012 on Saturday. **Bella and Darla** are back at it on Wednesday The **Round-Up Saloon** presents its **New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball**. Bring your best mask to win and sneak a lot of midnight kisses with it **DJs Virus, Per** and **Wild Bill Stanley** headline **New Year's Eve Eve** on Friday at **Lizard Lounge**. Hey, there's no reason not to celebrate twice 2011 **Twink of the Year Seth Knight** fulfills resolutions Saturday at **Drama Room** **Happy 2012!** ■

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



Chris and Little Susan at Cherries.



Hendrick and Jennie at Sue Ellen's.



Erica and Gabe at Drama Room.



Ashley and Denise at BJ's NXS!



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