Year in Review: Culture, sports, dining

2011, from Gaultier to Nowitzki to the (so-called) 'A-List'

Plus: Our critic picks the top 10 new restaurants of last year

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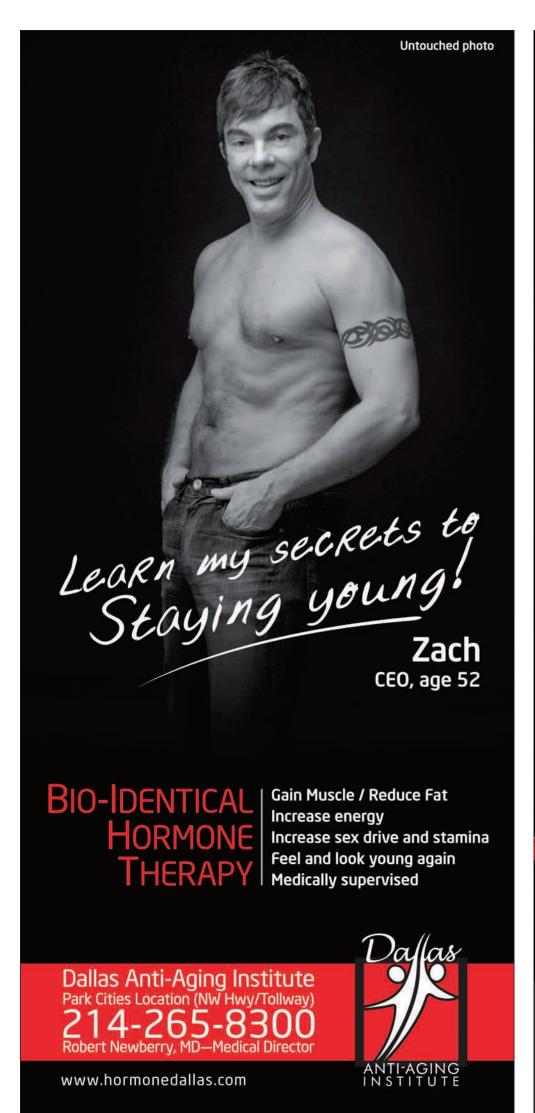
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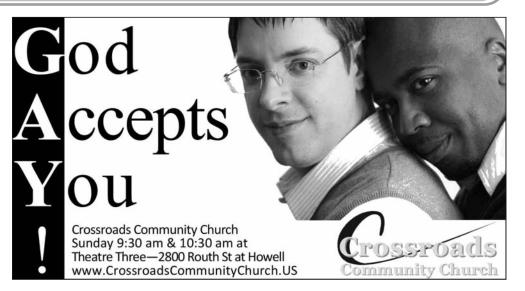
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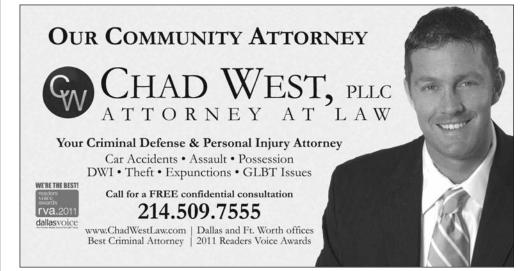


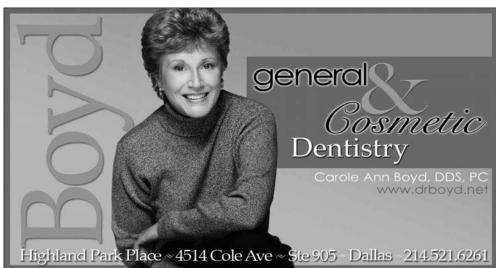
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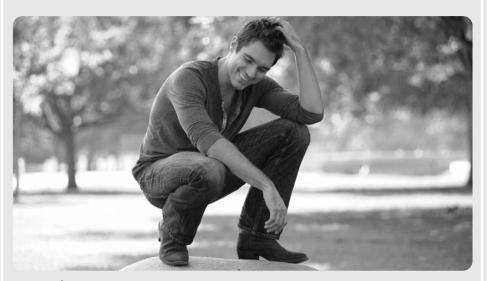
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CLOSE CALL | Former Plano resident Benjamin Lutz's Los Angeles apartment building was among those hit by a serial arsonist.

L.A. arson spree narrowly misses 'Bite Marks' actor, SMU alum Lutz

After director Mark Bessenger posted on Facebook that Benjamin Lutz was almost a victim of the recent arson attacks in Los Angeles, I contacted the former Plano resident and SMU alum to see just what happened. He responded with the good news that he's OK, but described how it went

"Yes, my parking garage was one of the ones hit by the arsonist," he said. "It was on New Year's Eve and I was at my apartment getting ready for a dinner party. I heard people yelling 'fire,' and sure enough the car next to mine was set on fire. I was lucky enough to move my car in time and the fire didn't spread to my apartment. Sadly, three other cars and the side of the building didn't make it. It was a weird holiday and I couldn't get back in my apartment for a long while. I did not lose my car, but some of my friends mistook the info as my car being blown up.'

Lutz starred in the 2011 indie horror flick Bite Marks which we featured in our coverage of the Fears for Queers film festival and its recent DVD release. The perp was finally arrested on Monday. Scarv stuff.

UPDATE: Soon after posting this, I learned that former Dallas Voice writer Alonso Duralde and his partner Dave White were directly affected by the arsonist as their two cars were firebombed at their West Hollywood complex. A fund has been set up to help cover repairs and replacement of their vehicles (one was not insured). To contribute, go to http://DaveAndAlonsoFireCosts.chipin.com/fightfire-costs-for-dave-and-alonso.

— Rich Lopez

Openly bi Arizona state senator announces bid for Congress

One night just about four years ago, I was in the Rose Room at Station 4, waiting to participate in what was then an unprecedented event in Dallas - a debate of sorts between official representatives from the campaigns of then-senators and Democratic presidential candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

While I was standing around waiting for organizers to tell me it was time to start, a vivacious young woman with short blond hair walked up and introduced herself to me as Kyrsten. It was kind of loud in the Rose Room then and so I couldn't clearly

hear what she was telling me. I did hear her say that she was from Arizona, and that she was backing Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination. I thought she was an Obama campaign staffer.

Before long, though, I found out that Kyrsten was actually Arizona State Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, that state's first legislator who was an out and proud member of the LGBT community.

I was impressed with the young woman's personality and her passion. So since then, I have kind of kept up with Sinema through news stories about her on the Internet. I read with interest the news reports two years ago with Sinema was elected to the Arizona State Senate. I was actually quite pleased today when I read that Sinema has announced she is resigning from the state Senate to run for Congress representing Arizona's newly drafted 9th District.

Don't take that as an endorsement of Sinema's campaign for Congress. I just mean that I believe our community has a better chance of making progress toward full equality when there are members of our community holding elected office, and we can't have LGBT elected officials if we don't have LGBT candidates. And from what I hear, Sinema is a strong candidate.

According to the Phoenix New Times, Sinema is the only Democrat to have officially declared a candidacy in District 9. although another state senator. David Schapira has formed an exploratory committee for a possible congressional run, and Arizona Democratic Party Chair Andrei Cherny is also rumored to be considering joining the race.

As the New Times also pointed out, in Arizona, members of Congress aren't required to live in the district they represent. And Sinema actually lives in District 6. She chose to run for District 9, however, because it is more progressive than her home district, which leans toward the Republican side.

And speaking of Republicans, the New Times said Congressman Ben Quayle (yes, the son of former Vice President Dan Quayle), who lives in District 9, is likely to run instead in District 6 where he would face Congressman David Schweikert in the Republican Primary.

Turning back to the Democrats, Sinema, in announcing her candidacy on her Facebook page, said: "I've decided to run for Congress because we need to wake up Washington! I will fight for the forgotten middle class and stand up to a system that is rigged against them."

—Tammye Nash





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Gay GOP leader says he'd vote for Santorum

Schlein's comments stand in contrast to statements from national LGBT Republican groups

JOHN WRIGHT | Senior Political Writer wright@dallasvoice.com

Local gay Republican leader Rob Schlein ignited controversy in August by declaring that he'd vote for Texas Gov. Rick Perry over President Barack Obama if Perry wins the GOP nomination, despite the governor's anti-gay record.

Schlein, president of Metroplex Republicans of Dallas, went a step further this week when he said he'd even support former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum over Obama if Santorum turns out to be the GOP nominee.

Santorum, who has famously compared samesex marriage to man-dog marriage and is widely considered the most anti-gay candidate in the race, finished in a virtual tie atop this week's Iowa caucuses with former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney

Schlein said although Metroplex Republicans



doesn't plan to make an endorsement in the GOP race, he now personally supports Romney. But he added that he would vote for Santorum over Obama, even though he doesn't believe Santorum has any chance of winning the nomination.

"We're going to all vote for the Republican, no matter who it is, even Rick Santorum," Schlein said of his group's members during an interview with Dallas Voice about the Iowa results. "We have to focus right now like a laser beam on the one issue that matters today, and that's getting the economic house in order. Any Republican, including Rick Santorum, will do a better job than Barack Obama on the economy. It doesn't matter what anti-LGBT positions he's taken in the past."

Schlein's statements last year about supporting

Perry were one factor that led National Log Cabin Republicans to de-charter the group's Dallas chapter, in which Schlein served as president. And Schlein's comments about Santorum this week stood in stark contrast to statements from both National Log Cabin and GOProud responding to the Iowa results.

Log Cabin Executive Director R. Clarke Cooper said in a statement issued Wednesday, Jan. 4, that Santorum rose to the top of the caucuses by appealing to "a uniquely socially conservative electorate."

"As the nomination process moves forward, Log Cabin Republicans suggest all of the candidates reject Santorum's politics of division and win by focusing on the issues that matter most to Americans — jobs and the economy," Cooper said. "If using gay and lesbian Americans as a wedge can't score enough political points to win more than 25 percent in Iowa, it certainly won't help the Republican nominee in November."

Asked to respond to Schlein's comments, the president of the newly rechartered Dallas chapter of Log Cabin Republicans, Thomas Purdy, called

■ GOP , Page 11



Rob Schlein



CELEBRATION | GetEQUAL activist C.D. Kirven, left, hugs Rafael McDonnell, programs and advocacy manager for Resource Center Dallas, as trans rights activist Pam Curry, right, looks on after the Dallas County Community College District board voted Tuesday, Jan. 3, to add protections for transgender employees and students to its nondiscrimination policies. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

DCCCD adds trans protections

Only 1 community college district trustee votes against change

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Dallas County Community College District board of trustees voted Tuesday, Jan. 3 to add gender identity to the district's non-discrimination policies. The vote came less than three months after the trustees initially declined to add the specific protections, saying the policies were unnecessary.

The trustees approved three measures this week. The first protects transgender employees from discrimination and harassment, while two additional policies cover students — in the student code of conduct and in the district's nondiscrimination statement.

The policy change was first proposed last spring when Resource Center Dallas Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell contacted DCCCD Trustee Diana Flores, who has supported the policy change from the beginning.

"It wasn't difficult at all," Flores said after the board meeting about convincing her fellow

■ DCCCD, Page 12



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localbriefs

Legal Hospice receives grant

Legal Hospice of Texas has received a \$10,000 grant from the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation. The money will allow LHT to continue providing legal services to its clients at no cost, LHT Executive Director Roger Wedell said.

"The gift from the King Foundation is important for two reasons, for the financial support it provides, but equally as important is the endorsement of LHT's mission and vision," Wedell said.

More than 80 percent of LHT's budget comes from individual, corporate and foundation support. Less than 20 percent comes from state and federal grants, Wedell said.

LHT serves clients in 16 counties in North Texas with 65 percent of them from Dallas County.

Last year, it assisted 768 clients. Created in 1989, LHT addresses the health-related, civil legal needs of low-income individuals with a terminal illness or HIV.

Scholarship applicants sought

The 2012 LEAGUE Foundation scholarship program, which has provided financial assistance to LGBT college students since 1996, will be accepting scholarship applications through April 30.

Applicants should be graduating from high school in 2012, identify as LGBT, have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.0, be actively and substantially involved in community service, live in the United States and be accepted to an accredited college or university in the U.S.

Scholarships open for applications include the Matthew Shepard Memorial Scholarship, the Laurel Hester Memorial Scholarship and the LEAGUE Foundation Scholarship.

For more information on the application process, scholarship descriptions, lists of past winners and how to donate to LEAGUE Foundation, go to the website at www.LeagueFoundation.org

Walgreens helps AIDS Walk

A dozen Walgreens stores in Oak Lawn, Oak Cliff, East Dallas and South Dallas will be asking customers at checkout to donate \$1 to the South Dallas AIDS Walk. Auntjuan Wiley, the event chair, said the stores began soliciting the funds on Jan. 1.

The 2012 South Dallas AIDS Walk will be held on March 24. The walk registration form is available on the website, SouthDallas-AIDSWalk.org. Beneficiaries are the Anthony Chisolm AIDS Foundation, The Movement and AIDS Interfaith Network.



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Many other great dogs and cats are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, located at 3201 Earhart Drive, 1 street south of Keller Springs and 2 blocks west of Midway Road, in Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open 6 days a week: Monday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The adoption cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount. For more information, call 972-418-PAWS, or visit OperationKindness.org.







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Anable applying for top spot at HRC

Fairness Fort Worth president knows he is new to the activism game, but says there is no denying his passion for the work

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor nash@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — As 2010 came to an end a year ago, longtime CPA and newly minted gay rights activist Tom Anable came to a momentous decision: He decided to sell his accounting business and spend the next year focusing on activism full time.

Now that year is over, and Anable has made another decision that could change his life again: He is applying for the top position at the Human Rights Campaign.

When HRC President Joe Solmonese announced that he was resigning, effective March 2012, Anable said, "My first thought was, 'I pity the fool who has to try and fill those shoes.' Now, three months later, I have started the process to apply myself."

Anable said Thursday afternoon, Jan. 5, that he had sent his resume to the executive recruiting firm hired by HRC to help in the hiring process. Within 30 minutes, he said, he had been called for an in-depth phone interview, after which he was told his resume is being forwarded to the HRC search committee for review.

"I passed step one. Next step will be early February," Anable said.

For most of his adult life, Anable said, he had focused his attention on his work. He knew he was gay, but he avoided the political and activist side of the LGBT community completely. Then came June 29, 2009, the night that agents with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and officers with Fort Worth Police Department raided the Rainbow Lounge on the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

As the accountant for Rainbow Lounge, Anable was in the bar the night of the raid, checking receipts. What he saw that night left him shaken and scared — and angry. Within days, Anable had stepped across the line into activism and was helping create a new organization, Fairness Fort Worth, that has since helped revitalize the LGBT community in Tarrant County. And Anable spent the last year as Fairness Fort Worth president.

"It's been a wild 2 ½ years," Anable said this week.

Anable said that he first began considering applying for the position of HRC president in mid-December after discussions with some HRC board members while he was in Washington, D.C. for meetings.

"They told me I should apply. At first, I thought, no way. But when I read the job description, I realized, hey, I actually am qualified for this job. I actually do meet the qualifications in this job description," he said.



Tom Anable

When he came back home to Fort Worth and discussed the possibility with friends here, Anable said, he got nothing but encouragement in return: "Carol West, Jon Nelson, [Fort Worth Police] Chief Halstead — they all said I should apply."

Still, Anable said, "It took me at least a week to wrap my head around the idea, to decide whether this is something I really want to do," he said. "I did a lot of soul-searching about this. It was a very sobering moment for me, an unbelievable moment for me personally, to realize that in just 2 ½ years I have gone from being just a CPA to being an activist and president of Fairness Fort Worth, to the point where I actually feel qualified enough to even think about applying to HRC."

Anable readily acknowledges that he is very new to the world of activism and nonprofit management, and he acknowledges that he "may not be what they are looking for" when it comes to the HRC presidency.

"But I do believe that I can apply and be seriously considered. I may be new to this, but no one can deny my passion, and this is a passion I have never had for anything in my life before," Anable said. "Accounting is not something you get passionate about. Doing tax returns is not a passionate calling. But this, activism, this is about passion."

Anable said that he knows the HRC board has recently completed a strategic assessment to decide "what kind of leader they want" to bring in to replace Solmonese. "I don't know what they've decided, and I know I may not be it. What are my odds of getting the job? Probably not that good because I haven't been doing this very long. But I am going to try.

"All I know is that I am going to apply. If I make the first cut, I'll say, 'Thank God.' If I make the second cut, I'll say, 'Thank God.' And if I get the job, I'll say, 'Oh, God!'" he laughed. "But if I do get it, I know I will love every minute of it."





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■ texasnews

Balch Springs PD: Investigation into gay man's death is ongoing

Police chief says anti-gay behavior by officers not tolerated, says such behavior by investigator is unlikely

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

BALCH SPRINGS — Balch Springs Police Chief Ed Morris said an investigation into the death of a gay man in his city is ongoing. Answering charges of homophobia in his department lodged by the dead man's family, Morris said that he doesn't tolerate that sort of behavior in his officers.

The body of Rodney Johnson was found in his trailer in Balch Springs on Nov. 12.

Morris said that there was no sign of foul play in Johnson's death but that his department is awaiting test results from the Dallas County medical examiner before proceeding with an investigation. Those results take about three months to return.

Johnson's sister Duby Redburn said that the officer she spoke to snickered and said, "I don't know what sort of lifestyle he led," when describing what he found.

"He was very insensitive," Redburn said of the detective's behavior.

Morris made it clear he wouldn't tolerate that sort of behavior from his officers.

"I don't think any of my officers would make an anti-gay comment," he said.

He said that if he thought that any officer was guilty of that sort of behavior, that officer would be in his office immediately and he would take care of it. But Morris said he would especially surprised if he heard it about the specific officer Redburn accused.

Johnson did not show up for work at his job as a security guard at a Bank of America branch on Thursday, Nov. 10. His supervisor became worried when she couldn't reach him by phone, so she drove to his home. When he didn't answer the door, she called police.

The supervisor and Johnson's family have said police never responded to the call.

But Morris said department records indicate that Johnson's supervisor's call to police was logged at 2:41 p.m. on Nov. 11, and that a patrol car was dispatched to Johnson's address at 2:49 p.m. He said that was reasonable response time for that sort of non-emergency "welfare check" call.

Police arrived at 3:03 p.m. at the location, Morris said

The officer responding to the call reported that there was no odor coming from the trailer. He asked neighbors about Johnson's car that was parked in an odd position. Neighbors said it had



Police Chief Ed Morris

been there for several days.

Morris said they searched records to see if there were additional calls from the supervisor's phone number but could not find any, although the supervisor said she had called both 911 and the department's direct line phone number.

A police department spokesman initially told Dallas Voice there was no record of either call.

Johnson's body was found the next day when his brother, Roger Johnson, got a call from Rodney's boyfriend in Canada, worried that he hadn't heard from him. Roger Johnson used his key to the trailer to enter, and found his brother lying on the floor, face down.

Roger Johnson had said his brother's body was lying in a pool of blood.

The call record indicates police were dispatched in 30 seconds and arrived in minutes.

Morris said he didn't recall seeing any blood on the floor in the police pictures taken before Johnson was transported by helicopter to the hospital. But he said the body showed signs of lividity, meaning the blood had settled to the lower part of the body, which indicated he had been lying on the floor for some time before he was found.

Other issues remain unresolved, such as an unauthorized attempt to access Johnson's bank account the week after his death. But since the original article appeared in Dallas Voice on Dec. 23, Redburn has been in touch with city officials and has been assured the case is still open.

Last year, Balch Springs had no homicides.

"The crime rate's been down for the last few years," Morris said. "We want to keep it that way."

But he said that if there is an indication from the medical examiner that Johnson's death was caused by anything other than natural causes,

GOP

From Page 6

Santorum "a bad candidate for president for many reasons."

"Pandering to social conservatives as Santorum has done does not represent a party that champions individual liberty, and nominating Santorum would hurt the GOP by turning off moderates, independents and younger voters,"

GOProud, meanwhile, conspicuously omitted any reference to Santorum from the group's statement on the Iowa results, instead congratulating only Romney and Texas Congressman Ron Paul, R-Lake Jackson, who finished third.

"While there are certainly big differences between Governor Romney and Congressman Paul, especially when it comes to foreign policy, both chose to emphasize issues like the economy and the size of government over demonizing gay people," GOProud Executive Director Jimmy LaSalvia said. "We are pleased to see that so many Republicans in Iowa are focused on the issues that unite us as conservatives, instead of the side show issues."

Schlein's decision to invite LaSalvia to speak at what was then the Log Cabin chapter's annual dinner in November was another factor that prompted the national Log Cabin group to oust him. Asked directly this week whether he would support Santorum if he's the nominee, LaSalvia said in an email, "Asking me if I would support Rick Santorum if he's the Republican nominee is like asking me if I would support Kim Kardashian if she's the nominee — they both have about the same chance of getting the nomina-

Omar Narvaez, president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, declined to directly address Schlein's comments about Santorum.

"I don't personally know Rob Schlein," Narvaez said. "Stonewall Democrats of Dallas is committed [to] and focused on re-electing President Barack Obama regardless of who the Republican nominee is."

Earlier, Narvaez said he was glad Perry had chosen not to drop out of the race, despite the governor's disappointing fifth-place finish in Iowa. Narvaez said the more candidates stay in, the more difficult it will be for any one of them to pull away.

"They're not cohesive in any way," Narvaez said of the GOP, "and I think the longer they can't decide who they are, what they're trying to do, is better for Democrats everywhere.

"The more they tear each other apart and infight and can't get along, it's better for Democrats," he added. "They're just giving us all the ammunition we're going to need to fight them later."

Equality Texas, the statewide LGBT advocacy

THE ALL-NEW

group, issued a statement Wednesday morning rejoicing in Perry's poor showing in Iowa, denouncing his "homophobic pandering" and predicting that he "will not be the next president of the United States."

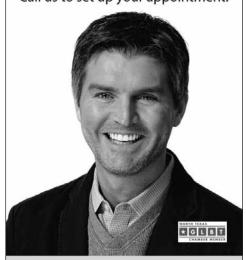
"Governor Perry's homophobic pandering did not resonate with Iowa voters just as it does not resonate in Texas," Equality Texas said in its statement. "As Governor Perry returns to Texas to reflect on his campaign, it is our hope at Equality Texas that he will also reflect on what Texans really want for their state. ... It is time our governor recognize that homophobia and transphobia have no place in our great state and he should join in the effort to eradicate them from all public policy."

After Perry announced that he would remain in the race, Equality Texas Deputy Director Chuck Smith told Dallas Voice he believes the governor's campaign for president could ultimately benefit the LGBT community in his home

"It's easy to show that most people don't believe that," Smith said of Perry's anti-gay views. "He's at a level of vitriol toward gay people that simply isn't shared by most people. It potentially broadens the spectrum of Republicans who might be able to come out and say, 'I don't go that far.' ... If he gets so extreme that members of his own party feel the need to disavow him, that can only help us."



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nationalnews

DCCCD

From Page 6

trustees to support the addition. "The LGBT community did a good job of informing the board. Congratulations to the community.'

Only five speakers addressed the board on Tuesday, although another five had signed up to

Dallas County Community College graduate Brad Shankle offered a unique perspective in his remarks. "I struggled with gender dysphoria, although I found a way to deal with it," he said, adding that having the policy in place while he was a student would have made campus life easier for him.

McDonnell gave the board facts and statistics: In a little more than a year, Dallas Independent School District, DFW Airport, Dallas County and Dallas Area Rapid Transit have all added nondiscrimination protections based on gender identity and expression. Around the country, 410 colleges and universities have protections based on gender identity and expression. And more than half of Fortune 500 companies have these protections in place, McDonnell said, specifically mentioning

Earlier in the meeting, Wesley Jameson — who works for AT&T — was sworn in as the newest DCCCD trustee.

When McDonnell asked everyone in the audience who had attended to support the changes to stand, about 20 people responded.

RCD board member and DCCCD student Maeve O'Connor told the board her story. And GetEQUAL North Texas Regional Coordinator Daniel Cates, a student at El Centro College, told the board, "No matter who you are, you deserve a safe place to work and go to school." He said that a "yes" vote would protect everyone and set an example for other colleges in the state.

Lambda Legal Community Educator Omar Narvaez told trustees that a transgender person is twice as likely to be unemployed as the general population and one in four has been fired simply because of gender identity.

Board Chair Jerry Prater then cut off public comments, telling those attending, "We have gotten your message, loud and clear.

Five trustees were present to vote. Four voted in favor and only Trustee Bill Metzger voted no.

While the board was receptive to the message delivered at the January meeting, passing the policy took more than half a year from the time it was first proposed. And at one point during the fall, it looked like the protections would not even be considered.

When the board was briefed on the policy in October, some members said they thought amending the nondiscrimination statement was

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unnecessary because it was covered by sexual orientation, and because the city of Dallas prohibits discrimination. Although only two of the system's colleges are located within the city of Dallas, the school's attorney argued that the entire system was Maeve O'Connor covered by the ordi-



nance because the district's headquarters is located in Dallas.

Confusion about the definition of sexual orientation stemmed from the wording in the 2002 Dallas ordinance. The city regulation only lists sexual orientation but the definition of the term within the ordinance includes gender identity.

But the city ordinance specifically exempts other governmental bodies. DCCCD is its own taxing authority and is, therefore, exempt from city regulations.

DCCCD is also not covered by Dallas County laws.

The county Commissioners Court amended its employment policy to include gender identity and expression in 2011. But DCCCD employees work for the community college district, not the

county. And that employment policy would not cover students.

When the policy was proposed last spring, San Jacinto College, based in Pasadena east of Houston, was the only community college in Texas with gender identity protections.

In December Houston Community College added trans protections to its nondiscrimination

With more than 81,000 credit students and 25,000 continuing education students enrolled in the fall 2011 semester, DCCCD is the largest community college district and the largest school in Texas. The district includes seven colleges on 13 campuses and employs 7,200 full- and part-time faculty, staff and administrators.

Statewide, there are 55 community colleges or community college districts. Just six of those districts have nondiscrimination policies that include sexual orientation.

In addition to the three with trans protections, those that only list sexual orientation are Tarrant County College with five campuses, Austin Community College with eight campuses in Travis County and Lone Star College System based in The Woodlands north of Houston with 14 campuses in Harris and Montgomery counties.

With passage of protection by DCCCD, more than 31,000 public sector employees in Dallas County are covered by the expanded policies. ■







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What's on tap for 2012?

Court cases on both coasts will impact marriage equality, while November elections could mean continued progress legislatively - or a time of backsliding

LISA KEEN I Keen News Service lisakeen@mac.com

Significant events are crowding the calendar for 2012, and each promises considerable drama and suspense for the LGBT community.

Here are the 10 most important, from a national perspective, to keep an eye on:

• The next decisions on Proposition 8: A threejudge panel of the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals could release its opinions any day now. That's "opinions," plural.

Before the panel can rule on the constitutionality of California's law banning marriage for samesex couples, it must decide whether the Yes on 8 coalition has legal standing to appeal the federal

court ruling that Prop 8 is unconstitutional, and it must decide whether there is any justification for Yes on 8's request that the lower court decision be

The list of possible outcomes in Perry v. Brown – the case brought by the American Foundation for Equal Rights with famed attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies leading the charge — is mindboggling. Whatever the results, any or all aspects could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court immediately or they could be appealed to a full 9th Circuit bench and then to the Supreme Court.

But the panel's decision will almost certainly have political impact, too. Not only will it affect the momentum of the marriage equality movement, it will almost certainly become fodder in the presidential campaigns.

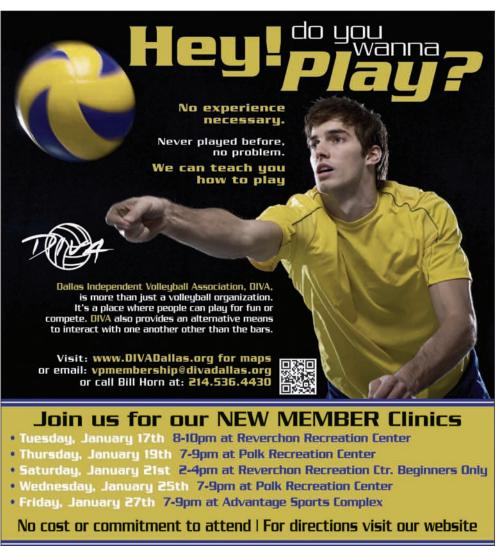
• The decision, on appeal, in DOMA: A threejudge panel of the 1st Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments, perhaps as soon as early February, in a powerful challenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act's denial of federal benefits to same-sex married couples.

The challenge, referred to most often as Gill v. **2012,** Page 14



WAITING GAME | Members of the anti-Prop 8 legal team, from left, Therese Stewart, Chad Griffin, David Boies, Ted Butros and Ted Olson, speak during a news conference after a hearing in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on Dec. 6, 2010, in San Francisco. Thirteen months later, the 9th Circuit judges are expected to issue opinions any day now on whether Prop 8 proponents have legal standing to appeal the trial court ruling, and whether Judge Vaughn Walker was correct in declaring the anti-gay-marriage amendment unconstitutional. (Eric Risberg/Associated Press)









coverstory

2012

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OPM, is actually three consolidated cases, two brought by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) and one by the state of Massachusetts.

While there are other challenges under way to DOMA, this is the "big guns" challenge and the one most likely to reach the U.S. Supreme Court first. And while there is no deadline by which the panel must render its decision, it is likely to turn out one by year's end.

Then, as with Proposition 8, the case could go to the full circuit court on appeal or straight to the Supreme Court. And, if the appeals court decision is rendered before the November elections, it will almost certainly provoke debate on the presidential campaign trail.

• Tammy Baldwin's historic Senate bid: U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin is not the first openly gay person to run for U.S. Senate, but she's the first who has a real chance of winning.

The daily Capital Times is already referring to her as the "likely" Democratic nominee to fill the seat being vacated by Democrat Herb Kohl. She doesn't have a challenger for the nomination. But she will have a very tough battle against whomever the Republicans put on the ballot.

That's because the battle will be for more than just one seat in the powerful U.S. Senate, which currently has a breakdown of 53 in the Democratic Caucus and 47 in the Republican. It will be part of a multi-state slugfest between the parties over control of the chamber, the Congress and the nation's laws.

• The fight for the Senate: Polls at the moment indicate voters are inclined to vote for Democrats over Republicans next November. But that sentiment is not providing a large margin — one or two points — and it's too soon to guess who the voters will blame for what 11 months from now.

But some Senate races — in addition to Tammy Baldwin's — could have big consequences for LGBT voters.

In Virginia, a pro-gay former governor, Tim Kaine, will likely be pitted against an anti-gay former senator, George Allen. In Massachusetts, a pro-gay challenger, Elizabeth Warren, will almost certainly be the Democrat facing incumbent Scott Brown, whose attitude toward the community has been much less friendly.

And at least seven other states are expected to have competitive races for the Senate.

• Counting the "Gay Caucus": U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., will be starting his 40th year in Congress when the House reconvenes Jan. 17. And it will be his last.

Frank announced last year that he is retiring at the end of his term. When he does, the clique of four openly gay members of Congress — Frank, Baldwin and Reps. Jared Polis and David Cicilline — will shrink by one. If Baldwin fails to win a Senate seat, it could shrink by half.

But there are prospects for adding members. Openly gay Wisconsin Democratic Assemblymember Mark Pacon is running for Baldwin's U.S. House seat. And there are three other openly LGBT candidates for the U.S. House this November: Marko Liias from Seattle, Mark Takano from



U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin

Riverside, Calif., and Kyrsten Sinema from Phoenix.

So, the number of openly gay members of Congress could go from four to as low as two (though zero is, technically, possible) to as high as seven. But no one will have the seniority and clout that Frank has had — and has used — to advance progay measures.

• On hold, and on defense, in Congress: Pro-LGBT bills — such as efforts to repeal DOMA and pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act are not likely to see much action in 2012. But antigay measures might.

Why? Because it's an election year and Republicans still control the House. And supportive Democrats will not be inclined to push controversial legislation during an election year, because it can detract from the focus on jobs and the economy, where most voters want focus right now.

Republicans, on the other hand, have often used hostile measures aimed at gays during election years as a way of putting Democrats on the spot with voters generally and gays specifically.

• Ballot battles abound: There will be important LGBT-related ballot measures before voters in several states this year.

North Carolina and Minnesota will vote on whether to ban same-sex marriage through amendments to their state constitutions. Voters in Maine will decide whether to strike down their existing ban on same-sex marriage.

LGBT activists in Washington State are gathering signatures to put a measure on that state's ballot to gain marriage equality. A small group in California has until May 15 to gather more than 800,000 signatures to put a measure on the ballot there to repeal Proposition 8.

And the California Attorney General is expected to announce by Jan. 9 whether opponents of a new bill to include information about LGBT figures in history as part of the public school curriculum can begin circulating petitions to get a repeal measure on the ballot there.

All of these have the potential to be big, expensive and consequential battles.

• Fight for freedom of religion: The right-wing Alliance Defense Fund and others have a concerted effort under way in the courts to under-

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President Barack Obama

From Previous Page

mine laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Their strategy is to argue that people who discriminate against LGBT people do so because their religious beliefs require them to do so. Their question to the court is, "What rules? The First Amendment guarantee of free exercise of religion or the equal protection clause that says all citizens should be treated equally under the law?"

One case has already reached the U.S. Supreme Court and failed, but other cases — many other cases — are winding their way through nearly every circuit in the country. And their outcomes have the potential to chip away at the strength of the nation's legal mandate that all people be treated equally.

• A fight for the White House: The difference for LGBT people between having President Barack Obama in the White House and President George W. Bush has been stark. So the consequences of November's presidential election will also be profound.

Either Obama stays, and things continue to improve — in law and in society's attitudes — or a new president is elected from a field of Republicans who seem, at times, to be vying for the mantle of most gay-hostile candidate.

In the latter case, LGBT people can expect progress to halt or backslide.

• Ah, the unpredictable: One of the bigger LGBT stories of 2011 happened in February, and it was one nobody expected: The Obama administration announced it considered DOMA unconstitutional and would not argue for its defense in most cases.

Another big story that no one expected: The Obama administration announced a major new diplomatic mission to push for protection of human rights for LGBT people around the world.

And given that Rep. Frank said in January 2011 he'd run for re-election in 2012, it was a surprise, in November, when he announced that he would not. As Frank pointed out, circumstances change.

Circumstances change, things change, people change. And often, they change each other.

But history marches on through time, and only in retrospect can any trajectory be certain as to where it's going.

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viewpoints

And they're off!

Hardy Haberman

Flagging Left

The horse race for the Republican presidential nomination is officially under way with the lowa caucuses. Who will pull up lame, and who will win it down the home stretch?

atching the press coverage of the Jan. 3 Iowa Caucus was like watching a horse race: Announcers breathlessly telling viewers the latest results; charts and graphics that

looked more like the screens of a sports-book in Las Vegas than political coverage.

In reality, Iowa chooses only about 1 percent of the total delegates to the national conventions. So focusing so much attention on this process is more about the hoopla than the impact.

What Iowa does do is weed out the also-rans and focus attention of a few frontrunners. And unlike a horse race, the winners in Iowa are less important than the losers.

Already Michelle Bachmann has dropped from the field and I expect John Huntsman to soon do the same. Texas Gov. Rick Perry probably should have dropped out, but he insists on plugging on despite his dismal showing in Iowa.

That leaves four contenders for the Republican nomination in the field — and none of them are even remotely LGBT friendly. In fact, Rick Santorum's strong finish in Iowa will almost guarantee a tougher line of anti-LGBT rhetoric from the remaining candidates. Each one will be trying to out-conservative the other and the "family values" canard will rank high in their strategy.

Santorum, pushing his socially conservative views, managed to bubble up through other can-

didates like Gingrich, Bachmann and Perry and strike a note with evangelical voters. According to some polls it is because of his "strong moral character," code for being anti-LGBT and anti-choice. But the truth is, those two issues are not enough to carry him to the White House. And I suspect the GOP knows that.

Å lot of Santorum's success was due to his very effective ground campaign in Iowa. He spent a lot of time in the state and focused on his key constituency — and that falls outside the mainstream GOP profile.

Meanwhile, Texas Congressman Ron Paul sur-

prised everyone with his third place finish in Iowa. Personally, I hope he decides to run on a third party ticket. He might split so many votes away from the Republicans that President Obama will have a clear path to reelection.

And then there is former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

The biggest problem for the GOP is that Romney is just so, well, Mitt Romney. It seems that everyone wants someone with more charisma and momentum than Mitt, but they

For now, it looks like Romney will be strong in New Hampshire and South Carolina. His organization is well funded and has a great infrastructure in the remaining states, whereas Santorum will have to scramble to keep up.

just can't figure out who that might be.

I suspect Romney's biggest challenge will be Newt Gingrich, the man who came in fourth in Iowa. While he most likely doesn't have the staying power to win the nomination, Gingrich does have a grudge — and that can go a long way.

The Romney campaign and Ron Paul heaped negative ads on former House Speaker Gingrich, and it really showed at the caucuses. Now the question is whether Newt and his super-PAC



Republican hopeful Mitt Romney

money will fire back with equal vehemence.

Of course, we all know the Super-PACs do not coordinate with the campaigns (nudge, nudge, wink, wink), so that remains a mystery.

So, what does all this mean for LGBT Americans? Well in my opinion, it's probably a good thing.

As the GOP candidates try to "out-socially-conservative" each other, their real feelings about LGBT rights will become clear. There are no friends among this group of candidates, and considering how much LGBT Americans have gained in the past few years, I seriously doubt much of our votes or money will go to anyone as far to the right as this field of contenders looks.

As this horse race comes down to the wire in November, the real question is: Can the Obama campaign do enough to remind LGBT citizens why they should support his re-election? Will President Obama's opinions finally evolve to the point where he can actively support issues like marriage equality? Will LGBT voters be willing to risk losing the gains of the past four years, like the repeal of DADT?

Personally, I think the smart money will bet on President Obama in the home stretch.

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

Forgotten heroes?

A look at the history of Lawrence v. Texas shows why the two men who fought the sodomy law, both now deceased, deserve our respect

ormer Houston residents John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, both now deceased, couldn't possibly have realized 13 years ago that one of the most mortifying events of their lives would wind up changing the course of history for an entire society of people.

The two gay men, who arguably were the unlikeliest pair of gay advocates to ever play high-profile roles in the U.S. LGBT rights movement, turned out to be the catalysts for striking down centuries of oppressive American law and establishing same-sex relations as a basic civil right. Prior to the filing of a landmark LGBT rights lawsuit on their behalf, the men had no involvement with gay rights organizations.

In June 2003, the U.S. Supreme
Court overruled the 1973 Texas Homosexual Conduct Law in its review of Lawrence v. Texas, effectively striking down the 14 remaining state sodomy laws that prohibited sexual relations be-



David Webb The Rare Reporter

tween consenting adults of the same sex. In doing so the high court reversed its 1986 decision in Bowers v. Hardwick, which had upheld Georgia's sodomy law.

In rendering the decision the justices wrote that gay men and lesbians were entitled to privacy, and that states had no right to restrict their personal sexual lives, a startling contrast from the ruling in the Georgia lawsuit that maintained there was no fundamental right to homosexual re-

ations.

Even Justice Antonin Scalia, a dissenting voice in the court's 6-3 vote, acknowledged that the **HEROS**, Next Page

■ **HEROS.** From Previous Page

Lawrence decision by the high court supported a constitutional right to same-sex marriage.

It was a remarkable turn of events sparked by unremarkable men who apparently had never entertained any ideas of gay activism prior to their arrest in Lawrence's Houston-area apartment in 1998 when a sheriff's deputy entered the apartment to investigate a false crime report.

The deputy claimed he saw the pair engaged in a sex act rather than the disturbance that was reported, and he arrested them on deviant sex

Despite the horror of being humiliated, arrested, taken out of the apartment virtually undressed and then jailed, the case had a relatively quick initial disposition. Lawrence and Garner paid fines of \$125 and court costs of \$141.25 for the Class C misdemeanors while pleading no contest.

Robert R. Eubanks — the also now-deceased boyfriend of Lawrence who had, in a fit of jealously, called 911 with the false crime report spent two weeks in jail as punishment for his part in the fiasco.

It was there the story could have taken a much

different turn than it did. But Lawrence and Garner ultimately decided on a course of action that the law enforcement authorities who arrested them probably never dreamed might occur.

The two gay men resisted oppression by following the advice of Lambda Legal attorneys who wanted to wage a legal battle against the antiquated, discriminatory law, which was rarely enforced.

At that point Lawrence and Garner became to the LGBT community what Rosa Parks represented to the nation's African-American community in 1955 in Montgomery, Ala., when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. Her civil disobedience against the city regulation sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and it became a major symbolic force in propelling the civil rights movement forward.

The success of the Lawrence case had a similar impact on the nation's LGBT community, and the gains have been monumental during the past eight years.

Although Parks was active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as secretary at the time, she was just a seamstress in a local department store. She lost her job over the incident and eventually moved to Detroit to find similar work.

It would be years later before Parks was honored for her bravery and became known as the "first lady of the civil rights movement" and the "mother of the freedom movement." Parks lived another 50 years and received many honors during that time.

The parallel between Lawrence, a white man, and Garner, a black man, and Parks is their socioeconomic status and ordinariness at the times they made decisions that would have such farreaching effects upon their communities.

Lawrence, who was 68 when he died on Nov. 20, 2011, was a medical technologist until his retirement in 2009. His death from a heart condition apparently went unnoticed for at least a month by the media, legal advocates and the LGBT community — until his Houston lawyer, Mitchell Katine, reportedly tried to invite him to a commemorative event for the court ruling.

Garner was 39 when he died Sept. 11, 2006 of meningitis. He had been unemployed at the time of his historic arrest in 1998. But he had worked at a number of different types of jobs, and he had a criminal record that included two convictions for assault in 1995 and 2000.

Both Lawrence and Garner were "quiet, pas-

HERO | John Lawrence was an unlikely activist, prompted to action after being arrested.

sive" men who preferred to avoid public scrutiny, according to Katine. Lawrence reportedly was intimidated because he was still closeted to so many, but his outrage over being taken to jail in his underwear motivated him to push forward as one of the faces of the legal challenge.

The pair, who had been occasional sex partners but never lovers, lived out their lives separately. Lawrence lived with a partner at the time of his death, and Garner was being cared for by his brother when he died.

Eubanks, who introduced Lawrence and Garner to each other and put everything in motion by making the false 911 call, was beaten to death in 2000. The case was never solved.

It probably was more by design on the part of Lawrence and Garner that their contributions to the LGBT rights movement have largely gone uncelebrated during the past eight years, but it might be a good time to pay them more respect.

After all, they could have easily just paid the fines and walked back into the obscurity of their lives rather than stepping into the glare of public scrutiny and the pages of history. If that had happened, we might still be where we were when they were first arrested.

David Webb is a veteran journalist who has reported on LGBT issues for three decades. Contact him at davidwaynewebb@hotmail.com

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RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

When will President Obama endorse same-sex marriage?

- . Before the 2012 election: 15 percent
- After the 2012 election: 38 percent
- 231 Votes cast
- · After his presidency ends: 20 percent • Never: 27 percent

LIFE+STYLE stage

Black & White In COOF Former Dallasite Robert Bartley returns from NYC to helm Pegasus Theatre's latest monochrome play

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES I Life+Style Editor iones@dallasvoice.com

ilms like *The Artist* and *Hugo* have spent the last month racking up awards and nominations as they tribute the golden era of black & white movies of yesteryear. But for Kurt Kleinmann, there's a bit of "been there, still doing that."

Kleinmann is the star, author and impresario of Pegasus Theatre, which for more than 25

years has produced the signature "Living Black & White" show: A murder-mystery send-up to the melodramas of moviedom's past. Over 16 plays — all written by Kleinmann, with kitschy titles like Mind Over Murder!, Death Is No Small Change! and The Frequency of Death!, the last of which

Richardson — the galumphing, clueless "world famous detective and aspiring actor" Harry Hunsacker (played by Kleinmann) and his sidekick Nigel Grouse have solved crimes while surrounded by a cast of overwrought hams ... all the while wearing makeup and performing

in a set that fools the eye into believing you are watching a black and white movie.

Frequency of Death! is a "thorough rewrite," Kleinmann says, of a previous incarnation of the play, but the signature look remains the same. For director Robert Bartley, that posed some challenges.

"Kurt is always reminding me, 'You can't do that.' For instance, you have to

be very aware of the facial area," Bartley explains. "You can't have people kissing or touching their faces. Even the set is a problem: You can't use reflective surfaces, like glass in the doors, or you will be able to see the red EXIT signs in the the-

ater."

FREQUENCY OF DEATH!

Eisemann Center for Performing

Arts, 2351 Performance Drive,

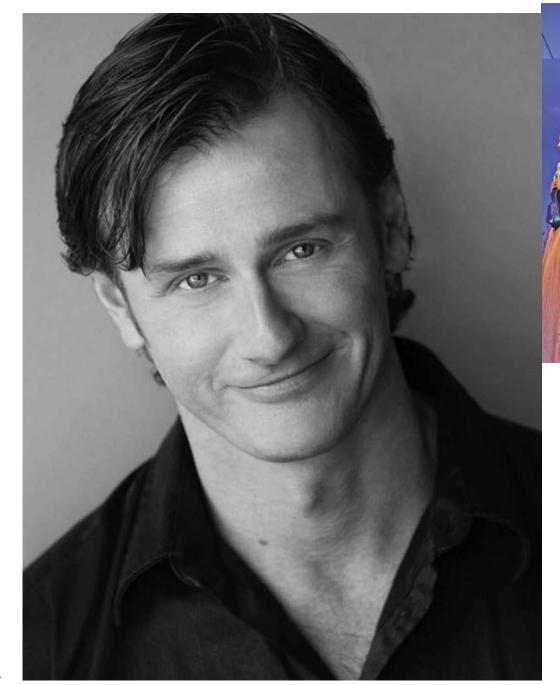
Richardson. Through Jan. 22. MCL

Grand Theater, 100 N. Charles St.,

Lewisville. Jan. 26-29. \$20-\$35.

PegasusTheatre.org.

That's just part of the fun for Bartley though, who spent much of the holidays in Dallas mounting the show for its two-venue run, separated from his partner of 13 years. The sensibility fits with his own aesthetic. Pegasus shows have always contained a camp element, ideally



TAMING PEGASUS | New York-based writer/director/actor Robert Bartley, above, returned to Dallas to direct his first Living Black & White production, 'The Frequency of Death!,' below, which recreates the look of '30s-era movie melodramas with complex and challenging makeup and design processes. (Production photo courtesy of Phil Allen)

suited for gay audiences accustomed to drag queens basing their characters on Tinseltown divas of the '30s and '40s.

It's also a homecoming of sorts for Bartley. A boyish 49 who looks like he still gets carded for buying beer, Bartley cut his teeth on theater in the Metroplex while attending the University of North Texas. For more than two decades, though, he's made New York his stage, acting and dancing in plays and movies, and launching Broadway Backwards, directing and conceiving of what has become a major fundraiser for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, attracting talents including Betty Buckley, Neil Patrick Harris and Clay Aiken.

But Dallas feels like home.

"This is where I worked on *The Cuban and the Redhead*," he explains over an Atkins-friendly lunch in the gayborhood. Bartley workshopped the musical, about Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, in Arlington and Garland from 2004 to 2007, and he couldn't have been more pleased — then and now.

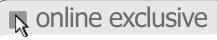
"The theater community here is as good as

ever," he says. "We had great turnout for our play." The same is true of *Frequency of Death*, he insists. Among the cast is Susan Mansur, a Broadway veteran (the original cast of *Best Little Whorehouse*, the revival of *Damn Yankees!*) familiar to local audiences as Helen Lawson in Uptown Players' *Valley of the Dolls*. ("She drinks throughout our show," Bartley quips — her character, that is.)

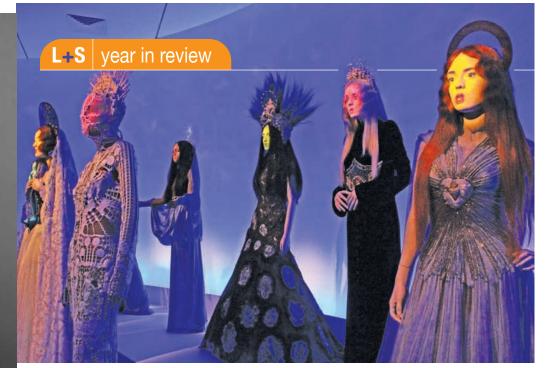
Bartley came of age in the era of AIDS, and says the community has also grown up a lot since then.

"When I was in college, I was the only person there who admitted being gay," he says. "I think there is more acceptance of the gay and lesbian community — it's more open."

Not everything, after all, is black and white ... except, of course, a Pegasus show.



Read a review of *The Frequency of Death!* this weekend online at Dallas Voice.com/category/Stage.



FASHIONS AND FORWARD | The Jean Paul Gaultier exhibit at the DMA, above, was a highlight of the arts scene in 2011, while Dirk Nowitzki's performance in the NBA playoffs gave the Mavs their first-ever and much deserved — world title. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

The **GOOD**, the **Dao** These arts, cultural & sports stories defined gay Dallas in 2011

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW **CULTURE/SPORTS**

A lot of eyes were focused on Dallas nationally in 2011

— for good and bad — but much of what made the city a fun place last year has specific queer appeal.

CULTURE

The rise of the reality TV star. 2011 was the year Dallas made a big splash across everyone's television sets — and it had *nothing* to do with who shot J.R. (although that's pending). From the culinary to the conniving, queer Dallasites were big on the small screen.

On the positive side were generally good portrayals of gay Texans. Leslie Ezelle almost made it all the way in *The Next Design Star*, while The Cake Guys' Chad Fitzgerald is still in contention on TLC's The Next Great Baker. Lewisville's Ben Starr was a standout on MasterChef. On the web, Andy Stark, Debbie Forth and Brent Paxton made strides with Internet shows Bear It All, LezBeProud and The Dallas Life, respectively.

There were downsides, though. Drew Ginsburg served as the token gay on Bravo's teethclenching Most Eligible: Dallas, and the women on Big Rich Texas seemed a bit clichéd. But none were more polarizing than the cast of Logo's The A-List: Dallas. Whether people loved or hated it, the six 20somethings (five gays, one girl) reflected stereotypes that made people cringe.

Gaultier makes Dallas his runway. The Dallas Museum of Art scored a coup, thanks to couture. The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk not only featured the work of the famed designer, but was presented the designs in an innovative manner. Nothing about it was stuffy. Seeing his iconic designs in person is almost a religious experience — especially when its Madonna's cone bra. Gaultier reminded us that art is more than paintings on a wall. (A close runner-up: The Caravaggio exhibit in Fort Worth.)

CULTURE/SPORTS, Next Page



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'A' to Z | 'The A-LIst: Dallas,' above, had its detractors, but some reality TV stars from Big D, like Chad Fitzgerald, Leslie Ezelle and Ben Starr, represented us well.

■ CULTURE/SPORTS, From Previous Page

The Return of Razzle Dazzle. There was speculation whether Razzle Dazzle could actually renew itself after a near-decade lull, but the five-day spectacular was a hallmark during National Pride Month in June, organized by the Cedar Springs Merchant Association. The event started slowly with the wine walk but ramped up to the main event street party headlined by rapper Cazwell. Folding in the MetroBall with Deborah Cox, the dazzle had returned with high-profile entertainment and more than 10,000 in attendance on the final night.

A Gathering pulled it together. TITAS executive director Charles Santos took on the daunting task of producing A Gathering, a collective of area performance arts companies, commemorating 30 years of AIDS. Groups such as the Dallas Opera, Turtle Creek Chorale and Dallas Theater Center donated their time for this one-of-a-kind show with all proceeds benefiting Dallas' leading AIDS services organizations. And it was worth it. A stirring night of song, dance and art culminated in an approximate 1,000 in attendance and \$60,000 raised for local charities. Bravo, indeed.

The Bronx closed after 35 years. Cedar Springs isn't short on its institutions, but when it lost The Bronx, the gayborhood felt a real loss. For more than three decades, the restaurant was home to many Sunday brunches and date nights in the community. We were introduced to Stephan Pyles there, and ultimately, we just always figured on it being there as part of the fabric of the Strip. A sister company to the neighboring Warwick Melrose bought the property with rumors of expansion. But as yet, the restaurant stands steadfast in its place as a reminder of all those memories that happened within its walls and on its plates.

The Omni changed the Dallas skyline. In November, The Omni Dallas hotel opened the doors to its 23-story structure and waited to fill it's 1,000 rooms to Dallas visitors and staycationers. Connected to the Dallas Convention Center, the ultra-modern hotel is expected to increase the city's convention business which has the Dallas Visitors and Conventions Bureau salivating — as they should. The hotel brought modern flair to a booming Downtown and inside was no

different. With quality eateries and a healthy collection of art, including some by gay artists
Cathey Miller and Ted Kincaid, the Omni
quickly became a go-to spot for those even from
Dallas.

SPORTS

The Super Bowl came to town. Although seeing the Cowboys make Super Bowl XLV would have been nice for locals, the event itself caused a major stir, both good and bad. Ticketing issues caused a commotion with some disgruntled buyers and Jerry Jones got a bad rap for some disorganization surrounding the game. But the world's eyes were on North Texas as not only the game was of a galactic measure, but the celebs were too. From Kardashians to Ke\$ha to Kevin Costner, parties and concerts flooded the city and the streets.

The gays even got in on the action. Despite crummy weather, the Super Street Party was billed as the "world's first ever gay Super Bowl party." The ice and snow had cleared out and the gays came out, (and went back in to the warmer clubs) to get their football on. The XLV Party at the Cotton Bowl included a misguided gay night with acts such as Village People, Lady Bunny and Cazwell that was ultimately canceled.

The Mavericks won big. The Mavs are like the boyfriend you can't let go of because you see how much potential there is despite his shortcomings. After making the playoffs with some just-misses, the team pulled through to win against championship rivals, Miami Heat, who beat them in 2006. In June, the team cooled the Heat in six games, taking home its first NBA Championship, with Dirk Nowitzki appropriately being named MVP.

The Rangers gave us faith. Pro sports ruled big in these parts. The Mavericks got us in the mood for championships and the Texas Rangers almost pulled off a victory in the World Series. With a strong and consistent showing for the season, the Rangers went on to defend their AL West Division pennant. Hopes were high as they handily defeated the Detroit Tigers in game six, but lost the in the seventh game. Although it was a crushing loss, the Texas Rangers proved why we need to stand by our men.

— Rich Lopez

Top 10 tables

North Texas' best new restaurants of 2011 provided a lesson in substance over style

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com



2011 was the year great dining found a way to avoid being *fine* dining.

There are all kinds of restaurants for all tastes and pocketbooks. Truth is, fancy usually

takes you further because when you evaluate an overall dining experience, atmosphere and service come into play; standing in line to eat a burger out of a napkin while standing at a counter costs some points.

Or rather, it used to.

It's probably a combination of things — the economy, the rise of the food truck, an emphasis on the taste of food above the flash of atmosphere that led to an emphasis of substance over style in 2011. In 2010, we happily tagged Nosh as our top eatery: Elegant and pretty, but also an easy, sociable dining experience. Still, back then, there were slim pickin's overall: I went with a Top 5 instead of 10, because that's all that felt warranted.

Not so this year. At least 17 restos were legitimately in play as I was whittling it down to a Top 10, and several more — Campo, Chesterfield, Texas Spice, Oak — opened too late in the season for me to give full shrift. They'll be up for consideration *next* time.

Some others almost made the list. Il Cane Rosso gave Deep Ellum another great, authentic eatery — this time, a Neapolitan pizzeria that's no fuss, all must-have. Meddlesome Moth has some strong points (terrific hummus, the best dessert — chess pie — in town) but couldn't consistently

Oddly, many of the restaurants that impressed me most had quirky things in common that helped define them as the anti-fine-dining Class of '11: Brushed concrete floors (at least three of them), prosaic strip-mall locations (most of them), TV celebrichefs-done-good (Nos. 7 and 8).

Also, by and large, the restaurants that stood out also tended to group around themes: Sophisticated Tex-Mex, Eastern fusion, classy retro-joints and ravenously good tacos. I'm gonna keep with those trends as well, so here are the Top Tables of 2011. (Look for reviews of some of them in the coming weeks.)



MEXICAN, REINVENTED | The Mayan calendar may end in 2012, but that's no reason not to enjoy the cuisine from MesoMaya, the top table of 2011.

The Top 3 — Mexivention: MesoMaya, Mesa, Komali

Never tell a German how to drink beer, a New Yorker how to eat pizza or a Texan how to do anything.

But especially don't tell him about Tex-Mex. (Or tacos, though that'll

We Texans know what we like when it comes to Southwestern-style cuisine, and Dallasites are especially arrogant about it. After all, we claim Stephan Pyles and Dean Fearing and Avner Samuel, who basically invented it for gourmet palates.

But even we can be surprised. The menu at MesoMaya Comida y Copas has a lot of familiar elements (posole, enchiladas, tacos), but this isn't Tex-Mex: It's central Mexican cuisine, resplendent with Mayan influence -Latin-Mesoamerican fusion par example. (1190 Preston Road, MesoMaya.com)

If MesoMaya is fiercely flavorful peasant food, then Mesa in Oak Cliff and Komali in Uptown are its sophisticated cousins. Komali, the companion restaurant to Mex-born chef Abraham Salum's eponymous eatery, exudes an easy polish with soft features that don't distract from the modern, urban-Mexican dishes, full of moles and wonderful salsas. (4152 Cole Ave.,

TABLES, Page 23

QUICK BITE: GOOD 2 GO TACOS

2011 was the year we leapt the threshold between "taco" and "burrito" and the distinction began to seem meaningless.

In Mexico, tacos are petite things meant for quick snacks: A shaved bit of protein, a dollop of salsa, some melted cheese, a garnish of cilantro, maybe garlic. Whatever. The are designed to be small bites - one is rarely enough for a meal. You want a big meal? That's a burrito.

But Texas proudly claims it does everything bigger, and that counts for tacos, too. And few are as big as the tacos at Good 2 Go.

At about four bucks each, they're pricier than Jack in the Box — for good reason. I've never had more than one at a sitting, though I've certainly craved

The menu (it's open for breakfast and lunch only, five days a week) is limited but endlessly inventive and devilishly clever, thanks to the camp sensibilities of partner-owners Colleen O'Hara and Jeana Johnson

Feel like chicken spiced with jerk seasonings? It's

called the "Navin R. Johnson" — after Steve Martin's name in The Jerk. Unlike Martin, I doubt this taco was born a poor black child, though it does have the taste profile of Jamaica, with coconut rice and mango conjuring a day in the islands - a terrific fantasy as the winter weather sets in.

The equally groan-inducing "swine bleu" (pictured) is actually exactly what its name implies: braised pork and blue cheese slaw. And boy is there pork: The flour tortilla is as bulbous as a cast member of 16 and Pregnant. The ladle of slaw looks like it might smother the pork, but no: The flavors meld better than a barbershop quarter, the tang of blue cheese pitch-

Service is friendly and knowing. A taco I ordered to eat-in came out faster than a male drum major at band camp; a few minutes later, when I walked back in to grab some utensils to tame the cabbage and pork overflowing the large tortilla, the busboy barely glanced up before grabbing a fork and walking it toward me. They've seen this kind of behavior before It's weird feeling like you've been bested by a taco But so worth it.





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Semi-'Precious'

Black, lesbian and troubled home life? New film 'Pariah' hits as a middle-class 'Precious'

PARIAH Adepero Aduye, Pernell Walker,

Aasha Davis, Kim Wayans

While politicians debate whether life begins at conception, dudes know it begins at puberty, when we start masturbating hourly until we can interact sexually with others.

An exception might be for gays, who begin life when we come out, becoming aware of who we are and finally knowing for sure what we want.

Pariah is a realistic portrait of a young woman who, at 17, knows who she is and what she wants but hasn't quite figured out how to act on it. Things are complicated because she's lesbian and has to worry about the reactions of peers and parents.

Alike (Adepero Aduye)

doesn't care about the kids at school, who have figured out from her butch demeanor that she's not exactly a girly-girl, but her folks are something else entirely. Her father, Arthur (Charles Parnell), is a police detective with

homophobic friends, but he's clueless where Alike (ah-LEE-kay) is concerned. Her mother, Audrey (Kim Wayans), is a control freak who can't wait for Alike to outgrow her "tomboy phase."

On the positive side, Alike is lucky to have Laura (Pernell Walker) as a BFF, confidante and tour guide through the coming out process and the lesbian subculture. "You need to pop that damn cherry of yours," Laura tells Alike, going so far as to buy her a strap-on (though perhaps not the most appropriate who wrote model).

Rated R. 85 mins. Now playing at Landmark's Magnolia

opportunit awards.

This has who wrote short version short version short version strap-on the model.

Perceiving Laura as a bad influence on her daughter, Audrey tries to keep them apart. She forces Alike to spend time with Bina (Aasha Davis), the daughter of a church friend. But the plan backfires for better — and worse — than any of them could have expected, as Bina unintentionally drives a wedge between Alike and Laura.



SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE | A closeted 17-year-old (Adepero Aduye, right) shares a moment with her clueless mom (Kim Wayans) in 'Pariah.'

Anyone who's ever been a teenager can relate to the emotions involved when one changes besties, and it gets more complicated when sex is involved.

When Alike finally comes out at home the reactions are predictable. Audrey is too bourgeois to go all Mo'Nique on her ass, but the scene is at

least semi-*Precious*.

Indeed, with its hard look and African-American setting, *Pariah* easily recalls *Precious*, though it's more reined in in just about every way, so it doesn't afford the

opportunity for attention-getting histrionics that win awards.

This has been a long project for filmmaker Dee Rees, who wrote it as a feature several years ago, then made a short version in 2007 that played the festival circuit. The result is praiseworthy and I suspect Rees will feel rewarded when she sits in a theater and hears even straight girls cheering on Alike, as you'll want to.

At any rate, life begins for Alike in the course of *Pariah*—and *careers* begin for Rees and Aduye as a result.

— Steve Warren



'Paradise' found: After nearly 20 years, a documentary comes full circle

In the movies, the scene where the intrepid reporter/lawyer/medical examiner, after years of effort, finally clears the name of the wrongly convicted druggie/teen/single mom never rings true. It's a cliche created in Hollywood for dramatic effect.

Except in the case of Paradise Lost, it's true.

In 1996, HBO aired the documentary *Paradise Lost: The Child Murders of Robin Hood Hills*, a compelling real-life whodunnit about three teens seemingly railroaded by closed-minded Arkansas yokels for allegedly killing three young boys in 1993. The defendants mostly had alibis and no motives, but they didn't "look" normal — they were Goth and had piercings and wore black. Murmurs spread of Satanism (because, apparently, that's the natural consequence of listening to Marilyn Manson). The doc raised questions of their guilt, but the three men festered in prison, one on death row. A follow-up documentary in 2000 introduced more exculpatory evidence, but nothing happened.

The finale of the unintended trilogy, *Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory*, does the remarkable: It basically ties up all the questions, and even points audiences in the direction of the real killer. (It's a doozy, especially if you've watched the other documentaries intently — as I have — for 15 years.)

It's almost unsettling how everything comes full circle, both for the men — Damien Nichols, Jessie Miskelly and Jason Baldwin — and the documentarians. (You don't need to have seen the previous films; a lot of 3 is recap.) There are the requisite "Where are they now?" updates about the defendants and other principals, and the legal wrangling to get courts to reexamine the flimsy evidence and flaws of due process that landed them in prison.

But what makes *Paradise Lost 3* so exciting — and not always in a good way — is seeing how hardened the opinions of many of those who blamed the West Memphis Three have become, despite all proof to the contrary... and how some unexpected accusers have softened. It truly is a story of human growth and understanding. I don't know how the filmmakers could have known it when they named the first film nearly two decades ago, but *Paradise Lost* really has become a tale of redemption, and if the resolution is imperfect, it is nevertheless more real for it. And it doesn't require Matthew McConaghey in a courtroom to accomplish it.

- Arnold Wayne Jones

Four stars. Airs Jan. 12 on HBO.

■ TABLE, From Page 21

KomaliRestaurant.com)

Mesa, south of the Trinity, is less slick-looking that Komali (the exterior looks like a wig shop) but the food boasts soaring flavors from the Veracruzana region, with deft technique. And both have bar programs worthy of a cocktail hour. (118 W. Jefferson Ave., MesaDallas.com)

4 through 6 — Eastern artistry: Baboush, Malai Kitchen, Pho Colonial (Downtown)

Whether you're talking the Far East or the Middle East, exotic cuisine gained a foothold in Dallas. **Baboush** claims the closest inspiration —

a North African-influenced restaurant that brings a touch of the Mediterranean to the West Village. Forward flavors dominate even though the lush, genie-in-a-bottle atmosphere has its appeal. (3636 McKinney Ave., BaboushDallas.com)

Go to the Far East for two inventive restos. Across the street from Baboush is **Malai Kitchen**, one of the few eateries on this year's list that takes décor seriously, but not as seriously as its food (especially its curries and a fantastic brunch). (3699 McKinney Ave., MalaiKitchen. com). Downtown's **Pho Colonial** (there's another in Far North Dallas) takes counter-service that should feel like Vietnamese comfort food and turns it into haute cuisine with expertly cooked meats, big portions and a wal-

lop on the tongue. (164 N. Ervay St., PhoColonial.com)

7 and 8 — Traditional Fine-Dine: Private I Social, Marquee Grill

Two Dallas chefs who gained national fame as fan favorites on *Top Chef* — Tiffany Derry and Tre Wilcox — ventured out on their own with favorable results. Derry's **Private** | **Social**, with its seafood-heavy menu, interesting concept and sparkly interior, has the edge over Wilcox's old-school eclectic New American cuisine at **Marquee Grill**, but both harken to event restaurants that were common *before* the New Casual took over. 3232 McKinney Ave., PrivateSocial.com; 32 Highland Park Village, MarqueeGrill.com)

9 and 10 — Street Food Goes Big: Taco Ocho, Good 2 Go Tacos

Food anthropologists 100 years from now will probably note a straight line from waist girth, the legitimization of food trucks and the indulgent taco stand in 2011. As gourmet taquerias proliferated, these two — Taco Ocho, a slick, likeable, well-lit suburban place and the woman-owned Good 2 Go Tacos, a glorified lunch counter in East Dallas — made the most significant impact on us, forever and finally making the Old El Paso paradigm on thing of the past. (930 E. Campbell Road, Richardson, TacoOcho.com; 1146 Peavy Road, Good2GoTaco.com)

For a review of Good to Go Tacos, see sidebar on Page 21.

MY GAY

Our gay Texas 'Readers Voice Awards' 'Gay Texas' photo contest entries show great talent

The Dallas Voice's Readers Voice Awards are underway (you can vote online right now, at DFWReadersVoice.com), where you can vote on your favorite whatevers — criminal attorney, chef, boutique, dog walker or get-laid travel vacation. (Trust us, we've tried to think of everything.)

But what you also get to vote for — and stand a chance of winning — is the My Gay Texas photo contest. We had scores of submissions during the month of December,

asking photographers professional and amateur to submit the pictures that defined, for them, what's great or interesting or special or unique or beautiful or sexy or hilarious about queer Texas. The top

nine are on the site, and you can vote for

your favorite and be entered to win two round-trip tickets on American Airlines to the lower 48, Mexico, Caribbean and Canada. And by voting, you also get to benefit the photographer's charity of choice to the tune of a thousand simoleons.

TEXAS

made the cut only tell part of the story. Tons of photos were in serious contention but just didn't hit the top tier. Here are some that really speak to the diversity and fascination of our gay community ... and the talent of our readers. With these the runners-up, you know the competition was

— Arnold Wayne Jones





RUNNERS-UP | Among the contenders for Dallas Voice's My Gay Texas photo contest that did not make the top nine are, clockwise from above: Eric Dickson (cowboy), Lauren Farris ('Drag Queens'), Stephanie Kern (Rainbow Lounge rally flag), Don Klausmeyer (man in leaves), Farris again (drag queen) and Shannon Kern (Milk Day rainbow flag).



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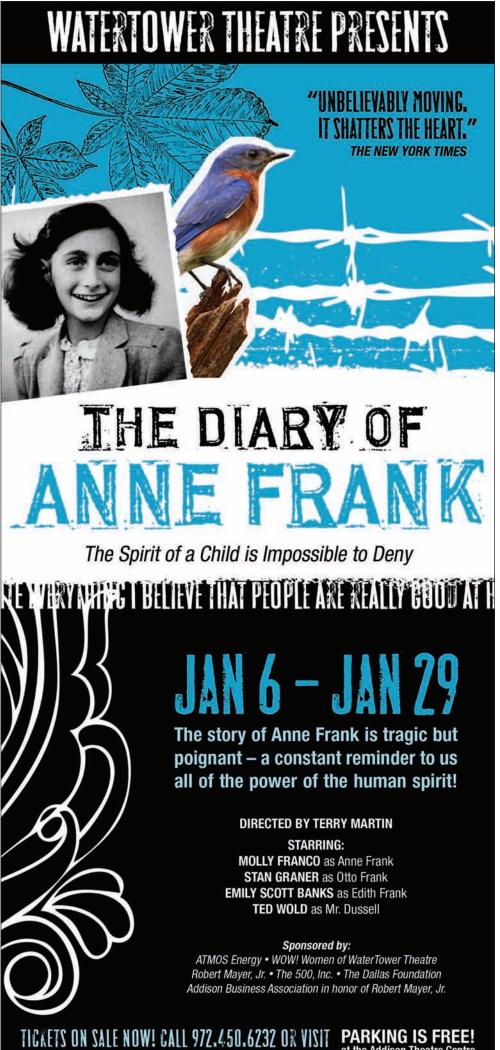
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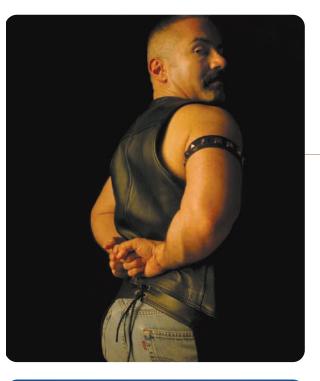
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Friday 01.06

Harnessing a bargain

With the economy being such a bitch, you gotta find a good deal anywhere. That goes for leather masters and mistresses as well. New and used items go on the block at the Leather Silent Auction benefiting local groups. And if you can snag a harness, some paddles or a pair of boots for cheaper than usual, jump on it fast.

DEETS: Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 7-11 p.m. DallasEagle.com.



Pecha what?

Pecha Kucha Dallas starts 2012 with the appropriately titled theme: A Clean Slate. A panel of speakers cover topics on helping build a new you. OK, it sounds self-helpy, but PK's structure keeps it tight and speakers cover a lot of ground in short time. So it's short, sweet and ultra-fascinating. But ask them how you pronounce it.

DEETS: Texas Theatre 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 7 p.m. \$5-\$10. PKNDallas.org.

Thursday 01.12

He's a magic man

We've seen David Blaine be buried alive, frozen and more, but what's behind the man of magic? Blaine talks about what inspires his death-defying feats and hopefully he'll throw in some tricks, too.

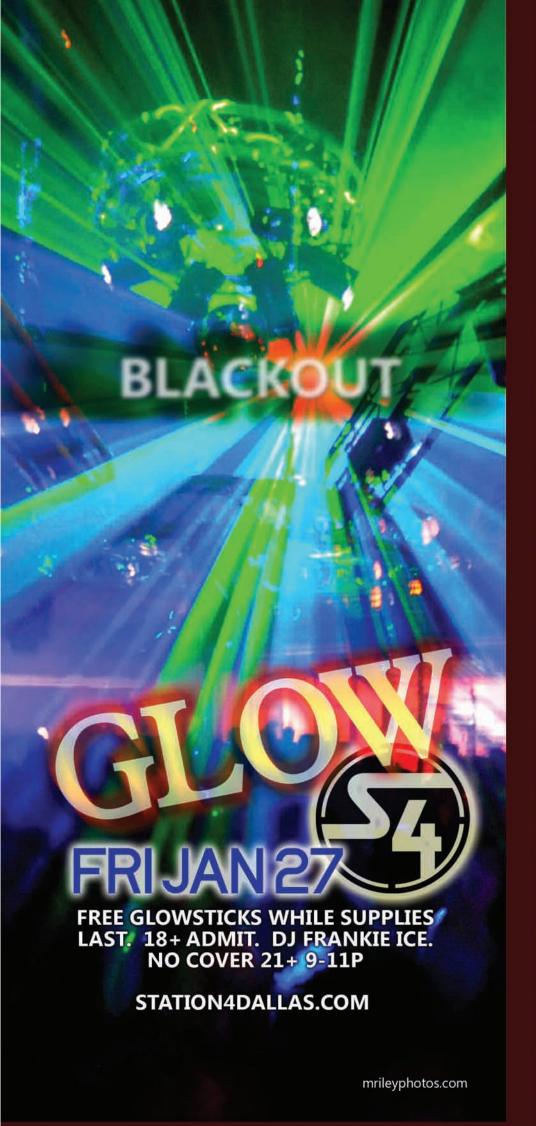
DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$20. ATTPAC.org.



LIFE+STYLE







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1/7 Anton Shaw & The Reason

1/8 Kathy Corbin

& The Barefoot Hippies

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1/12 Little Chalupa Karaoke

1/13 Jackie Hall Experience



1/14 Rachel Stacy 1/15 Bad Habits

1/18 Bella & Darla

1/19 Little Chalupa Karaoke

1/20 Ray Primm & Chris Miller Band

1/21 Anton Shaw & The Reason

1/22 Tyla Taylor

1/25 Bella & Darla

1/26 Little Chalupa Karaoke

1/27 Kathy Corbin Band
1/28 Ciao Bella

1/20 Glao Bella

1/29 Anton Shaw & The Reason

sueellensdallas.com

FRIDAY 01.06

COMMUNITY

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

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

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.

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

ART

Caravaggio and His Followers in Rome displays more than 50 of the painter's works, one of the largest exhibitions of his work in North America. Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth. Through Sunday. \$14. KimbellMuseum.org.

Divine featuring the art of lesbian artist Cathey Miller and Norbert Kox. Recapitated porcelain figures by Click Mort are also featured 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.

COMEDY

Kathy Griffin. The comedian brings her snark and celebrity gossip to her legions of gay fans. Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. 8 p.m. \$35–\$60. Ticketmaster.com.

THEATER

New Jerusalem: The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza at A 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. A man questions his doctrine, regents determine whether to excommunicate him. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd. Fort Worth. Through Jan. 29. \$15–\$30. StageWest.org.

SATURDAY 01.07

COMMUNITY

Khush Dallas Social. KhushDallas provides a safe and supportive network for LGBT South Asians with social events every first Saturday. Email khushtexas@gmail.com or call (469) 454-8741 for location information. Khushtexas.org.

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

Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club meets. Half Price Books Community Room, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3–6 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.

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.

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 01.08

COMMUNITY

DFW Prime Timers play Uno at member's residence. 2 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

Expressions, a free gender support group for men and women led by volunteers. Sponsored by Dallas Gender Society. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. 214-540-4475.

Cowtown Leathermen cookout. Best Friends Club, 2620 East Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

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.

30/40Something social group meets weekly. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 10 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

MONDAY 01.09

COMMUNITY

Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County. Tommy's Hamburger Grill, 3431 W. 7th St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-913-8743.

PFLAG Mesquite meets. St. Stephen United Methodist Church. 2520 Oates Drive, Mesquite. 7 p.m. 972-279-3112.

FUSE drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up 18 to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Mondays–Fridays. 3–8 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

Self esteem support group meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 1:30 p.m. **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 01.10

COMMUNITY

GetEqual Texas North Texas meeting. Everyone is welcome to the first meeting of the year to discuss and plan upcoming events. A small donation is encouraged to the center as the space is being donated for the meeting. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. GetEqualTX.org.

Late Bloomers, social support group for women who came out later in life. La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. 6 p.m. 903-778-4446.



POKER PLAYAS | 'The Cardsharps' is just one of the masterpieces on display in the 'Caravaggio and His Followers' exhibit at the Kimbell in Fort Worth. The show's run comes to an end on Sunday.

Lambda Pride Toastmasters. Regular meeting for improving communication and leadership skills. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. LambdaPride.FreeToastHost.us.

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

DFW Prime Timers Prime Diner at Fernando's Mexican Cuisine, 4347 W. Northwest Highway. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 to attend.

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

Miracle Workers meets. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. CathedalOfHope.com.

WEDNESDAY 01.11

COMMUNITY

Cathedral Business Network second Wednesday meeting. Location to be determined. 11:30 a.m. Contact Anity Haddy at Cathedral of Hope for more information. 214-351-1901. CathedralOfHope.com.

American Veterans for Equal Rights North Texas Chapter meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. Lone Star Veterans Chapter meets in Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Info at LSVCpres@aol.com.

DFW Prime Timers play bridge every week at member's residence. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for more information.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Robert Camina, director and producer of *Raid of the Rainbow Lounge: The Documentary*. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 01.12

COMMUNITY

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association monthly luncheon meeting. Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Ave. Noon. 214-540-4460.

PFLAG Dallas. Northaven United Methodist Church, 12101 Preston Road. 7 p.m. 972-77PFLAG.

The Group. Support group for black men who are HIV-positive. Every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Call 214-455-7316 for more information.

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

Have an event to share? Uploaid it directly to our online calendar. Visit DallasVoice.com, click on Calendar and follow the prompts to Add Event.

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig

Kate Middleton turns 30 on Monday. The new Duchess of Cambridge married Prince William and the entire world watched. The Royal Wedding was one of the biggest moments of 2011 and Middleton didn't disappoint. As princess, she seems to be holding her own against the media and in a short time, has become a fashion icon due to her sophisticated fashion sense.



CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Be very careful with your money. A deal that sounds too good to be true is. Set aside a little for an impulsive indulgence. If you can't say anything nice, go chat with Virgo.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Check out an art show with someone very new and different, or rent the most outré movie you can find. It could inspire a new look, but test it with a trusted friend before taking it public.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

The deep personal insights you're gaining should be kept private. Well, mostly. You may find earning power in skills you haven't appreciated.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Getting ahead depends on self-discipline, attention to details and questions of skill. Subtle hints from superiors save a lot of grief. The Golden Rule makes confusion more manageable.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Worrying about your career doesn't help, but list concerns and look for answers. "Helpful" friends offer hundreds of ideas. A few are actually good. A relaxing time out helps you restore clarity.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Sexual frustration is about quality, not quantity. The need for emotional depth and commitment surprises you. If partnered, you're overdue for a good talk.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

It's easy to obsess on minutiae. Clear out garbage and clutter. Your partner or good friend will be glad to help you decide what needs to go. Let a sibling get saddled with the family keepsakes.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Being sensitive to others helps you get ahead, but keep boundaries clear. Confusion easily feeds into arguments. Keep a critical eye on yourself can fend off trouble.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

A mad, passionate fling leaves you spinning and wanting more. It's not love, so keep your expectations in check. Your wicked tongue is a potent weapon. Be careful where you aim that thing.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Would a tawdry affair make you feel cheap and used? That could be half the fun. Keep your eyes open and your mind clear. If you do get swept off your feet, you will have to pick up the mess.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Pressure at work is largely in your own head. Plan long-term strategies but they have to be flexible. Burning off energy with some friends will help you from being a pain to your colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Do your best work and let it speak for itself. You don't need to prove anything. When those nagging voices fill your brain, identify where they come from and get rid of them.

THIS WEEK

Mars in Virgo quincunx to Eris can make people bitchy and competitive. As the sun aspects those two you can see better how to turn that energy to constructive self-criticism. Mercury conjoining Pluto in Capricorn focuses that energy and raises the stakes.

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

amusements

JANE'S WORLD



















bitter girl

ADS SHE'D LIKE TO SEE #6









10 13 14 15 16 18 19 30 25 26 32 33 35 36 38 42 45 46 52 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65

Blended Family Member

Solution on page 29

Across

- 1 Pre-kiss insert
- 5 Like the Indy 500?
- 9 Exotica director Egoyan
- 13 Unwelcome obligation
- 14 Showboat's "Nobody ____ But Me"
- 15 "___ Hai" of South Pacific
- 16 Start of a quip
- 19 Peter Pan penner
- 20 Hangouts for Natalie Barney
- 21 Like the top of the world
- 24 More of the quip
- 32 Rub the wrong way
- 33 One of Martina's serves
- 34 Branding tool
- 35 Spartacus or Ben-Hur
- 36 Go down on a hill
- 37 What you do to loins
- 38 GI mail drop
- 39 Harper and Trueheart
- 41 Sign of a Broadway hit
- 42 More of the quip
- 44 More of the quip
- 46 Co-creator of Spamalot

NOW HE GOES WARRY UPTOWN TO

GET HIS -AHEM-EXERCISE

- 51 End of the quip
- 57 Alternatives to asses
- 58 Place for Proust
- 59 Bugs Bunny's Broadway musical?
- 60 Italian well
- 61 Gaza Stripper, e.g.
- 62 East of Eden director Kazan
- 63 Something the nose knows
- 64 Lesbian couple with children
- 65 Vibrator in a mouthpiece

Down

- 1 Honey holder
- 2 Lord of the Rings singer
- 3 German industrial valley
- 4 Peter the Great, for one
- 5 Like a doctor's patients
- 6 Jarreau and Jolson
- 7 CBS show in which semen may be evidence
- 8 "You bet!"
- 9 His brother laid him in his grave
- 10 Starch source
- 11 Brothers & Sisters producer Ken
- 12 Piggy's title
- 17 Neeson of Kinsey
- 18 South-of-the-border order
- 22 Above-average grade
- 23 Hoods
- 24 'Hoods
- 25 Fantasia ballerina
- 26 George, who was Mary Ann
- 27 Camcorder abbr.
- 28 Understand, Ginsberg
- 29 Like Emma Donoghue
- 30 Joe of baseball
- 31 Biblical witch's home
- 39 Hatcher of Desperate Housewives
- 40 Like sex for one
- 43 Bunny's boss
- 45 Restraining rope
- 47 Religion of Allah
- 48 Where Aida premiered
- 49 Erection supporter
- 50 Defeats decisively
- 51 Judy Garland concert persona
- 52 Took a bough?
- 53 Jay of TV
- 54 In the pink
- 55 Buffalo's lake
- 56 Enjoy Capote







A Couple

Dave Browssam

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scene



New Year's Eve on the Strip.

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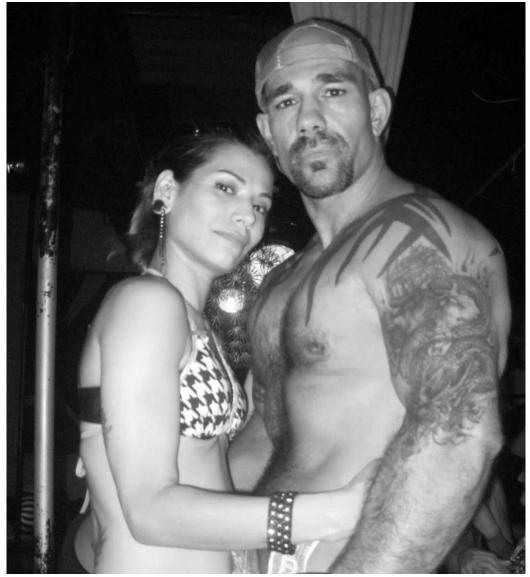
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE NEW YEAR'S EVE PHOTOS, VISIT DALLASVOICE.COM.



Kylie and Brandon at TMC: The Mining Company.



New Year's Eve on the Strip.



Angelique and Alex at the Rainbow Lounge.



New Year's Eve on the Strip.



Bella and Chad at Drama Room



New Year's Eve on the Strip.



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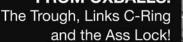
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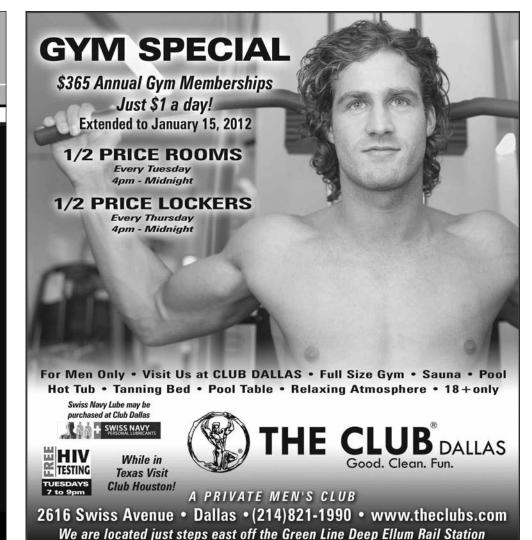
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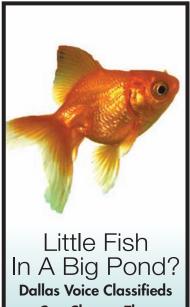


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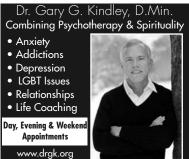
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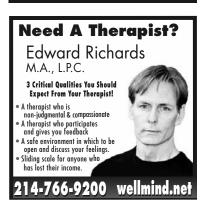
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