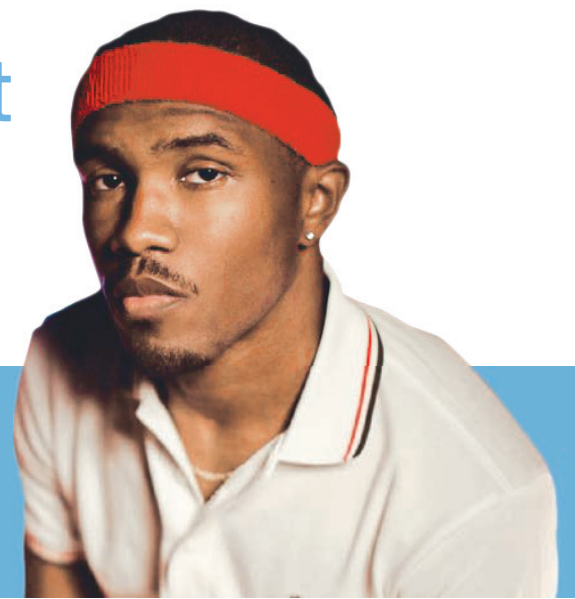


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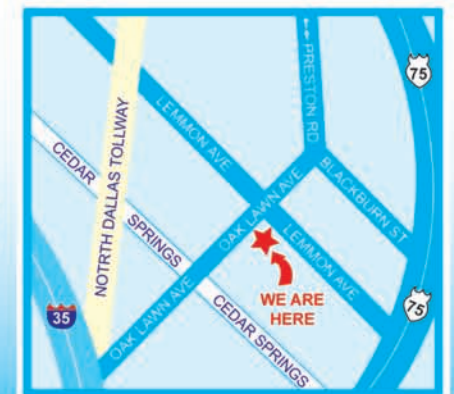
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Bush 41's legacy on LGBT issues

President George H.W. Bush remained in guarded condition Thursday, Dec. 27, in the intensive care unit of a Houston hospital, according to the Houston Chronicle.

His prognosis is unclear, but now seems like a good time to look back on Bush 41's legacy on LGBT and HIV/AIDS issues.

Bush came into office on Jan. 20, 1989, promising a "kinder, gentler nation." That was wonderful news to the gay community that had been ravaged by AIDS. During the previous eight years, the nation had been led by a president who had uttered the word AIDS for the first time just a little more than a year before.

Locally, gay-rights advocates were focused on things like police stings at Reverchon Park and employment discrimination, but Bruce Monroe, who was president of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance in the early 90s, said national LGBT groups were primarily focused on HIV/AIDS.

When Bush took office, "don't ask, don't tell" and the Defense of Marriage Act were still an entire administration away. At that time, service members who were found to be gay or lesbian were court-martialed, imprisoned and given dishonorable discharges. And the concept of marriage equality was still several years away.

AIDS was the major concern of the community — gay men were getting it and lesbians were taking care of their friends.

In 1990, Bush's Secretary of Health and Human Services, Louis Sullivan, attended the International AIDS conference in San Francisco. His keynote address was drowned out by activists from ACT UP. Many delegates walked out.

Bush had been invited to speak, but he declined. In 1987, as vice president, he attended the conference in Washington, D.C. and was roundly booed, so the community understood his reluctance to attend. But what offended people in the LGBT community at the time wasn't sending a proxy to the event, but that Bush attended a fundraiser for anti-gay Sen. Jesse Helms that night instead.

In 1991, more protests against the president and his handling of AIDS were held. In September, Bush defended his administration's handling of the epidemic and said in a news conference, "Here's a disease where you can control its spread by your own personal behavior."

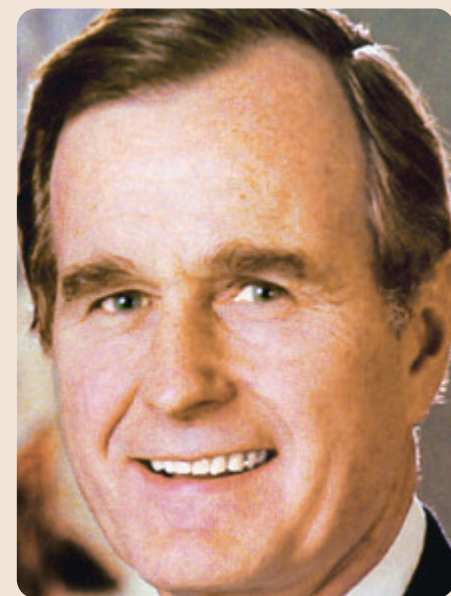
But spending on research had grown to \$4 billion annually. While AZT was still the only drug prescribed for people living with AIDS, scientists were closing in on medications that would make the disease manageable within the decade. And Bush responded to demonstrators saying that he got the message on the need for compassion "loud and clear."

Also, in 1991, Social Security expanded its rules to allow people with AIDS to go on disability and claim benefits. At the same time, a Helms-sponsored bill signed into law by Bush prevented people with HIV from entering the country.

In August 1992, DGLA organized a protest against Bush when he addressed a conservative religious group at the Dallas Convention Center.

"Republicans were embracing religious groups and eliminating the division between church and state," Monroe said.

Responding to the president's "family values" campaign theme, Sandy Moore, organizer of the newly formed Dallas PFLAG chapter, said at the rally, "George and Barbara Bush have not cor-



President George H.W. Bush

nered the market on standing up for their children."

Some demonstrators laid on the plaza outside the hall while others chalked their outlines and wrote the names of friends who had died of AIDS. The idea was that attendees to the religious conference would have to walk over the chalked bodies and see names of the dead.

But frustration grew during the candlelight protest. After more than an hour of speeches and chanting, demonstrators moved from the plaza to the glass entrances of the convention center (then a much smaller venue) and began pounding on the doors hoping the president and his donors would hear the noise.

"Four more months," the protesters chanted as they pounded on the convention center glass.

Mounted Dallas police locked doors to the building and dispersed the crowd. One protester, William Daniels, refused to leave and was arrested.

At the Republican convention held that month in Houston, Mary Fisher, a mother with AIDS who was a lifelong Republican, told the delegates "AIDS doesn't discriminate."

But hers was closely followed by a caustic speech by Patrick Buchanan, who called Hillary Clinton a radical feminist and accused Bill Clinton of supporting abortion on demand and gay rights.

Monroe said he believes that speech sealed Bush's legacy in the minds of most people in the LGBT community.

"Bush was an intellectual man," Monroe said. "He had mouthpieces in the Republican Party say things so he didn't have to."

Monroe said Bush's legacy on other LGBT rights was insignificant. Some gains were made especially on the local level. In Dallas, DGLA won the Mica England case against the Dallas Police Department that forced the city to stop asking sexual orientation on its employment application and using it to disqualify candidates.

He said that nationally, advances were made for people with AIDS. More money was spent on research than under Reagan, but Monroe said that only happened when the fear grew that HIV was spreading beyond gay men.

But he said the Red Ribbon around the White House during Bush's term was an indication that for the first time there was a president who had some understanding of the threat of AIDS.

— David Taffet

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Obama rode LGBT support to 2nd term

1 During his first three years in office, President Barack Obama had already done more to advance LGBT equality than any president in history. He'd successfully championed federal hate crimes legislation and the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," stopped defending the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in court and made hundreds of LGBT appointments, among other things.

But as 2012 began, and with the November election looming against the backdrop of an all-too-sluggish economic recovery, LGBT advocates made it clear Obama would need to do even more to shore up one of his key constituencies.

Specifically, they called for the president to complete his so-called evolution on marriage equality and sign an executive order banning anti-LGBT employment discrimination by federal contractors.

However, after a high-level meeting with LGBT leaders at the White House in April, it became clear the latter wasn't going to happen anytime soon. As with DADT, Obama wanted to hold out for a permanent legislative solution in the form of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The news led to reports of some major LGBT donors withholding contributions to Obama's re-election campaign, but their concerns would be put firmly to rest a month later when Obama made a historic announcement. On May 9, in an interview with ABC News' Robin Roberts, the president finally came out for marriage equality.

"At a certain point, I've just concluded that for me personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married," Obama said. "I had hesitated on gay marriage in part because I thought that civil unions would be sufficient."



FOUR MORE CHEERS | Stonewall Democrats members Jay Narey, left, and Charles Griffin celebrate at the Round-Up Saloon Nov. 6 after the race was called in favor of Barack Obama. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

The LGBT community rejoiced — and subsequently rewarded Obama with large infusions of campaign cash. (Even before his announcement, a Washington Post analysis found that one in six Obama "bundlers" who raised more than

\$500,000 were gay.)

There was some backlash against Obama's support for marriage equality, to be sure, perhaps the most alarming of which was within the black church, but days later the NAACP would seem-

ingly quell the dissent by coming out for marriage equality itself. Even the Texas Democratic Party added marriage equality to its platform on the president's coattails, and the National Democratic Party would later do the same.

Above all, though, Obama's announcement drew the starkest of contrasts with his opponent, Republican Mitt Romney, who'd signed a pledge from the National Organization for Marriage saying he'd seek to enshrine discrimination into the U.S. Constitution by backing a federal marriage amendment.

Perhaps because the contrast was so stark — but more likely because they were overshadowed by the economy — LGBT issues were largely absent from the latter days of the campaign, and were not discussed at all during the debates.

But come Election Day, the LGBT vote would prove to be a major, if not decisive, factor.

Exit polls showed that with 5 percent of voters identifying as gay, 76 percent of them supported Obama and 22 percent supported Romney. Among straight people, each candidate received 49 percent of the vote, and in swing states like Ohio and Florida, Romney was believed to have won the straight vote.

As the year wound down, LGBT advocates made a new list of requests for the president. It contained things like the nondiscrimination executive order, legislative repeal of DOMA, an LGBT cabinet member and briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court as it prepares to hear two cases involving marriage equality.

Judging from Obama's record — though it may not be precisely where, when or how we want — he'll continue to deliver.

— John Wright

Tonya Parker took a stand for marriage equality

2 The marriage equality movement gained steam in Texas when Dallas County Judge Tonya Parker announced her refusal to perform marriages because, as a lesbian, she can't get married in her own state.

Parker, who sits on the 116th Civil District Court bench, spoke of the inequality during a Stonewall Democrats of Dallas meeting in February, setting off a storm of media coverage. A Dallas Voice YouTube video of her remarks was viewed more than 30,000 times.

The news soon went national and international, with coverage from the Washington Post and the New York Daily News to London's Daily Mail. She said she'd received hundreds of interview requests within a week's time, including *Good Morning America* and *Ellen*, but declined them all, including an in-depth interview with Dallas Voice, because the attention became a distraction from

her judicial duties.

Local, state and national LGBT advocates and allies applauded Parker's stance in the media, calling her a role model and a hero for using her status as an elected official to educate others on LGBT inequality in the state.

Parker has already paved the way in Texas as the first LGBT person elected judge in Dallas County and is believed to be the first openly LGBT African-American elected official in the state's history. She's also the first known judge in the nation — gay or straight — to refuse to perform marriages because of inequality.

But her actions also brought a debate about whether she was neglecting her role as a judge by not performing marriages or if she should decline to marry straight couples. She clarified that after declining to perform a marriage, she would recommend a couple to another judge and use the

opportunity to explain to them why she wouldn't join the two in matrimony. Judges have the power to perform marriages, but the Texas Family Code doesn't require them to as an obligatory duty, so Parker wasn't breaking the law.

Her comments came early in a year that would prove to be historic for marriage equality from President Barack Obama coming out in support of same-sex marriage to marriage ballot measure wins in Maine, Maryland, Washington and Minnesota.

While media attention eventually died down, Parker continued to attend and speak at Stonewall events in the area and at national law conferences. She was honored by Youth First Texas as a community hero and also received Stonewall Democrats of Dallas' Harryette Ehrhardt Distinguished Democrat Award at the group's annual award ceremony in December.



Judge Tonya Parker

Using her political position to advocate for equality and change people's minds about injustices in the LGBT community made her a rising star — one people still can't get enough of.

— Anna Waugh



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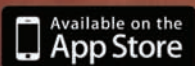
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Texas got a pansexual legislator

3 After a decade without an openly LGBT state representative, Mary Gonzalez was elected to represent El Paso's District 75.

Replacing outgoing state Rep. Chente Quintanilla, Gonzalez became the first woman elected to represent the district after defeating challengers in the Democratic Primary and winning unopposed in the general election.

She's the first openly LGBT woman elected to the Texas Legislature, but she is the second openly gay representative, after Austin's Glen Maxey, who served from 1991 to 2003.

But Gonzalez also brought another first for Texas and possibly the nation. She's pansexual, a sexual orientation often compared to bisexuality, though it is distinctly different because pansexuals don't believe in a gender binary and can be attracted to all gender identities.

The El Paso native focused on improving her district during her campaign even when her opponents focused on her sexual orientation. She continued to explain her plans for mandatory infrastructure, clean drinking water and better education in her community.

But while she was open about her sexuality during her run for office, she allowed mainstream media to use gay because many didn't understand



Rep.-elect Mary Gonzalez

what she meant by referring to herself as queer.

Gay eventually turned into lesbian, but Gonzalez ignored the headlines to focus on her campaign.

When Dallas Voice did a cover story on her after the primary, she objected to the term lesbian, and later came out as pansexual.

■ GONZALEZ, Next Page



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Marriage plowed through 3 states to high court

4 On the same day one state began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear two cases involving marriage equality.

Support for marriage had been growing all year. After Vice President Joe Biden voiced his support on *Meet the Press*, President Barack Obama officially “evolved” a few days later.

Legislatures in three states — Maine, Maryland and Washington — passed marriage equality this year. Governors in all three signed the bills into law. But the National Organization for Marriage, with support from the Catholic Church, the Mormon church and fundamentalist religious groups, halted implementation of the laws by getting referenda on the ballot in those states.

In 2009, voters in Maine blocked marriage equality after it passed the Legislature. But this year they gave their approval. So did voters in Maryland and Washington. And in Minnesota, voters rejected a state anti-marriage amendment, clearing the way for that Legislature to possibly consider marriage equality next year.

The votes marked the first four times LGBT rights had prevailed at the ballot box following some 30 defeats. The outcome also brought the number of states with marriage equality to nine, plus the District of Columbia.

Then, on Dec. 7, the Supreme Court announced it would hear two marriage cases.

The first is the Proposition 8 case challenging California’s amendment banning same-sex marriage. Had the high court declined to hear Prop 8, marriage would have resumed in California the next week. Instead, justices will hear arguments next spring in *Perry v. Hollinsworth*.



BEAR BLISS | One-time Dallas residents Larry Duncan and Randy Shepherd apply for a marriage license in Seattle on Dec. 6. (Meryl Schenker)

California officials refused to appeal the lower court ruling declaring Prop 8 unconstitutional. So it’s possible the Supreme Court will limit its ruling to whether defenders of the amendment have standing. However, if the court strikes down Prop 8 on the merits, it could affect every anti-gay state marriage amendment that has passed.

On the flip side, should the court uphold Prop 8 on the merits, it would be a major setback to LGBT equality that could take decades to over-

come.

The court will also hear widow Edie Windsor’s case challenging the Defense of Marriage Act. Of all the cases pending, this is the one LGBT legal experts hoped the court would take. The case involves a couple who had been together 45 years and is a clear example of tax discrimination. Had the couple been heterosexual, the surviving partner would not have owed \$350,000 in estate tax.

Decisions in both the Prop 8 case and the

DOMA case are expected in late June 2014.

The same day the court announced it would hear them, Washington state issued its first licenses to same-sex couples. Two days later, more than 1,000 same-sex couples were married.

In Maine, marriage begins on Dec. 29. Some counties in Maryland have already begun issuing marriage licenses for ceremonies to begin on New Year’s Day.

— David Taffet

■ GONZALEZ, From Previous Page

She’s believed to be the only out pansexual politician in the U.S.

Gonzalez was hesitant to tell voters she was pansexual because the term may have confused them, but she also rejected bisexual because it did-

n’t fully explain her orientation or how she viewed her attraction to others.

Despite not coming out as bi and facing criticism from within the LGBT community, she said she was always honest when asked about past relationships with men, women and trans people.

Her election as the state’s first out female law-

maker went national, focusing on the changing times in Texas and how progressive El Paso was. When she publicly acknowledged that she is pan, it educated citizens near and far on what that sexuality meant and the importance of being proud of who you are.

History has proven that having an LGBT law-

maker helps pro-equality legislation pass because they can speak about how it will affect them.

Gonzalez is focused on the impact she can make for her district and LGBT advocates are pleased to have an authentic voice for the community to represent them in Austin when she’s sworn in Jan. 8.

— Anna Waugh

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Rawlings wouldn't pledge his support

5 Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings began 2012 by disappointing many in the LGBT community. He ended it by doing the same.

During the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C., in January, the gay-rights group Freedom To Marry asked participants — and mayors across the country — to pledge their support for marriage equality.

Rawlings, who had expressed tepid support for marriage equality during his 2011 campaign, declined to join Mayors for the Freedom To Marry. Rawlings said while he personally supported marriage equality, he wanted to avoid partisan political issues or social debates that didn't directly impact city government.

The LGBT community wasn't satisfied, to say the least, especially after learning that hundreds of mayors had signed the pledge and Dallas was the largest city — both in Texas and the U.S. — whose mayor had not.

A "Sign the Pledge" rally outside Dallas City Hall drew more than 100 — and was followed the next day by a closed-door meeting between Rawlings and about 25 LGBT leaders at Resource Center Dallas.

Despite heartfelt pleas from longtime same-sex couples during the meeting, Rawlings wouldn't budge. A few days later he projected a new spin: The mayor argued his decision not to sign the pledge put him in a position to advocate on behalf of LGBT civil rights among religious conservatives. He also reiterated a desire to focus on the



NOT LIKING MIKE | About 100 attended a 'Sign the Pledge' rally at City Hall in January. It was followed the next day by a meeting between Mayor Mike Rawlings and about 25 LGBT leaders. But the mayor wouldn't budge on his refusal to join Mayors for the Freedom to Marry. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

substantive rather than the symbolic, but failed to produce any specific LGBT-related initiatives.

Come June, the mayor didn't attend any of the city's four official LGBT Pride Month events — two of which took place at City Hall. He did record a video message that was played at one.

"Sometimes we haven't agreed. But you've stayed steadfast, talked about the issues that are important to you and treated me with a real honor and respect," Rawlings said in the message. "Your style, your character, it's truly something to be proud of. I love the way you advocate for your issues. I'm proud just to have you in Dallas."

In September, Rawlings appeared in the Dallas Pride parade for the second consecutive year, but there were whispers among activists about people turning their backs — or even booing Rawlings — as the city float rode by.

Two months later we learned the mayor's refusal to sign the pledge was among factors that hurt the city's score on HRC's first-ever Municipal Equality Index, and Dallas received a surprisingly

low 76 out of 100.

Finally, in December, Councilman Scott Griggs announced his plan to introduce council resolutions in support of marriage equality and a statewide ban on anti-LGBT employment discrimination. Unlike seven other council members, Rawlings has declined to express his support for the concept of the resolutions — saying he needs to see them and discuss them with Griggs before taking a position.

As the New Year approached, activist Cd Kirven expressed a sentiment that's undoubtedly shared by a majority of LGBT voters in Dallas.

"I don't even see any progress or evolution on the mayor's part. I see him privately supporting us and not publicly supporting us and, to me, that's unacceptable," Kirven said.

"So until I get both private and public support from the mayor, my goal will be to try to find a candidate to get him replaced as mayor, somebody who can support LGBT families."

— John Wright

Beau and Major went to jail after being denied a marriage license

6 For the first time that anyone could remember, two people were arrested in Dallas demonstrating for LGBT equality. After Mark "Major" Jimenez proposed to Beau Chandler, the couple decided they wanted to get married. But they didn't want to go out of state, like many of their friends had. They wanted to get married surrounded by all of their friends right here in Dallas.

So the day after Independence Day, the couple did what lots of other couples did that day. They went to the Dallas County Records Building to apply for a marriage license. And while heterosexual couples had their documents issued, Chandler and Jimenez were turned down.

A marriage bureau clerk called the couple into a private room. As required, she asked whether one of the men was applying as a proxy. The couple replied that they were not. She told them that Texas law did not allow her to issue the license.

When Chandler said, "But we love each other," she, along with other onlookers, burst into tears.

Rather than leaving the Records Building, the couple staged a protest. They handcuffed themselves to the stanchion at the front of the line. Each time a clerk asked who was next in line, Jimenez said he was.

Deputies routed the line around the couple but allowed them to stage their protest all day.

At closing time, everyone was told to leave the building. When Chandler and Jimenez refused, they were arrested for trespassing.

A group of supporters protested in front of Lew Sterrett Justice Center until the couple was released on bond about midnight.

After the couple's first hearings in August, sup-

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porters marched to the Records Building for a second demonstration.

That afternoon, four same-sex couples, including Jiminez and Chandler, applied for marriage licenses and were all denied. While the group filling the license office was even larger than at the first demonstration, only Jiminez refused to leave at the end of the business day and was arrested for a second time.

Chandler left the building with the other demonstrators. He had been warned by his employer not to get into anymore legal trouble, but was fired a few weeks later anyway.

In September, the couple married without legal sanction at a friend's house near Bachman Lake followed by a reception at the Dallas Eagle.

Attorneys planned a defense emphasizing marriage equality while assuming the district attorney would emphasize the arrest was for trespassing despite the circumstances of the protest.

In a November court appearance, Chandler's attorneys told the district attorney's office that he would accept only a complete dismissal. He was offered dismissal after completing 40 hours of community service at any Dallas non-profit organization. Chandler accepted that deal and was spending his time working with non-profit LGBT groups.

Jiminez's cases are still pending, with no court date set.

— David Taffet



CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE | Mark 'Major' Jiminez, right, and Beau Chandler refused to leave the Records Building July 5 after handcuffing themselves together inside the marriage bureau. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

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Baldwin became 1st LGBT person elected to U.S. Senate; House gained 2 out members

7The year began on a high note for out candidates as Annise Parker was inaugurated for her second term as Houston mayor. By the end of the year, the LGBT community would be sending its largest delegation to Congress including the first openly lesbian member of the Senate.

"There is no question that we have reached a turning point in our movement," Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said in a phone press conference after the election.

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., announced her candidacy for the Senate early in the year after Sen. Herb Kohl announced his retirement. Her formidable opponent in the race was former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, who served as President George Bush's first secretary of Health and Human Services.



Sen.-elect Tammy Baldwin

In April, Baldwin came to Dallas on a fundraising trip where she spoke to HRC's DFW Federal Club.

Throughout her campaign, Baldwin never shied away from LGBT issues and told Dallas Voice during her visit that she wanted to see marriage equality in the Democratic Party platform.

In addition to Baldwin's high-profile campaign for Senate, more openly LGBT candidates ran for the House of Representatives than ever. And despite the retirement of longest-serving

out Rep. Barney Frank and elevation of Baldwin to the Senate, more out LGBT people will be serving in the House.

Openly LGBT incumbent Reps. Jared Polis, D-Colo., and David Cicilline, D-R.I., both handily won re-election.

Krysten Sinema became the first openly bisexual person elected to Congress. The Arizona Democrat will represent a suburban Phoenix district. In April, Sinema appeared at Sue Ellen's in Dallas for a fundraiser. She won her seat with a razor thin majority that wasn't called until days after the election.

Sean Patrick Maloney defeated a Republican incumbent to represent a suburban district north of New York City becoming that state's first openly gay member of Congress.

California's Mark Takano not only became his state's first openly gay House member, but the first non-white LGBT person elected to Congress.

And Mark Pocan replaced Tammy Baldwin in the House, marking the first time a House seat passed from one LGBT person to another. And the first time people in a district could claim being represented in Congress by a gay representative and a lesbian senator.

Other gays and lesbians ran. Richard Tisei from Massachusetts was the first openly gay Republican to run for Congress since Jim Kolbe retired in 2007. Lesbian Democrat Nicole LaFavour lost her bid to unseat Idaho's Mike Simpson.

Locally, Sheriff Lupe Valdez easily won reelection to her third term with 58 percent of the vote. "I'm blessed, I'm honored and continually grateful for the progressiveness of Dallas County," Valdez told Dallas Voice at the Stonewall Democrats party at the Round-Up Saloon.

— David Taffet



SPECIAL DELIVERY | Ousted lesbian den leader Jennifer Tyrrell delivers petitions calling for an end to the Boy Scouts' gay ban at the group's headquarters in Irving in July. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

Scouts reaffirmed gay ban

8The last six months haven't been kind to the Irving-based Boy Scouts of America. A petition to reinstate a rural Ohio Cub Scout leader presented to the organization in July led to at least three major corporations pulling support that totaled more than three-quarters of a million dollars.

A year earlier, lesbian Jen Tyrrell began leading her son's Cub Scout troop. When she was asked to move up to the regional office, she quickly found financial irregularities. Rather than respond to the money allegations, she was suddenly dismissed because she's a lesbian.

In the wake of a Dallas Voice cover story on the Scouts, Tyrrell and Change.org decided it was time to deliver a petition to reinstate her that had already gathered 300,000 signatures.

Meanwhile, the new president of the Boy Scouts, who is also the CEO of AT&T, thought it might be time the organization bring its policies in line with most major corporations. His thoughts and those of the Boy Scouts' honorary president, Barack Obama, were quickly overruled.

Between the time that the DV story was published and the time Tyrrell arrived in Dallas, the Boy Scouts announced the results of a two-year study that indicated it needed to maintain their policy of exclusion for the good of the organization.

When conclusions of the study were released in conjunction with Tyrrell's visit, Zach Wahls, founder of Scouts for Equality, wondered who the members of this panel were, where the minutes of the meetings were and where the study was.

Deron Smith, spokesman for the Boy Scouts, never denied that the organization had simply lied and made up the entire study when asked by Wahls. Instead, he stopped talking to the press and the Boy Scouts hired a public relations firm to handle the ensuing PR nightmare.

By August, a steady stream of Eagle Scouts, among the Boy Scouts biggest group of individual donors, had returned their badges.

While the Boy Scouts dug in their heels, Scouts for Equality began contacting the organization's major funders. Its first success came with Intel, which changed its

donation policy to only fund those non-profits that have gay-inclusive nondiscrimination policies.

Next, after prompting from Wahls, UPS decided it was time to bring its giving policies in line with its own corporate culture.

In December, without any apparent outside influence, Merck announced it was suspending support of organizations that discriminate.

Meanwhile, as Tyrrell's petition gathers more signatures, the Boy Scouts continue to dig in their heels. In August, eight-year employee Timothy Griffin was fired from a California Boy Scout camp because he was gay and a 19-year-old Eagle Scout was fired from a Missouri Boy Scout camp.

In October, a California high school senior was denied his Eagle Scout award because he came out. And in Louisville, a leader was forced to step down from his son's troop when he wrote to BSA executives in Irving protesting the policy and revealing he is gay.

— David Taffet

Dallas County finally added DP benefits

9 This year, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins followed through on his mission to offer domestic partner benefits to gay and lesbian county employees.

Jenkins started the process last year, but a budget shortfall failed to make them a reality.

Jenkins presented his plan to the Public Employee Benefits Cooperative, a self-insured government partner agency that helps keep the cost of benefits affordable. Despite having a majority in favor from members representing Dallas, Tarrant, Denton and Parker counties, and the North Texas Tollway Authority, representatives from Tarrant and Denton counties threatened a veto.

As founding members of the PEBC, counties have the power to veto new benefits or eligibility changes, which require a board vote to go into effect. The board voted down offering DP benefits last year by one vote.

After the PEBC route proved unsuccessful again in August, Jenkins joined forces with Commissioner Elba Garcia to strategize and create a plan that would provide the benefits outside of the partner agency.

In mid-October, the plan was ready to present to the Commissioners Court. By then, the court's

third Democrat Commissioner John Wiley Price voiced public support for the benefits, giving the court the three votes it needed to pass the plan.

Not surprisingly, Republican Commissioners Mike Cantrell and Maurine Dickey were opposed to the idea, calling it a political strategy and against Texas' constitutional amendment banning anything similar or identical to marriage.

A notable outburst occurred while LGBT advocates urged the court to pass the plan when Dickey interrupted one speaker to tell a man in the audience to stop taking her picture. Lesbian activist Cd Kirven was the person she was referring to. Kirven corrected Dickey, telling her she was a female and was taking pictures of her friend addressing the court. Dickey continued to refer to Kirven as male, even after Commissioner John Wiley Price corrected her as well.

The benefits passed 3-2 on party lines, making Dallas County the third county in Texas to offer the benefits after Travis and El Paso counties.

The plan goes into effect Jan. 1 and offers county employees a subsidy if they have opposite- or same-sex domestic partners who do not have insurance through other means. The county will reimburse employees for 45 percent of their



County Judge Clay Jenkins

partners' insurance or up to \$295.78 monthly — the amount the county contributes toward em-

ployees' coverage — whichever is less.

LGBT advocates praised the outcome and the determination of Jenkins and Garcia for finding a way to offer the benefits, which many doubted was possible.

But just as much strategizing followed that praise because the coverage is still not equal. And gay employees will be taxed on the subsidy because the federal government doesn't recognize same-sex spouses.

Other issues were raised about the cost of purchasing a private insurance plan, even with the subsidy to help with the expense.

Jenkins plans to pursue other options next year for more equal benefits, including voting to leave the PEBC in order to find an insurance provider that offers DP benefits.

While leaving the PEBC seems to be the best option for full equal coverage, domestic partner benefits may be challenged in the coming months. Shortly after Dallas County approved the benefits, state Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, sought an opinion on them from Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and whether they violated the state's constitutional amendment.

— Anna Waugh

Chick-fil-A, J.C. Penney took stands on gay rights

10 Companies took stands this year for and against equality, sparking boycotts on both sides and demonstrating how important corporate views are to customers.

One of the most controversial moves was Plano-based J.C. Penney's selection of lesbian comedian and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres as its spokeswoman.

The announcement was met with heated discourse because of her sexual orientation, and anti-gay group One Million Moms launched a boycott because they thought DeGeneres didn't stand for American values because she's gay. OMM is a segment of the American Family Association, which is labeled a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

DeGeneres addressed the claims on her talk show, saying she stood for love and honesty. The company backed DeGeneres and aired commer-



A GAME OF CHICKEN | Students from the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District, north of Dallas, stand outside a Chick-fil-A during a Same-Sex Kiss-In on Aug. 3. (Elizabeth Parker)

cials featuring her during the Super Bowl.

The unsuccessful boycott was short-lived after OMM announced in March that the hate group was focusing on other battles in the cultural war. Then in May, local J.C. Penney employee Wendi Hollenbeck was featured in the company's Mother's Day catalog with partner Maggie and their children. The ad reignited OMM's boycott.

But OMM's outcries again went unheard and June's catalog featured an ad displaying Dallas dads Cooper Smith and Todd Koch in a playful

moment with their two children. The ad was one of the first to feature a same-sex male couple with children.

J.C. Penney's refusal to discriminate and remove DeGeneres as their spokeswoman and their inclusive ads won them many awards, including one from GLAAD. Locally, the company was awarded Business of the Year at the inaugural Equality Texas Ally Awards and the Media Award at HRC's Black Tie Dinner.

But while J.C. Penney was taking a stand for

equality, Chick-fil-A continued to stand for "traditional marriage."

Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy spoke favorably of the company's donations to anti-gay groups in July. The Christian company was praised for its position on marriage, leading to a National Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day organized by former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Cathy's comments also sparked boycotts of the restaurant from patrons and even college campuses. The gay community also organized a National Same-Sex Kiss-in Day.

A Dallas police sergeant was accused of making inappropriate comments on the appreciation day when he placed a Chick-fil-A bag in front of two female officers.

Internal affairs later determined the claim couldn't be sustained because no one overheard the conversation. The sergeant, who was reassigned to the jail during the three-month investigation, was permanently reassigned to a different patrol division.

In September, word spread that the company was ending its contribution to anti-gay organizations after Chicago Alderman Proco Joe Moreno said he'd met with representatives who agreed to cut ties with them.

But Chick-fil-A later clarified that the contributions were misconstrued and they would continue to donate to current beneficiaries, some of which fund campaigns against marriage equality. The company released a statement that all customers are valued at its restaurants, but ultimately the company's views didn't appear to change.

— Anna Waugh

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Court puts 'reparative therapy' ban on hold

Emergency order blocks Calif. law from taking effect Jan. 1 so judges can hear arguments on whether measure violates First Amendment

LISA LEFF | Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court on Dec. 21 put the brakes on a first-of-its-kind California law that bans therapy aimed at turning gay minors straight.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued an emergency order putting the law on hold until the court can hear full arguments on the measure's constitutionality. The law was set to take effect Jan. 1.

Licensed counselors who practice so-called "reparative therapy" and two families who say their teenage sons have benefited from it sought the injunction after a lower court judge refused the request.

The law, which was passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Jerry Brown this fall, states that therapists and counselors who use "sexual orientation change efforts" on clients under 18 would be engaging in unprofessional conduct and subject to discipline by state licensing boards.

The appeals court's order prevents the state from enforcing the law, SB 1172, while a different three-judge panel considers if the measure violates the First Amendment rights of therapists and parents.

Liberty Counsel President Mathew Staver, whose Christian legal aide group is representing reparative therapy practitioners and recipients in a lawsuit seeking to overturn the law, applauded the court's decision to grant his request to delay its implementation.

"This law is politically motivated to interfere with counselors and clients. Liberty Counsel is thankful that the 9th Circuit blocked the law from going into effect," Staver said. "This law is an astounding overreach by the government into the realm of counseling and would have caused irreparable harm."

Backers of the ban say the state is obligated to outlaw reparative therapy because the practice puts young people at risk and has been rejected by every mainstream mental health association. After signing SB 1172, the governor called the therapies it would outlaw "quackery" that "have no basis in science or medicine."

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which helped fight for the law's passage, said the measure's supporters shouldn't read too much into Friday's order.

"It's disappointing because there shouldn't



TEMPORARY SETBACK | Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights said of the order, "It's disappointing because there shouldn't even be a temporary delay of this law, but this is completely irrelevant to the final outcome."

even be a temporary delay of this law, but this is completely irrelevant to the final outcome," Minter said.

The brief order issued Friday did not explain the panel's thinking. The 9th Circuit has requested briefs on the case's broader constitutional issues but has not scheduled arguments.

"California was correct to outlaw this unsound and harmful practice, and the attorney general will vigorously defend this law," said Lynda Gledhill, press secretary to Attorney General Kamala Harris.

Earlier this month, two federal trial judges in California arrived at opposite conclusions on whether the law violates the Constitution.

On Dec. 4, U.S. District Judge Kimberly Mueller refused to block the law after concluding that the plaintiffs represented by Staver were unlikely to prove the ban on "conversion" therapy unfairly tramples on their civil rights and should therefore be overturned.

The opponents argued the law would make them liable for discipline if they merely recommended the therapy to patients or discuss it with them. Mueller said they didn't demonstrate that they were likely to win, so she wouldn't block the law.

Mueller's decision came half a day after U.S. District Judge William Shubb handed down a somewhat competing ruling in a separate lawsuit filed by a psychiatrist, a licensed counselor and a former patient who is studying to practice gay conversion therapy.

Shubb said he found the First Amendment issues presented by the ban to be compelling. He ordered the state to temporarily exempt the three people named in the case before him. ■

Pope lashes out in face of marriage gains

Benedict XVI uses one of his most important speeches of the year — the Christmas address — to push so-called traditional family values

NICOLE WINFIELD | Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The pope pressed his opposition to gay marriage Dec. 21, denouncing what he described as people eschewing their God-given gender identities to suit their sexual choices — and destroying the very “essence of the human creature” in the process.

Benedict XVI made the comments in his annual Christmas address to the Vatican bureaucracy, one of his most important speeches of the year. He dedicated it this year to promoting traditional family values in the face of gains by same-sex marriage proponents in the U.S. and Europe and efforts to legalize gay marriage in places like France and Britain.

In his remarks, Benedict quoted the chief rabbi of France, Gilles Bernheim, in saying the campaign for granting gays the right to marry and adopt children was an “attack” on the traditional family

made up of a father, mother and children.

“People dispute the idea that they have a nature, given to them by their bodily identity, that serves as a defining element of the human being,” he said. “They deny their nature and decide that it is not something previously given to them, but that they make it for themselves.”

“The manipulation of nature, which we deplore today where our environment is concerned, now becomes man’s fundamental choice where he himself is concerned,” he said.

It was the second time in a week that Benedict has taken on the question of gay marriage, which is currently dividing France, and which scored big electoral wins in the U.S. last month. In his recently released annual peace message, Benedict said gay marriage, like abortion and euthanasia, was a threat to world peace. The Vatican went on a similar anti-gay marriage media blitz last month after three U.S. states approved gay marriage by popular vote.

After the peace message was released earlier this month, gay activists staged a small protest in St. Peter’s Square. On Dec. 21, gay activists sharply criticized the pope’s take on gender theory and insisted that where gay marriage has been legalized, families are no worse off.

Italy’s main gay rights group Arcigay called the pope’s comments “absurd, dangerous and totally out of synch with reality.” And a coalition of four U.S. Catholic organizations representing gay, lesbian and transgender people said the pope had an “outmoded” view of what it means to be man and woman.

“Increasingly Catholics in the United States and around the world see what we see. Catholics, following their own well-formed consciences, are voting to support equal rights for LGBT people because in their churches and communities they see a far healthier, godly and realistic vision of the human family than the one offered by the pope,” according to a statement from the groups Call To Action, DignityUSA, Fortunate Families and New Ways Ministry.

Church teaching holds that homosexual acts are “intrinsically disordered,” though it stresses that gays should be treated with compassion and dignity.

As pope and as head of the Vatican’s orthodoxy watchdog before that, Benedict has been a strong enforcer of that teaching: One of the first major documents released during his pontificate said men with “deep-seated” homosexual tendencies shouldn’t be ordained priests. ■

Death

David Lee Howard, 55, was born on March 26, 1957, and passed away on December 16, 2012, after a brief, courageous battle with cancer.

Howard had a love of animals and the great outdoors. His mother, Lou Howard, preceded him in death.

He is survived by his partner of 20 years, Bobby Utter of Dallas; his children, Heather (Al) Kennedy of Omaha, Neb., and PFC Wesley Howard of Azle, Texas; his father, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Lee R. (Twyla) Howard of Bryan, Texas; siblings, Terry (Ken) Ward of Oklahoma, Beth (John) Hap-pick of Maryland, Kathy (Mark) Sewell of Oklahoma, Randy (Jenny) Howard of Florida, and many nieces and nephews.

Howard treasured the time he spent with his family and especially three grandchildren, Micheal, Elisabeth and Austin of Nebraska. His family wishes to thank his many friends and DRA Group for becoming his extended family in their absence.

Comments can be left in the guest book at Grove-Hill.com.






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viewpoints

Confessions of a marriage doubter

Marriage wasn't a top priority — or a realistic one — in the early days of the LGBT movement, but there's no denying its importance in our culture

I've been writing about marriage a lot lately, which seems weird to me because even up to my own wedding in 2008, I had mixed feelings about the massive focus on marriage equality over the last decade.

I mean, when I came out in, well, a different century, we weren't talking much about marriage as a major goal.

We talked about rights, dammit. All of them.

Marriage, too, I guess, but there was some odd mix in our collective queer psyche that both poo-pooed marriage for aping heterosexual norms (we talked this way then) and thought that achieving marriage equality was about as likely as changing the word "God" to "Goddess" on our money. There were more important things to fight for anyway.

We could enumerate our demands like we could count Madonna hits on our fingers: an end to workplace discrimination, sodomy laws and gay bashing; access to hospital visitation and adoption; the right not to be declared an unfit parent just because you were gay or lesbian; positive representation in the media; recognition of binational couples, and the right to political asylum based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The closest we got to marriage was domestic

partnership, which we fought for and won in many places.

All of these things were so practical and necessary and all are still pressing issues somewhere, even if we've moved forward in other places. We wanted then, and now, to live our lives like anyone else without running head first into stupidity, ignorance or violence.

Marriage, though, was different.

Marriage had baggage. If you were someone's wife not long ago — and today in some cultures — you were his property. Marriage in history was about securing money, property and power. And for me, chronically single and compelled to chase after indecisive idiots throughout most of my 20s and 30s, marriage didn't have a thing to do with my freedom as a lesbian.

If you asked me in 2000 what the biggest issue facing our community was, I'd have said employment discrimination. Domestic partnership was important, too, of course, and I was happy, single as I typically was, to fight for it. It made good, practical sense if you were lucky enough to hook up with a normal person.

What's happened now that I'm beating the drum for marriage equality? Did I finally drink the Kool-Aid? Am I a patriarchy-and-heterosexuality-blinded zombie?

No, and I still don't like to be called anyone's wife. I just got to the core of the thing: The differ-

ence between marriage and domestic partnership, aside from the fact that "domestic partnership" will always look better on a numbered administrative form than embossed in fancy curlicues, is a sense of dignity.

If we had civil unions under the law for everyone, and marriage were only a spiritual contract, then I'd be all over the domestic partnership thing. But that's not the way our culture does it.

Marriage is the brass ring of agreements. The courts have held it to be the bedrock relationship of our society since the Magna Carta. (In fact, the 1879 Supreme Court case that upheld bans on polygamy didn't mention morality; instead, it spoke about protecting the democratic system: If a man could have a dozen wives, he became, essentially, a despot).

In its most basic form, everyone knows, more or less, what you mean when you say, "We're married." Likewise, everyone understands why you sometimes need a divorce, but I once had to explain to someone, repeatedly, why she needed to dissolve her domestic partnership when the relationship tanked.

As the right wing reminds us, marriage is special and important — which is why we're fighting so hard for it. Marriage equality could happen as soon as 2013. It could move us dramatically closer to legal equality in all realms, regardless if we're single, married or otherwise arranged.

I get why some people don't give a toss about conventional marriage. I'll fight for their rights too.

But most of us, LGBT or not, and me, too, are inevitably drawn back to our cultural roots. It can be a beautiful thing as long as we don't get all zombified about it.

California-based writer Abby Dees is the author of Queer Questions Straight Talk. She can be contacted via QueerQuestionsStraightTalk.com.



Abby Dees

Contributing columnist



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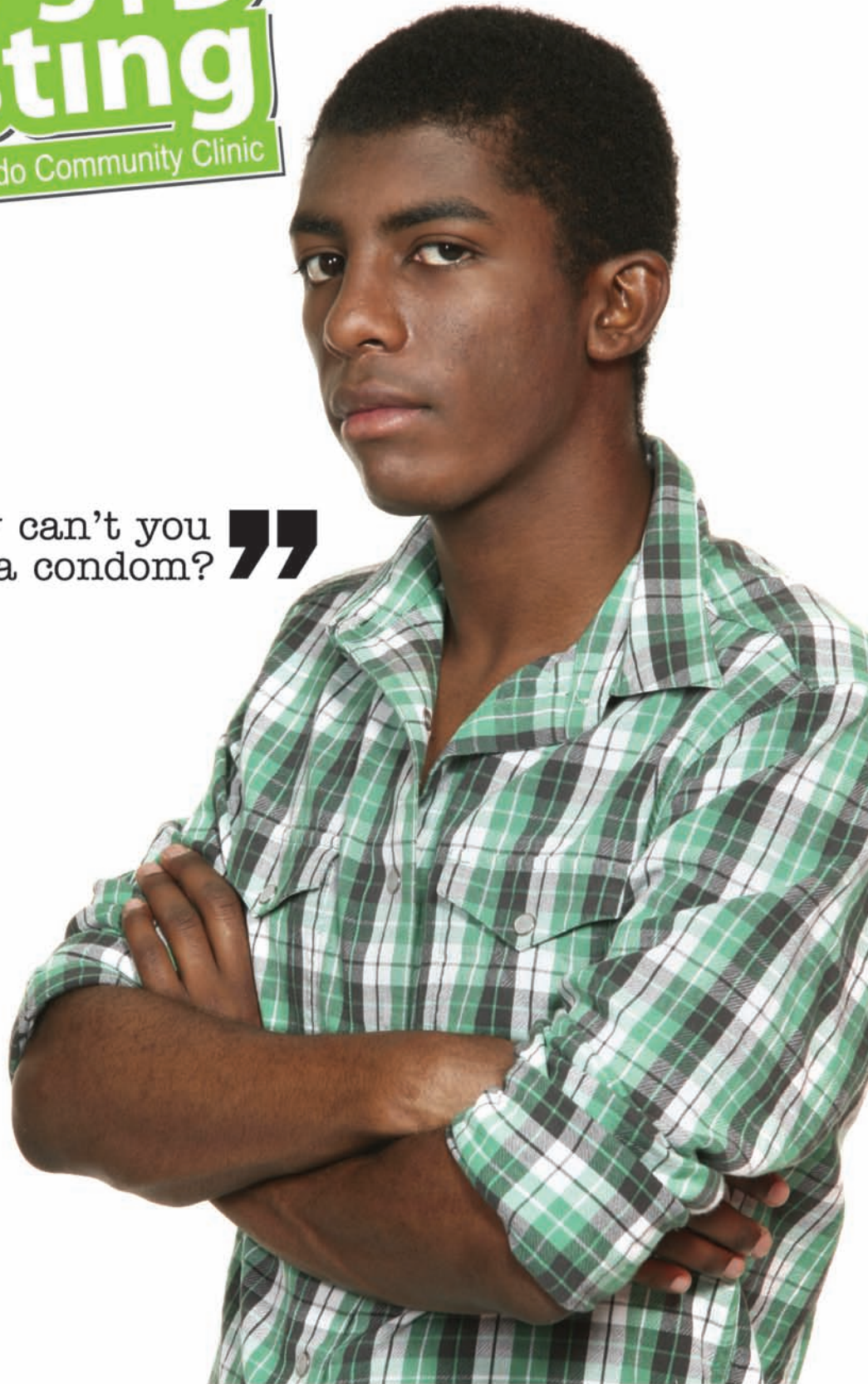
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The year in entertainment

Our critics rank the best of 2012 in film, stage and music, and name our 10th Actor of the Year

LIFE+STYLE
year in review



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

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW
SCREEN

OVER THE LIMIT | Ang Lee's breathtaking film 'Life of Pi,' left, and Uptown Players' hilarious production of 'Mel Brooks' The Producers' helped define 2012 creatively.



2012 YEAR IN REVIEW
STAGE

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES
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2012 was the year mainstream movies got gay and found God.

Strangely, that duo ended up not being so unusual. But the depth to which characters in film embraced religious feelings *and* same-sex feelings (not usually in the same film) was noticeable. From the Catholic guilt about sex in *The Sessions* to the spiritual journey through three major religions in *Life of Pi* to the 16th president's conviction that God-given rights are just that in *Lincoln* to the salvation of Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, a higher power figured into numerous films this year. In fact, if one theme outstripped it, that would be gay issues.

And not just in niche festival films, or played for laughs as asinine comic relief *a la* *The Hangover*. In addition to the \$100 million epic *Cloud Atlas* (co-directed, not insignificantly, by a trans woman) to the queer supervillain in the James Bond blockbuster *Skyfall* to gay coming up in such notable releases as *The Paperboy*, *On the Road*, *Bernie* and even *ParaNorman*, it seems as if the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" and the approval of same-sex marriages in nearly a quarter of the states had an impact on Hollywood. To which I say about-frickin-time. (Until this year, only four films nominated for best picture Oscars—*Kiss of the Spider-Woman*, *Brokeback Mountain*, *Capote* and *The Kids Are All Right*—have had fully-rounded gay characters at the forefront of their stories ... and none has won.)

But this fertile year resulted in tons of good movies — a banner season, to be sure. (add in some 2011 releases that only opening in Dallas after Jan. 1, and the list grows even more; some are even included.) Here, then, are our Top 10 films of the year, in ascending order:

10. **Keep the Lights On.** Ira Sachs' rangy portrait of gay life at the tail end of the last millennium, focusing on a sexually aggressive filmmaker, has all the elements of melodrama but surpasses them with a clear-eyed unsentimentality and strong leading performance by Thure Lindhardt.

9. **In the Family.** Patrick Wang's measured, lovely drama, so unrushed and attuned to the rhythms of life, played just a few weeks in the Metroplex, but the memory of this show about a gay Asian-American (played by Wang) whose partner dies leaving him the lone parent, plucked the heartstrings without ever becoming mawkish. All "gay films" should be this true and dignified.

8. **The Paperboy.** Lee Daniels' follow-up to *Precious* didn't get as much love from critics or audiences, but this steamy potboiler with a bracing message about race, violence and the closeted past was a showcase for actors Matthew McConaughey and Nicole Kidman, and a revelatory one from Zac Efron.

7. **Jiro Dreams of Sushi.** A meta-documentary,

■ **SCREEN**, Page 24

Some years of theatergoing are better than others. This year was better — much better — than most.

First, there were two unforgettable touring shows (*Bring It On!* and *American Idiot*) that showed health on the national stage. There were premieres of shows here that didn't quite work (*Giant*) that made their way to New York for a chance to evolve and become better. And then there was the home-grown talent (*see also* Actor of the Year, Page 25) that established, as if anyone still doubted it, that the North Texas theater community is vibrant and endlessly creative. Best of all, 2012 ended on a high note — higher than most even dream.

Here, then, from 10 to 1, my best local productions of 2012:

10. **Ruth** (Kitchen Dog Theater). Vicki Caroline Cheatwood's world premiere play, debuting at the New Works Festival last summer, took a retelling of the biblical tale of Naomi and Ruth, transplanted it to Steinbeck's California and then again to present-day Oklahoma in a subtly affecting parable about immigration and bigotry.

9. **The Most Happy Fella** (Lyric Stage). This rarely performed American opera, with a restored original score overseen by composer Frank Loesser's widow Jo Sullivan, was a grandly entrancing entertainment with a stellar cast.

8. **The Night of the Iguana** (Contemporary

Theatre of Dallas). Director Rene Moreno discovered something most directors don't in this, Tennessee Williams' last great play: Its wicked sense of humor. Actress Cindee Mayfield reinvented herself as a blowsy slut, but she was matched sweat-bead for sweat-bead by Ashley Wood and Terry Vandivort.

7. **The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Diety** (Dallas Theater Center). Talk about a daring recipe: Mix the world of professional wrestling with the environment of theater of the mind and add the street patois of Latino culture and this hodgepodge show — sexy, smart, insightful — became the unlikeliest drama of the season to take you into a new world.

6. **The Farnsworth Invention** (Theatre 3). One of two Theatre 3 shows to make my list (a third, *Avenue Q*, just missed), this Aaron Sorkin drama about the birth of television was directed with whip-smart efficiency by Jeffrey Schmidt and acted by a standout cast led by Alex Organ and especially Jackie Cabe as NBC visionary David Sarnoff.

5. **Becky Shaw** (KDT). Playwright Gina Gionfriddo's reductionist play of the theater of upper-class misogynists, usually the purview of Neil LaBute and David Mamet, got a witheringly intelligent and hilarious treatment — the laughs came as fast and furious as the dialogue.

4. **Oklahoma!** (Lyric). We've almost become

■ **STAGE**, Page 25

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RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
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This has been a more-than-satisfying year for music fans — so much so, to narrow this year's top albums was almost a trip to hell. I'm beginning to see how other critics actually put out their top 100 albums — because if there was ever a year for that, 2012 was it. From the mainstream pop of Madonna and Maroon 5 to adventurous releases from Beach House and Bloc Party, this year will be hard to beat.

And then you'll see it was a big year for music when it comes to LGBT fans. Whether in the news or on tour or the mass number of releases by out artists, the queer music lover had much to process over the last 12 months. We're not defined so much anymore by what other people think we listen to (Britney, Barbra — OK, even though we still do), but gays are defining music. Frank Ocean and Adam Lambert delivered huge albums that were critically sound and veterans Bob Mould and Pet Shop Boys maintain their position on the continuum.

It will be a little sad to say goodbye to 2012's triumphant sounds, but we're optimistic that from here on, it can only get better.

1. **Norah Jones, *Little Broken Hearts*** — Upon a first listen last spring, my instinct was to declare this "album of the year," and that never changed. The dusty (title track), sometimes maudlin ("Miriam") tunes were dramatic, dreamy and epic. *Little Broken Hearts* held up strongly thanks to well-woven lyrics and producer-partner Danger Mouse's magic touch. This is as much his album, but we're giving the love to our own Jones, a Booker T. Washington and UNT grad, who grew up more than we ever expected to with this unexpected and very welcome departure. For not being a Jones fan, this was a big surprise.

2. **Frank Ocean, *Chanel Orange*** — Oh Frank Ocean, where have you been all our lives? This debut disc isn't the first we've heard from Ocean, who was hot on Jay-Z's and Kanye's

Watch the Throne and effective on Beyonce's 4, but the Odd Future member released a near-masterpiece in his first solo outing. Thoughtful, sexy and reflective of his generation (he's, like, 25!), openly gay Ocean becomes an open book from the beginning with "Thinkin' Bout You," a methodical tune that eases into the rest. Ocean transcends R&B and hip-hop in one fell swoop but never defies them. He's critical in "Super Rich Kids," but then delicate on "Bad Religion" about falling for another guy. It's heartbreaking, but also liberating.

3. **Perfume Genius, *Put Your Back N 2 It*** — Under this moniker, Mike Hadreas' second album should go down as one of the most important gay albums ever. With sophistication and ethereal ambience, Hadreas' music has a distinct gay voice that is never campy or ridiculous, though gloomy. With little fanfare, he speaks volumes in this elegant album touching on themes of relationships, suicides and even "hookerism" and all of it is glorious.

4. **The Shins, *Port of Morrow*** — The Shins brought it hard to 2012 with their fourth album — their first in five years. Frontman James Mercer led a new band lineup into new territory with emphasis on electronic elements, but never lost their signature indie pop sound that created multiple listens that never grew old. And for the record, "It's Only Life" will very well be my song of the year. Goosebumps.

5. **Azealia Banks, *1991*** — In four songs on this EP, the openly bisexual Banks said much. It was a strong intro to her mixtape *Fantasea* released in July, but *1991* is the kind of debut any artist would kill for. Banks shouldn't be looked at as a female hip-hop artist, but a hip-hop artist who happens to be female. She creates environments that speak to her Harlem street roots that drop like a bomb and her flow on "212" would make most rap veterans green with envy.

6. **Sinead O'Connor, *How About I Be Me (And You Be You)?*** — Never count O'Connor out despite her sometimes-loony displays of behavior, because this year, she reminded us (albeit

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW
MUSIC

quietly) that there is still a strong talent there for music. With some poppish aplomb (“4th and Vine”) and provocative lyrics (“V.I.P.”), O’Connor is still the rebel, but she balanced mainstream sensibilities and complex writing with clever wisdom here. Oh, and add “Queen of Denmark” to that songs of the year list.

7. **Of Monsters and Men, *My Head is an Animal*** — Rising to the top of the charts in their home country, this Icelandic group debuted in America this year to acclaim, not to mention the wonderful single “Little Talks.” You hear OMAM and say to yourself, “I’ve heard this before,” but really, it’s that they strike a chord that’s familiar, friendly and refreshing. Despite being signed to Universal, there’s no big machine sound behind *Animal*. It’s energetic without being affected and it’s brilliant without being ruined by hipster and indie fanatic snobbery.

8. **Tanlines, *Mixed Emotions*** — Coming out of nowhere, this Brooklyn duo dropped one of the best musical flashbacks of the year. In their debut CD, the band recalls ‘80s pop but without goofy flourish. Singer Eric Emm has that significant baritone akin to the Human League or Depeche Mode. Don’t expect an ‘80s homage, because Tanlines deliver originals with pop splendor and spirit.

9. **Bruce Springsteen, *Wrecking Ball*** — Maybe the election year had something to do with it, but *Wrecking Ball* spoke to the American people like no other album this year. The Boss laid it out as only he can on the rousing “We Take Care of Our Own” and the solemn in “This Depression.” Whether affairs of the nation or the heart, Springsteen sang to all of it.

10. **The Magnetic Fields, *Love at the Bottom of the Sea*** — Stephen Merritt gives comedic personality without the ridiculousness of, say, The B-52’s, in the band’s 10th full release. The out singer ventures back into synth-pop overtones and triumphs with charmers like “Andrew in Drag” and “The Only Boy in Town.” The album is unapologetically gay but easily accessible and completely enjoyable. ■



FRANK AND NORAH | Hip-hop came out of the closet — successfully — with Frank Ocean’s thrilling solo debut, but Dallasite Norah Jones stole the show in 2012

NOTABLE EVENTS IN THE MUSIC SCENE

Concert of the year: ... And possibly the gayest, was Rammstein’s show at American Airlines in May. Madonna had nothing with her high-heeled boys on this German metal band. With blatant dom-sub action — not on-stage but on the catwalk above the



audience — the five-member band excited the nearly full arena on their first huge tour in the States. But then there was lead singer Till Lindemann riding the hugest cock ever (a cannon, really) while “ejaculating” white foam all over the floor audience. Why not? Pyrotechnics ruled the night and yet all the displays and outlandish visuals still enhanced their brand of hard rock and dance-metal. Plus, it never hurt that the band is also hot and beefcakey.

The year of the queer: This was the year of the gay artist. Yeah, yeah, don’t box them into labels, but the fact is, many out artists released new albums that were also great. Four of them made my best-of albums list, but only just because there wasn’t room for the likes of Bob Mould, Imperial Teen and Adam Lambert. We also heard from the Scissor Sisters, Brandi Carlile, Xiu Xiu, Melissa Etheridge, Bloc Party, Amy Cook and Grizzly Bear, to name a few — all doing excellent work.

Comeback of the year: Although it’s debatable that it was a great one, Madonna re-emerged in full force on the public radar with a new album, tour and Super Bowl performance. *MDNA* got off to a decent start but fizzled shortly after its release. The bigger news was that Midge was going on tour and coming back to Dallas after more than 20 years. The bigger news locally was the loud groan heard through the city when she canceled the first show due to laryngitis. But her backing tracks helped her along on her Sunday show and fans who have been waiting to see her either since Blonde Ambition or for the first time, were properly sated.

In memoriam: Music lost banda singer Jenni Rivera in a plane crash this month, but the community also lost an ally. She participated in 2011’s Spirit Day and performed at the Billboard Awards in a purple gown acknowledging LGBT victims of bullying and suicide. According to GLAAD, she had even invited the organization to come and discuss bullying on her radio show. And that comes after the passing earlier this year of disco queen Donna Summer.

Tube-ular: With Frank Ocean’s debut album buzzing, the queer singer gave a killer performance on *Saturday Night Live*, pushing him into the stratosphere. Every step he has made this year has felt like a move forward for the black gay community — especially in music. Ocean also received six Grammy nominations. And queer-friendly local singer Sarah Jaffe just made her step into a bigger public eye by appearing on *Jimmy Kimmel* in December. Known for more delicate, internal tunes, she churned out the impressive rocker “Talk” and likely upped the ante on music in general.

— R.L.

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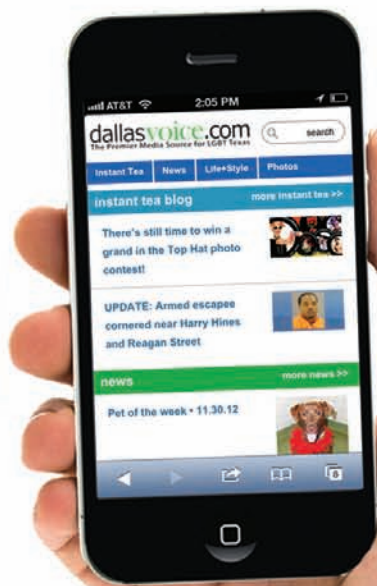


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■ SCREEN, From Page 18

this chronicle of the artistic temperament of Jiro Ono, heralded the world over as the greatest sushi chef the world has ever seen, is not merely for foodies, but for anyone enraptured by the beauty (and cost) of being better than anyone else at what you do.

6. **On the Road.** Director Walter Salles and screenwriter Jose Rivera re-teamed after their thought-provoking travelogue *The Motorcycle Diaries* and accomplished the otherwise impossible: Making not merely a serviceable film from Jack Kerouac's notoriously unfilmable Beat Generation novel, but a great one that crackles with the pulse of jazz.

5. **Django Unchained.** Quentin Tarantino's best film is another rollicking re-writing of history — this time, the American South in the antebellum era. Christoph Waltz steals the show, but Jamie Foxx is damn sexy — a fact that registered in the lusting glances of fey plantation owner Leonardo DiCaprio ... at least until things explode into a bloodbath.

4. **Skyfall.** Yes, a Bond film really was one of the top five movies of the year — not so surprising, with John Logan coming onboard as a screenwriter and Oscar winner Sam Mendes shaking up all the elements of 007 and rejiggering them respectfully but inventively. Oh, and did I mention having an openly gay villain?

3. **Cloud Atlas.** A massive undertaking — one of three "unfilmable" books that succeeded with beauty, vision, guts and a dazzling show of special effects that never overwhelm the actors (Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Ben Whishaw, Hugh Grant) but rather give them a platform on which to stretch their skills playing a host of characters all interconnected by the tide of time.

2. **Bernie.** The quintessence of the Texas com-



edy, this hilarious true story about a small-town, seemingly gay mortician who becomes the world's most sympathetic murderer is Richard Linklater's *chef d'oeuvre*, a spot-on comedy with a transformative performance by Jack Black.

1. **Life of Pi.** Ang Lee's mystical adventure tale, equal parts inward-looking reverie and *Treasure Island* actioner, delves into the dream state between reality and memory, survival and true living. Gorgeous, bold and technically unsurpassed, it turned movie-going into a form of secular church-going.

Nos. 11-20: *How to Survive a Plague*, *Zero Dark Thirty*, *Hitchcock*, *Blues for Willadean*, *First Position*, *A Late Quartet*, *Prometheus*, *Lincoln*, *I Am a Ghost*, *Argo*.

Memorable performances: Jessica Chastain, *Zero Dark Thirty*; Jack Black, *Bernie*; Anthony Hopkins and Helen Mirren, *Hitchcock*; Daniel Day-Lewis and Sally Field, *Lincoln*; Garret Hedlund, *On the Road*; Christopher Walken, *A Late Quartet*; Patrick Wang, *In the Family*; Alan Cumming, Garret Dillahunt and Isaac Leyva, *Any Day Now*; Christoph Waltz, *Django Unchained*; Anne Hathaway, *Les Misérables*; John Hawkes and Helen Hunt, *The Sessions*; Quvenzhané Wal-

lis, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*; Matthew McConaughey, *Killer Joe*, *Magic Mike* and *The Paperboy*; Rachel Weisz, *The Deep Blue Sea*; Nicole Kidman, *The Paperboy*.



FILMING THE UNFILMABLE | Some of the best movies this year were literary adaptations that had seemed impossible, including 'Cloud Atlas,' top, and Jack Kerouac's 'On the Road.'

10 worst films of the year: 1. *Silver Linings Playbook*; 2. *Rock of Ages*; 3. *Battleship*; 4. *Bachelorette*; 5. *Premium Rush*; 6. *A Cat in Paris*; 7. *We Need to Talk About Kevin*; 8. *Not Fade Away*; 9. *Man on a Ledge*; 10. *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. ■

■ STAGE, From Page 18

inured to Lyric's tradition of reviving classics with a vigor rarely seen since the heyday of Broadway, and given the chance to revisit Rodgers & Hammerstein's masterpiece — and have Cheryl Denson direct it with Jay Dias conducting — proves that the Great American Musical is no more alive than in Irving, Texas. New York wishes they could do a show this good.

3. **The Producers** (Uptown Players). Dallas' gayest theater troupe tackled the gayest modern musical — a massive undertaking, even at their still-newish home at the Kalita — and demonstrated how a scrappy, smallish company can attract the best talent (including B.J. Cleveland in a bespoke role as maniacal Max Bialystock) and turn out jokes, dance, singing and style with dizzying energy that plays right to their audience. We were enraptured.

2. **Superior Donuts** (Theatre 3). The second show on the list from a company that celebrated 50 seasons in Dallas, this small-scale comedy-drama by



David Piper and Van Quattro in 'Superior Donuts.'

Tracy Letts about a weary shop-owner (Van Quattro) enlivened after meeting an ambitious young man (Chris Piper) was a character-driven delight, fleshed out by terrific turns from Rick Espaillat, Carolyn Wickwire and Brandi Andrade.

1. **On the Eve** (Nouveau 47 and Spacegrove Productions). Literally saving the best for last, this creatively explosive original musical from locals Seth and Shawn Magill and Michael Federico, was the can't-miss production of the year — a dangerous guerrilla enterprise spanning space and time, with a score that makes you feel as if you are at the first of *Spring Awakening* or *Rent*. It'll be talked about for years.

ACTOR OF THE YEAR

I first declared Denise Lee Dallas Voice's "actor of the year" in 2003, and in the intervening years, eight more names have been added to that list: Mark Shum, Chamblee Ferguson, Nye Cooper, James Crawford, Kevin Moore, Elias Taylorson, Regan Adair and last year, Lulu Ward. In between, dozens of other names have appeared on the short-list, including Cedric Neal, Gary Floyd, Patty Breckenridge and many more.

It's one of the things I take most seriously each year, because so many actors around town work tirelessly for little recompense or recognition. They put up with negative reviews (sometimes from me) and long hours. It's nice to get the privilege of singling them out.

There are always those who impress you time and again. We expect **Jaston Williams** to give dazzling performances year after year, though what amazed me in 2012 was he did it in something other than a *Tuna* show — his one-man *Camping with Gasoline*. **Cindee Mayfield**, **Ashley Wood** and **Terry Vandivort** have been excellent on many occasions, so their brilliant teaming for Contemporary Theatre of Dallas' *Night of the Iguana* was inevitable. **Alex Hernandez** carried a lot of *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* on his shoulders for DTC, and the duo **Jenny Ledel** and **Cameron Cobb** held together Kitchen Dog's eerie *Turn of the Screw*. Another two-some, **Van Quattro** and **David Piper** on Theatre 3's *Superior Donuts* by Tracy Letts, also wowed me — as did the rest of that cast.

The cast of another Letts show, WaterTower's *August: Osage County*, did excellent work, and Second Thought Theatre's cast for *The Bomb-itty of Errors* wore me out with their cross-dressing and rapping (in a good way). **Sally Nystuen-Vahle**'s hilarious physical comedy (including projectile vomiting) in *God of Carnage* was the comic delight of the summer, followed closely by **Coy Covington** (once again in drag for a Charles Busch show) and **Lee Jamison**, **Kevin Moore** and **Mary-Margaret Pyeatt** in *The Divine Sister*.



Jac Alder, a Dallas legend, doesn't act enough — he was so good in *Freud's Last Session*, he made you wish he did it more. (He co-starred there again with Cameron Cobb, who also stood out in T3's *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*.) Another behind-the-scenes guy who succeeds at acting is **Terry Martin**, good as a gay man in *Next Fall*. Lyric's *Oklahoma* was a dandy staging of the classic, made memorable by **Kyle Cotton** and **Bryant Martin** as Jed and Curly. **Angel Velasco** made a touching Angel in Theatre Arlington's *Rent*. The big, boisterous cast of *On the Eve*, led by **Gregory Lush**, **Seth Magill** and (again) **Ledel** wowed, too.

One of the season's best shows was also one of the best acted: **Tony Martin**, **Brad Jackson** and **Peter DiCesare** in Uptown's *The Producers*. They were all terrific, though not more so than the show's leading man, **B.J. Cleveland**. Cleveland has been a staple in North Texas since he was a kid, and everyone knew as soon as Uptown announced *The Producers* that he would be an inspired Bialystock ... but perhaps none could have predicted he'd be as good as he was. He's been a gem for decades, so it's appropriate that on this 10th anniversary of this award, he gave one of his best performances. That he continues to surprise us in this and other shows (including Uptown's *Broadway Our Way*, pictured) proves not just his longevity but also his resourcefulness. And it's how he is handily — and finally — our actor of the year.

— A. W.J.

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Friday 12.28

Chihuly Nights winds up at Arboretum

The sculptures have been around for much of 2012, and the exhibition was even extended, but the Dale Chihuly glass "flowers" at the Dallas Arboretum have to go eventually ... and that's this weekend. That still gives you a few days to see these exotic creations, and if you come after dark for the extended-hours Chihuly Nights, you can even up the wow-factor.

DEETS: Dallas Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 8525 Garland Road. Through Dec. 31. DallasArboretum.org

Monday 12.31

Brickman counts down to 2013 musically

If you ever wanted to spend New Year's Eve with a sexy man who serenaded you with music, this is your chance. Pianist (and sometime vocalist) Jim Brickman weaves together contemporary and classic holiday music in his popular concert tour, from standards like "Sending You a Little Christmas" to his latest single, "Merry Christmas Beautiful."

DEETS: Winspear Oper House, 2403 Flora St. 7 p.m. Tickets from \$35. ATPAC.org.

Monday 12.31 / Tuesday 01.01

Lady Bunny rings in the New Year at BJ's

A lady knows how to behave on New Year's Eve. And then there's Lady Bunny. The drag diva (and *Drag Race* guest judge) brings her DJing skills to BJ's NXS! this week, starting on New Year's Eve and spinning past midnight, then returning on New Year's Day to host the usual Trashy Tuesday bash.

DEETS: BJ's NXS!, 3125 N. Fitzhugh Ave. Dec. 31, doors open at 4 p.m. (\$5 cover starting at 9 p.m.); Jan. 1, doors open at 6 p.m. (no cover). BJsNXS.com.



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calendar

FRIDAY 12.28

THEATER

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Burlesque Nutcracker! Strippers to dance *The Nutcracker*. Stone Cottage Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Final weekend. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

Ebony Scrooge, an all-black version of the Dickens classic. DeSoto Corner Theater, 211 Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto. Final weekend. \$10. ShowTix4u.com.

Mother Goose. Theatre Britain's annual panto, a children's show with saucy adult content. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Avenue, Plano. Final weekend. \$10-\$20. 972-490-4202. Theatre-Britain.com.

Lone Star Circus: Cirque Banquiste. An all new holiday production featuring canine acts, hand balancing, juggling, acrobatics and Liz Mikel. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Jan. 1. \$20-\$46. LoneStarCircus.org.

FINE ART

Posters of Paris: Toulouse-Lautrec and His Contemporaries. An exhibition of posters from France's belle epoque. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 20. \$14. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

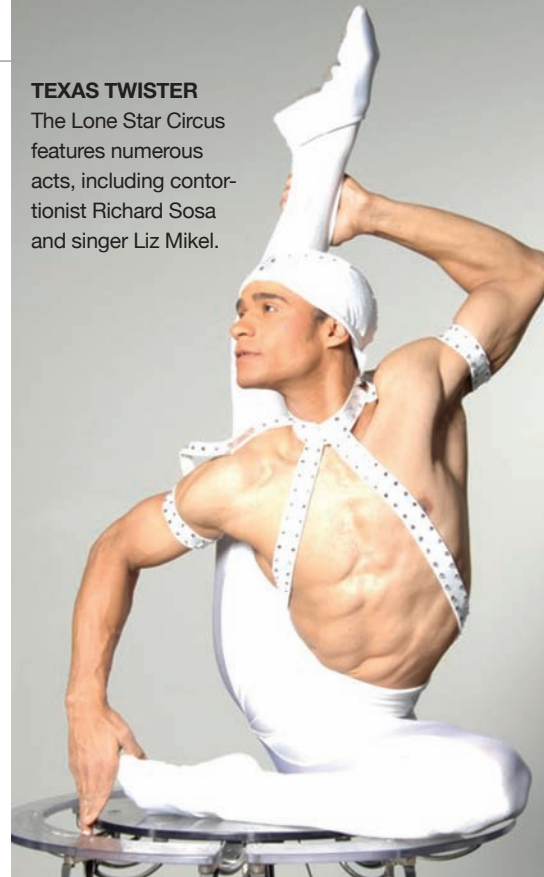
Anne Frank: A Private Photo Album. A new exhibit of 71 private photos of the Frank family. Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St. Through March 31. Open daily. DallasHolocaustMuseum.org.

COMMUNITY

Dick's Night Out. Monthly gay mixer, this time with the theme Attack of the Mermen! Ku•De•Ta, 3121 Ross Ave. 6-10 p.m. No cover. RSVP required at Mermen.Eventbrite.com.

TEXAS TWISTER

The Lone Star Circus features numerous acts, including contortionist Richard Sosa and singer Liz Mikel.



SATURDAY 12.29

COMMUNITY

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

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BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas on its new day and time. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

SUNDAY 12.30**WORSHIP**

Breath of Life Interfaith Mindfulness Fellowship. LGBT-friendly "meditation and more" event. Inspired by Buddhist spirituality. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Road, Richardson. 5 p.m. InterMindful.com.

COMMUNITY

Honey Pot: Midwinter Dream. A "furry dance party" with DJ C-Rail. Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Dec. 30, 2-7 p.m. \$5 cover benefits RCD.

Youth First Texas Collin County. Group for LGBTQ youth and allies up to age 22. North Texas Youth Connection - Allen Office, 201 W. Boyd Road. Suite 105D, Allen. 6 p.m. CollinCounty@YouthFirstTexas.org.

MONDAY 12.31**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Lady Bunny. The drag diva spins at BJ's, with a champagne toast at midnight. 3125 N. Fitzhugh Ave. Doors open at 4 p.m., \$5 cover after 9 p.m. BJsNXS.com.

MUSIC

Jim Brickman. The piano virtuoso performs a concert of holiday music. Winspear Opera House, 4103 Flora St. 7 p.m. \$35 and up. ATPAC.org.

TUESDAY 01.01**THEATER**

Lone Star Circus: Cirque Banquiste. An all new holiday production featuring canine acts, hand balancing, juggling, acrobatics and more. Liz Mikel recently joined the company for this performance. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Jan. 1. \$20-\$46. LoneStarCircus.org.

WEDNESDAY 01.02**COMMUNITY**

Unwired Dallas. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) for those wishing to quit using crystal meth meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. Free. Crystalmeth.org.

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

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

THURSDAY 01.03**COMMUNITY**

Standing on the Promises is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for membership. A.A. is self-supporting through contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, political organization or institution. 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays

browse

For more complete community listings online, visit DallasVoice.com/Calendar-2.

submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the online calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit.

at 6:30 p.m.

FUSE drop-in weekdays (except Tuesdays). For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center of Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3-8 p.m. 214-540-4435.

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

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

Malcolm Gets turns 48 on Friday. The openly gay actor, best known for his role on the sitcom *Caroline in the City*, has an extensive stage background (including a Tony Award nomination) and has appeared in gay films like *Adam & Steve*.



CAPRICORN Dec 21–Jan 20

You don't have to bend over backwards for anyone. For the next month or so, what you really need to do is make time for yourself, and keep your mind focused on what you want your vision to look like in a year or two.

AQUARIUS Jan 21–Feb 20

For some reason, as much as you are overwhelmed, the part of you that is too proud to show any sign of weakness is carrying you on its shoulders through one of the biggest tests you'll ever face. The end is in sight.

PISCES Feb 21–Mar 20

Outside of your missionary spirit there are bound to be issues with unusual characters or loved ones who have you convinced that they are the exception to every rule. You would be wise to stop giving their idiosyncrasies more space than you give your own.

ARIES Mar 21–Apr 20

This is the biggest change point of your life. To be too timid, too stuck or too angry about the things that aren't working won't do much but hold you back and keep you from reinventing your life.

TAURUS Apr 21–May 20

At times like this, we often get slammed with our biggest tests. Proceed with caution — going too far with anything will see you recouping, regrouping and recanting a few statements before the year is out.

GEMINI May 21–Jun 20

If you can manage to keep the parasitic types from draining your battery, the picture looks so good. Think twice before you say "yes" to anyone or anything that doesn't serve your immediate interests. Put as much time and energy as you want into what's already going, but forget about taking on anything new.

CANCER Jun 21–Jul 20

Your biggest weaknesses are sentiment, attachment and a need structure with roots that have to be back-filled with more security than the average bear. Right now, you'd do better to realize that all of your attachments are getting in the way.

LEO Jul 21–Aug 20

It looks like you're coming up on the need to redefine yourself within your relationship and within your connection to the outer world in general — because you've moved on — and so much has changed in the last six or seven years, you can't keep moving forward until you take stock of where you are now.

VIRGO Aug 21–Sep 20

When life gets this tense, you've got to be able to wait things out and disengage from your perfection trips just enough to remember that even this is absolutely perfect.

LIBRA Sep 21–Oct 20

You are either feeling really good about being out of the woods or having a tough time waiting for the best part of life to arrive. Keep moving ahead with an open heart. Focus on the here and now, and stop trying to run the world.

SCORPIO Oct 21–Nov 20

What you decide to do is your business. Be wise to the idea that others have an agenda and take notice of the gap between what they preach and what they practice.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 21–Dec 20

If and when you are able to live up to the pressure from others and your own expectations, you will see that you can't keep taking care of more than your share. Start focusing on your own life for a change.

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WELL... I S'POSE WE CAN CHALK UP THAT DINNER DATE AS A SUCCESS.

NO ARGUMENTS... NO WINE SPILLS.

AND MY DEBT TO YOU IS NOW REPAID.

NOT QUITE. THERE'S STILL ONE SCORE WE AIN'T EVEN ON.

OH? WHAT'S THAT?

YOU'VE SEEN ME STRIPPED DOWN TO MY TIGHTY-WHITIES, BUT...

... I AIN'T SEEN YOU IN YOURS.

I DON'T WEAR "TIGHTY-WHITIES", DREW... I WEAR BOXER-BRIEFS.

THAT'LL DO.

WHAT? YOU EXPECT ME TO STRIP DOWN SO YOU CAN... GAWK AT ME?

I WANNA' DO MORE N' GAWK AT YA'.

HOURS LATER...

WHERE IN HEAVEN'S NAME DID A BACKWOODS ALABAMA BOY LIKE YOU LEARN THAT LEVEL OF SEXUAL TECHNIQUE?

HUNTSVILLE AIN'T EXACTLY "BACKWOODS", LANCE. N' SPEAKIN' OF TECHNIQUE...

... YOU AIN'T SO BAD, YOURSELF.

YOU HAVE A GIFT FOR UNDERSTATEMENT. SO WHY THE "DIXIE PEACH" TATTOO?

RIGHT NOW, THOUGH... I'M, THINKIN' 'BOUT US. N' THE FUTURE.

FINE BY ME, BUT... YA' MIGHT RECONSIDER THAT. MOST GUYS CAN'T LET UP ONCE THEY'VE HAD A TASTE OF MY... PEACHES.

MY FAMILY OWNS A PEACH ORCHARD OUTSIDE OF HUNTSVILLE. JUST MY WAY OF REMEMBERIN' WHERE I CAME FROM.

DON'T GET TOO ATTACHED. I'M NOT REALLY ONE FOR... INVOLVEMENTS.

YOU MAY BE GREAT IN THE SACK, BUT... YOUR DIALOGUE COULD USE SOME WORK...

Website - www.kylecomics.com

E-Mail - KylesBnB@aol.com

bitter girl

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

YEP, I THOUGHT IT'D TAKE TIL THE NEXT OLYMPICS TO SLEEP WITH CATE.

HOW'D YOU DO IT? YOU'VE GOT NOTHING IN COMMON EXCEPT BEING GIRLJOCKS.

EXACTLY.

WE'RE GIRLJOCKS. I DARED HER.

BET YOU CAN'T DO ME IN THREE MINUTES.

ONE AND A HALF.

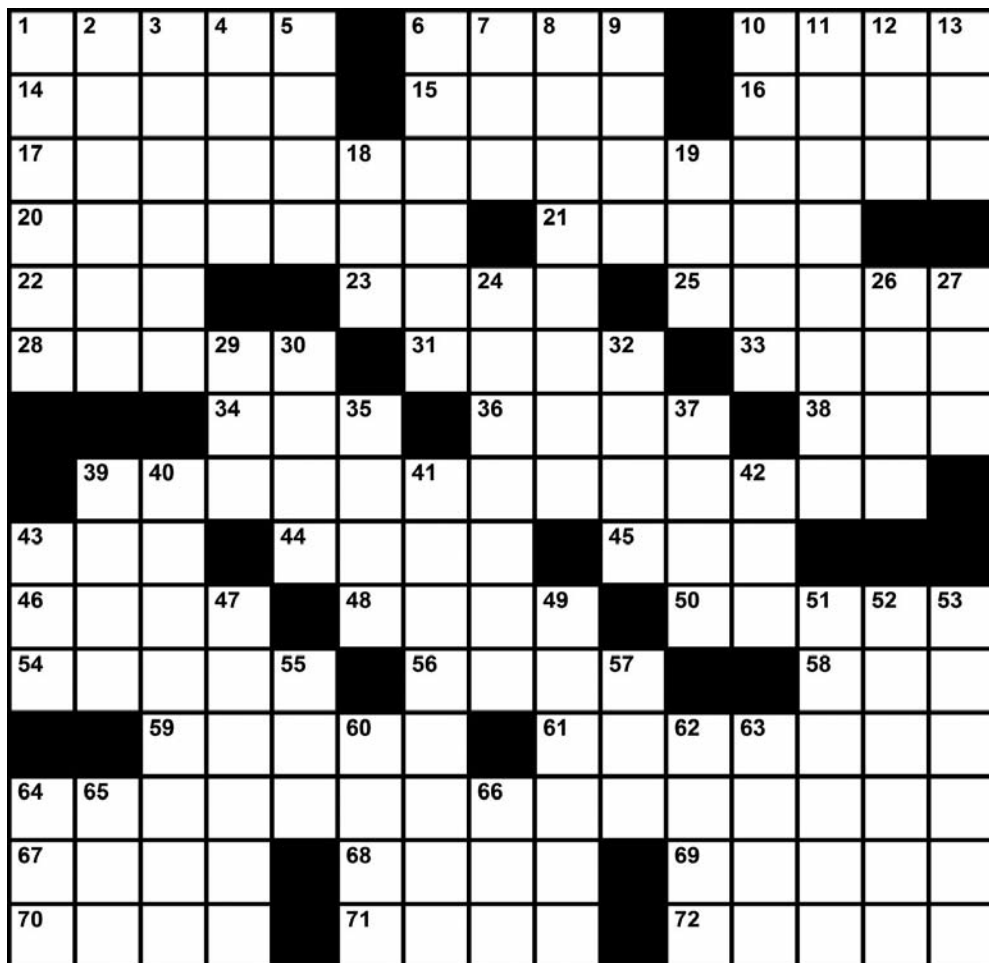
MAN... IT'S A GOOD THING GIRLJOCKS CAN'T BREED.

I DUNNO... I THINK WE DID!

email: bittergirl@qsyndicate.com

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Nun of the Above

Solution on page 29

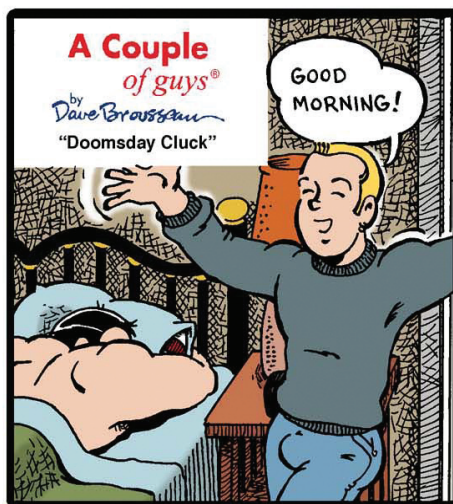
Across

- 1 *The Wizard of Oz* dropout Buddy
- 6 In stitches, to Edith Head
- 10 Brandy bottle letters
- 14 Mazda model
- 15 Dixie Chicks, e.g.
- 16 Cry after getting the shaft
- 17 Singer tapped to play 39-Across
- 20 Penetrated
- 21 Church leader
- 22 *The Name of the Rose* writer
- 23 Little Caesar gangster
- 25 Heads-up
- 28 He comes once a year
- 31 "My bad"
- 33 Neighbor of Neb.
- 34 Mountain in 64-Across
- 36 Tobias pseudonym
- 38 Club for GIs
- 39 Former nun in 64-Across
- 43 Bonheur bathed in it
- 44 Like McKellen's Magneto
- 45 Where buoy meets gull
- 46 Windshield feature
- 48 Gardner of mystery
- 50 "It has ___ of it's own" (phallogentric saying)
- 54 Some opera queens

- 56 Explorer Vasco da ___
- 58 Turkish title
- 59 Baghdad resident
- 61 *War Requiem* composer Benjamin Meron & Zadan
- 64 Classic to be remade for NBC by
- 67 Spread it and lick it
- 68 Shows on TV
- 69 Absinthe flavoring
- 70 Precious stones
- 71 Ginsberg's *Nagasaki* ___
- 72 Lincoln bas reliefs

Down

- 1 Ryan Seacrest, and others
- 2 Othello courtesan
- 3 Poet-novelist May
- 4 To be, in Toulon
- 5 Depilatory product
- 6 54, in a Ryan Phillippe flick
- 7 Soaring seafood lover
- 8 Like welcoming thighs
- 9 French Christmas
- 10 Alphabet quintet
- 11 Fortified like Dinah?
- 12 The Plastic ___ Band
- 13 Place to take a pea
- 18 Racket extension
- 19 Cereal box no.
- 24 Toyota model
- 26 Sound like Harvey Fierstein
- 27 Boxing ref's end to a butt-whipping
- 29 It gets laid in the street
- 30 "That's ___ and you know it!"
- 32 Poses for Bruce Weber
- 35 Smooth the way
- 37 De Matteo of *Desperate Housewives*
- 39 Chains around a knight
- 40 Dorothy Gale lived with her
- 41 State named for a queen who wasn't sexually active
- 42 "That was good, honey!"
- 43 Announcement from the cockpit
- 47 Trunks of Mapplethorpe's photos
- 49 Do relief work
- 51 Avoids waiters
- 52 Senior snubber
- 53 Emulates Isadora Duncan
- 55 Saint, in Rio
- 57 Sandy's sound in *Annie*
- 60 Muscle Mary's pride
- 62 Apple of a sort
- 63 Bring to proper pitch
- 64 Get dressed, with "up"
- 65 Abbr. on old maps
- 66 In need of a lube





Brandy and Ashley at Station 4.



Guys' night out at Club Reflection.

Lady Bunny is the headliner at BJ's NXS. Lady Bunny's New Year's Eve Party is followed by Lady Bunny's New Year's Day Party. ... The Round-Up Saloon presents Masqueradel on New Year's Eve. Dinner and breakfast buffets, cash balloon drop and a champagne toast are all included. ... Cassie Nova, Krystal Summers, Valerie Lohr, Layla LaRue, Asia O'Hara, Jenna Skyy and Kelexis Davenport star in a special New Years Eve show at the Rose Room. ... Best Friends Club holds the Black/White Party with money drop and Ties & Bows/ Dresses and Hose on New Year's Eve with DJ Phanz. ... Bands all weekend at Sue Ellen's — The Rachel Stacy Band on Dec. 28, Kat Moore Band on Dec. 29 and Barefoot Hippies on Dec. 30. On New Year's Eve it's Mi Diva Loca. ... On Dec. 30 it's Hip Hop Sunday at S4 with DJ Mark Rinewalt. ... JR.'s Bar & Grill and TMC: The Mining Company have a money drop and champagne toast on New Year's Eve featuring 2012 Top 10 music at 11 p.m. ... Dallas Eagle launches its new monthly Superfly Trash Disco on Dec. 30 with DJ Blaine. ... Watch the Cowboys game in HD on Dec. 30 at 7:20 p.m. at Woody's Sports and Video Bar. Then Woody's celebrates New Year's Eve with a cash drop, champagne toast, noisemakers, party hats and hors d'oeuvres. ... Lovett & Winters present New Year's Eve 2013 Party at Garlows on Cedar Creek Lake. ... Nonsense, Kurve, Rob V and G Spin are the New Year's Eve guest DJs at Havana Lounge. ... Happy New Year. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES

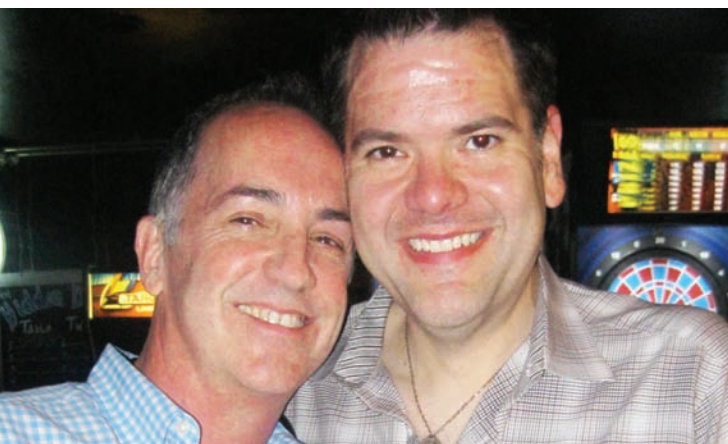
To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos.



Roger, Noal and Dabiel at TMC: The Mining Company.



Leatherman on the Strip.



Michael and Victor at the Hidden Door.



Friends' night out at 1851 Club.

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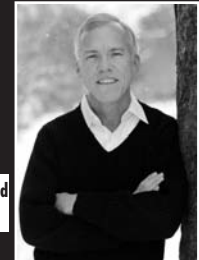
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