

The Rainbow Times

Your LGBTQ News in MA, RI, North Central CT & Southern VT

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FREE!

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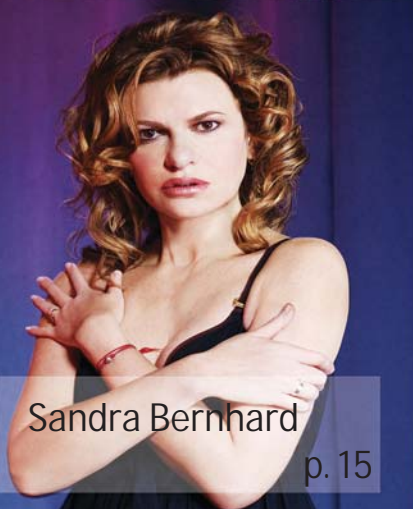
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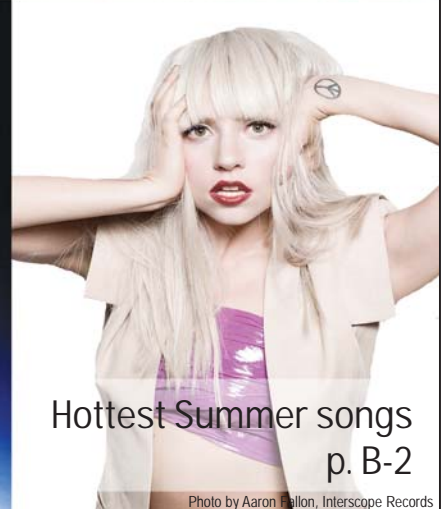


Photo by Aaron Fallon, Interscope Records

Opinions

Fight with us for our rights

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

Bringing the Message Home, that is exactly what PFLAG is doing with its *Seventh Annual Guide to working with Elected Leaders to Move Equality Forward*. There is no stronger voice than that of our family and friends in this movement to attain and maintain equality. Maine is being targeted by "religious" groups to stop same-sex couples from marrying. We cannot let this happen. We cannot observe another Prop. 8 disaster take over the lives and rights of Maine LGBT same-sex couples!

I urge you: parents, friends, siblings, sons, daughters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc., to speak up, to stand for civil rights for all members of the LGBT community. I ask you particularly to join us in the fight for our Maine same-sex marriage community so that we can count on you, our straight allies, to help us keep equality. Let's show the rest of the country that New England stands for the rights of ALL of the people of in this region, as it should be in the entire country.

Divison was not something that Jesus advocated for, according to the Bible. How

can religion then be used to hate, discriminate, abuse, mistreat, and even murder others just because God created them/us differently? Over \$2 million is going to fight same-sex marriage, should this money not be used for something that is really a worthy cause (hunger, homelessness, poverty, etc.)?

However, to speak for LGBT people you know effectively, I urge you to pick up a copy of this PFLAG Guide. In it you will find valuable information about how to advocate using the right tools and techniques. Visit www.pflag.org to read and print the Guide.

While in this topic, The Human Rights Campaign, HRC, has also compiled an "LGBT community resource" called "Out in Scripture" whose purpose is to "provide conversations on Bible passages from more than 100 scholars and pastors representing 11 denominations." These are tools that you need to fight the "religious" Right. You can read this complete collection online at www.hrc.org/Scripture. I urge you, please arm yourself, for the fight is not over, not even close and we need your help! Best,

Nicole Lashomb

C'mon Out – Just Ask! Advice column

By: Tetty Gorfine*

Hi Tetty, You seem to know quite a bit about transgender issues so I have a question. Recently I heard that some people are giving children hormones to transition. How could that be? Kids are into fantasy play so much, how could any responsible parent do this? Thank you for your time. Priscilla



TETTY GORFINE

Hi Priscilla: Let me give you some perspective so this can make more sense to you. Giving children/preteens hormones has been controversial both for social and medical reasons. There are understandable arguments and questions such as yours, given that children are so changeable and affected by many outside influences. There are medical concerns too, since administering hormones to children before puberty prevents many bodily changes associated with puberty and these changes may be important for the overall health of that person.

Understand Priscilla, that before puberty transsexual children usually have already suffered trauma in being so different than their peers and being "found out" by their families. By the time puberty hits many trans children have already been very deeply injured. When puberty comes along a child experiences bodily changes that put that person at much deeper odds with themselves as they watch their bodies develop in ways they experience as shocking and horrifying (I am not exaggerating). These changes set them even further apart from the world around them. This is the trauma for transsexual people: not being transsexual per se, but how it affects them in relation to a world that does not validate or accept them. Additionally, trans teenagers experience the world as becoming more hostile towards them. This reality cannot be

overstated. If there is a way that parents, teachers and health care professionals can identify transsexual children, imagine the positive benefits possible when this child has the opportunity to grow into who she/he really is, instead of something that will only bring deeper trauma. A life that is headed towards catastrophe can instead head towards wholeness.

It is true we must be very careful not to go this route if there is a question about a child's gender. At the same time we have become sophisticated as health care professionals in our ability to identify these children. While we should not make this decision lightly, trained and experienced professionals know enough about transsexual children's experience to make an informed decision.

Your question is a good one. Mainstream society needs to gain access to a lot more information concerning transgender/transsexual people so they are met in this world with more understanding and support. I hope this clarifies things a bit for you. Best, Tetty

Hello there, I am hoping you can help me and my partner with his parents. We've been a couple for more than a year now and they refuse to invite me to any of their family events. They say that if I go, they won't. So my partner doesn't know what to do. He is close to his family but they just don't accept our relationship. What can we do? Distraught, Tim

Dear Tim: Yes, you are in a painful and difficult position here.

See C'mon Out on Page 23

The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something

By: Suzan Ambrose/TRT Columnist



Having kids is bad for the planet's health (not to mention your figure, your sanity and your wallet.) At least some people think so. It appears the best way to reduce your carbon footprint, if you are so inclined, is not to reproduce at all. But does that matter at all to those who feel they must thrust their DNA into the next generation?

Children: most people think it's the most natural thing in the world to want to reproduce. But, there are many of us in the LGBT world that would argue *there's nothing natural about it!*

You'd think this wouldn't be a concern for most LGBT folks. Let's face it: you have to go out of your way, when you're gay, to get prego; mistakes don't just "happen." But, with modern technology and in vitro fertilization, many gays and lesbians have chosen to bear the fruit of their loins instead of just the Fruit of Der Looms.

One of Hollywood's most well-known actresses, Carmen Diaz, recently told UK's *Cosmopolitan Magazine* that the choice to not have children is "one of the most selfless things a woman, or man, can do for the planet." (One U.S. person = 20 tons of CO2 per year). Hello! Did someone just say gay people, and other non-breeders, are ahead of the

curve here? Quite astonishingly, the world's population has nearly doubled in my lifetime. In 1969 there were only 3.6 billion people. Today there's 6.8 billion. And, it's estimated there will be 9.1 billion of us by 2050. Talk about tight. At least we know the gay boys won't be complaining.

With so many gay people getting married, children appear to be part of the modern day equation of what makes a queer family. It used to just be us, our pets and all the nieces and nephews we could handle for a few hours; that was enough. But now, if one chooses to be child free, the world, and even our own community, can look upon our "freedom from child-raising" sisters as bitter, selfish and cold.

Can I help it if I love my white shag carpets and glass tables with elegant sculptures more than Fisher Price toys? Is it morally bankrupt to enjoy the idea of only being responsible to one's self and one's desires? What's wrong with loving play and enjoying life, without ever having reproduced a carbon copy of one's self? Not one thing!

As Adrienne Trust says in her book *"I Hate Other People's Kids,"* Jesus loved the little children but he never had to dine with them; he chose the lepers. Amen, sister.

See Couch on Page 14

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, I wanted to extend a special thank you to all at the TRT (& all the sponsors too!). It has only been recently in my life (at 52) that I've been able to "come out" (so to speak) slowly, bit by bit. Your publication has been a wonderful portal of thought, education, and entertainment. Being a "hetero-cross dresser" I thought, put me in some sort of painfully unique category. But NOT SO, it turns out Lorelei's recent piece (Ask A Transwoman) was a great romp through the "garden of variations," which just goes to show that we're all in this beautiful, often times trying, "mix" (lgbt...hijk..lmnop) together. I want to thank you too for Delja, & all of the good hearts and sharp minds you have collected. And, thank you for publishing my personal ad, for free, for so long! Peace to all near & far. Let's keep talking, reading, and thinking, with cool minds & warm hearts.

—Jennifer "DJ," Northampton, MA

Dear Editor, Boston? Love it! Can't wait to see the new section.

—Eric P., Hartford, CT

Dear Editor, The "Queerness of Michael Jackson" was right on. Great for Irene Monroe!

—Janet R., Easthampton, MA

Dear Editor, The March on Washington article was very informational. I love your magazine!

—Joseph T., Greenfield, MA

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Gay marriage: A lesson in life, civil rights, and love

By: Lisa A. Eramo*

Last weekend, my partner and I decided to take a drive to Newport, Rhode Island. Aside from the beautiful scenery and opportunity to take in the fresh air, we were on a mission to do some shopping...engagement style. Same-sex marriage is something that we talk and dream about frequently despite the fact that the state in which we live remains the only one in New England that has yet to allow it.

We've still got some work to do it seems. According to a May 2009 study conducted by Brown University, 31% of Rhode Islanders oppose same-sex marriage. The poll included 593 registered voters statewide, reports the Associated Press.

On the political front, there are two bills on the table-one to legalize same-sex marriage and the other to prohibit it. It's enough to make my head-and heart-spin in confusion.

A vocabulary lesson

And yet my mind keeps going back to that ever important word: Marriage. This one single word evokes so much joy. It implies devotion. It stirs emotions. When spoken, the word causes us to envision a bride, a groom, and a bright and shiny diamond ring. Oh yeah, and

how could I forget the banquet-style buffet, beautiful flowing gowns, stuffed bouquets, wedding bells, 4-layer cake, live orchestra--you get the idea.

To the government, the word marriage has a more serious meaning: joint tax returns, hospital visitation rights, inheritance rights. In the eyes of Americans (and all over the world), the word carries weight and meaning, and that is why the battle over whether gays and lesbians can use it has ensued.

A lesson in life

Although marriage was not the first word I ever spoke, it was something I came to know at a young age when I was paraded down the aisle in a lacy pink dress as the flower girl at my aunt and uncle's wedding. Although I don't remember it specifically, I'm sure that I was poked, prodded, and squeezed for having looked so adorable.

Since then, I have known countless people who have gotten married and said the words "I do" in front of relatives and friends who were beaming brightly while reaching inside their pockets for a clean tissue to wipe the tears streaming down their faces. I know young girls who dream about saying these words when they are older. I know people who have loved, lost, and who are lucky

enough to say them twice. I know people who have said these words and who don't mean them at all. And I also know people who have never said them--not because they don't want to, but because they are literally forbidden to.

A lesson in civil rights

Let's take a step back and understand why this might be. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word marriage refers to the state of being united in a contractual and consensual relationship recognized by law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (written in 1948)--the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled--specifies that marriage is not limited by race, nationality, or religions.

If I had researched the word marriage prior to 1967, (when the Supreme Court declared race-based restrictions on marriage illegal), I would have heard something about it being between members of the same race. Difficult to believe, I know. This is because it took the United States several hundreds of years to realize there was nothing wrong or immoral about interracial marriages. Scary, huh?

Fast forward to 2008. If you ask the majority of Americans today to define marriage, you'll most likely hear something about a

man, a woman, and "till death do us part"--and thankfully no mention of race.

On November 4, 2008, the definition of marriage was once again challenged and redefined. The difference is that instead of widening that definition as the courts did in 1967 to extend basic civil rights to all human beings regardless of race, this time around, it did just the opposite. As the first African American won what will probably be the most historic presidential race in my lifetime, an amendment was simultaneously passed in California that limited marriage to one man and one woman, essentially shutting out and discriminating against those of us who are in same-sex relationships and who want the same rights as everyone else.

Some argue that the vote in California was "democracy at work"--that the people voted and spoke clearly on the issue. Not true. If the "people" had voted in 1967, surely the majority vote would have been against interracial marriages. Public opinion at that time had not crossed over to the rational side yet. Does that make it right to continue to prohibit interracial marriages? If the Supreme Court hadn't taken the reigns in 1967, Obama's parents would

See Eramo on Page 20

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In 'The Name of God'

Faith, Family, and God: Religious Beliefs

By Paul P. Jesepe*

"Things are not what they seem." It's an expression often heard. Hence, when the Barna Group (Barna.org), a marketing research firm that studies religious beliefs from an evangelical perspective, released a survey showing that members of the LGBT and searching community have a strong spiritual life it raised eyebrows among Christian conservatives.

The Barna survey provides invaluable data to LGBT activists and organizations trying to change social attitudes among those who feel threatened by civil and human rights for the community. The survey becomes especially useful due to its source. If a perceived liberal, humanist, or LGBT advocacy group had released such data it would be discounted and dismissed by social conservatives. The survey, however, was conducted by an organization widely used and respected among Christian conservatives.

After his company released the data, founder George Barna said that "people who portray gay adults as godless, hedonistic, Christian bashers are not working with the facts." He added that "a substantial majority of gays cite their faith as a central facet of their life . . . The data indicate that millions of gay people are interested in faith."

According to Barna, "homosexuals" "tend to consider faith to be individual and private rather than communal . . . Although there are clearly some substantial differences in religious beliefs and practices of the straight and gay populations, there may be less of a spiritual gap between straights and gays than many Americans would assume."

A smaller spiritual divide among Americans doesn't surprise me. In addition, I've come to the conclusion that there are no atheists (those without a belief in a higher power) whether gay or straight. In my experiences, all persons have some level of belief or spirituality. Someone spiritual need not belong to any particular denomination or subscribe to a religion.

Many interchange faith with organized religion. Religion is human made which can make it fertile ground for prejudice and ignorance. By interchanging faith and religion many miss an opportunity to connect with something bigger than themselves whether the cosmos, oneness with the earth, or the Divine. Faith and spirituality do not equal religion.

Nor does it surprise me that members of the LGBT and searching community see faith as a private, personal matter rather than something shared. After all, corporate religion has been emotionally abusive to the community for centuries.

Religion, however, is changing. There are now "open and affirming" places of worship for LGBT and searching members and their families. There also are the Metropolitan

Churches that minister solely to the needs of community members.

The Barna survey may further encourage a positive shift in attitudes by religious communities. Open and affirming churches, temples, and other places of worship are on the rise. If you've never been to one and have a curiosity then I urge you to attend at least once. The Unitarians, most Episcopalians, United Church of Christ parishes, Metropolitan Churches, and some Jewish congregations are very welcoming to members of the LGBT and searching community.

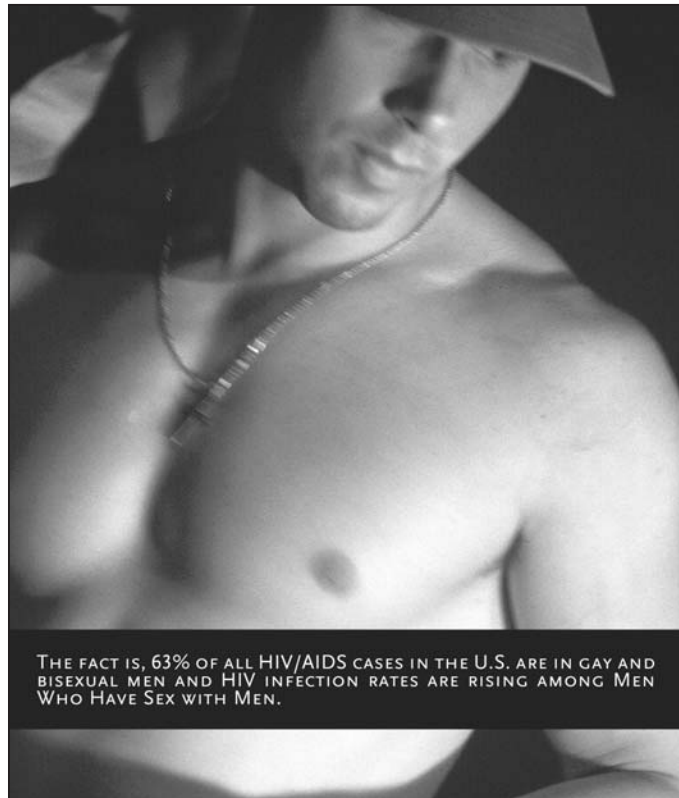
If you find yourself still interested though unsatisfied by the mass, service, or sermon you attended then try another the following week. These worship communities not only accept you completely as you are, but if you have committed yourself to another you'll find that as a family you will be spiritually and emotionally blessed and supported.

* Paul is a practicing attorney in Albany, priest and prelate in the Eastern Orthodox Church, and author of "Crucifying Jesus and Secularizing America - the Republic of Faith without Wisdom." He may be reached at VladykaPaulPeter@aol.com.



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Trans Opinions & More

Transactivism: Like "Milk's" message come out, be true to who you are!

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw/TRT Columnist

A few columns ago I wrote about going stealth versus coming out visibly to the world. This column will solely focus on coming out visibly.

When I first joined the Springfield Transgender support group, UniTy, the Executive Director, Kerri Stebbins, said to me "Deja, before you came into the group we had a counsel to the governor come and speak to our group. He told us 'The trouble with you people is that no one knows you are here. You people have to come out of your closets. You need to get out there and take public transportation, be out and visible because no one knows who you are or what your struggles are!'" He was right!

Just like Harvey Milk cried to his Gay peers "Come out, come out wherever you are!" I am now crying this out to my Trans brothers and sisters. You see, if we all come out then the non-Trans people will see just how many of us there are and how we really are a part of society. We are your brothers, your sisters, your fathers, your mothers, your aunts, your

uncles, your sisters, your grandparents, your co-workers, your neighbors, your friends! We are very real and we are very much a part of your lives! No more will we be afraid to say who we are. We are proud of who we are! People will finally know this and realize this.

When other people see us and recognize us as Transpeople we will begin to have visibility in this world. They will see the Transperson who waits on them in a business establishment, the Transperson who buys products from them, the Transperson who services them as police, firefighters, doctors, lawyers, accountants, engineers, etc. We will become a visible force in society and with people dealing with us again and again; they will get used to us and eventually accept us. We will be visible to their world, and their world is also our



DEJA NICOLE GREENLAW

world!

Yes, the upcoming New England Trans United Pride will certainly make a big statement, but what will make an even bigger statement is when each one of us comes out and that is out for everyone to see us! We will be seen every single day working, shopping, dining, exercising, praying and doing everything that everyone else does. Yes, we are here and we are part of this great big world along with everyone else. By being out and visible we will ultimately gain acceptance as part of society.

Yes, there will be risks in coming out. Many of us have lost our spouses. Some of us have lost some family members and some friends. Some even lose their jobs; even more so, others have even lost their lives. Unquestionably, these are all very tragic consequences but, it's not going to get any better unless we make a stand to come out and let people know who we are! If we stay in our little stealth closets we will keep ourselves from being known and accepted in the world. There must come a time to make a stand!

I reach out to all of my Trans brothers and sisters to seriously think about this issue. Deep in your soul you know that it's not going to get any better until we all do this. Please consider this and do it for the Transpeople who will follow in your footsteps. We will pave the way for them just as others have paved the way for us at Stonewall in New York City and the Compton Riots in San Francisco. Do it for these brave Trans men and women who suffered and even lost their lives. Do it so that they won't have suffered and died in vain. Do it for all those Transpeople who have died and we remember them every year in our yearly November 20th Transgender Day of Remembrance. Do it for our Trans Brothers and sisters who aren't even born yet, so that they will not have to endure what we had to in our lives. And most of all do it for yourselves! Do it and be true to who you are. You are who you are and there is nothing wrong with you! Stand up with your brothers and sisters and be counted! This is your life and the lives of your brothers and sisters!

Ask a TransWoman: Get an answer to all of your trans questions

Hi Lorelei, Do you not think that the Trans gender-fluid notion hurts the Lesbian and Gay community in terms of advancing to attain more rights? I mean, after all people are only starting to understand that same-sex marriage is ok, but now to throw all of this information at people, don't you think it'll just confuse them and hurt all of us in the process? Gary "the proud" Gay man, Easthampton, MA

Okay Proud Gay Gary, I'm breathing. I'm remaining calm. Your question is certainly not new to me or all that uncommon in the Gay and Lesbian Community.

It's predicated however by a notion that many of us find slightly offensive, which is that it is totally reasonable for Lesbian and Gay folks to focus our struggle on attaining things like same-sex marriage rights while pushing aside the everyday survival stuff that many of us are still fighting for like protections against employment and housing discrimination and against hate crimes.

Heck, in most parts of this country you can still kill a transperson and expect to get away with simple manslaughter and a couple of years in prison. I'm simplifying a big issue, but sadly I'm not really stretching any truths here. In our own state of Massachusetts, where same-sex marriage is a reality, transpeople can still be fired from their job simply because of their gender identity. It's sad to say, but all too often transgender rights are simply pushed aside when it appears that they might interfere with other more mainstream LGBT issues.

But, allow me to more directly address your question. I did after all ask for it and I'm going to assume that you meant no insult.

I know from hard experience that the idea of gender-fluidity is tough on people. Not just mainstream folks, but even, left-wing, ultra-liberal, alternative lifestyle type people are often uncomfortable with it. It comes to the very heart of the problem that we as transgen-

der individuals face in establishing ourselves in the current patriarchal, hetero-normative society. Yes, I know I used that word last time, but get used to it, you're going to hear it a lot. Say it with me now: "Hetero-normative". It's basically what you are promoting, which is really kind of ironic for a proud homosexual man when you think about it.

We are taught in this society from very early on that lots of things can change, but one thing that absolutely cannot, does not change is gender. Boys are boys and girls are girls and that's that. Even the idea that sometimes boys like other boys and girls like other girls doesn't threaten that idea. The gender binary remains sacrosanct.

Trans folks, even the fairly straightforward "M to F" or "F to M" threaten that sacred gender binary though. Our very existence implies



Lorelei Erisis

gender and the more we try to understand it the more the simple gender-binary that we were taught to love and obey opens up like a spring-time flower revealing layer upon layer of beau-

tiful new gender options. Genderqueer folks push that even further and often don't identify as either of the binary options.

Sometimes they do as both, or oftentimes as another gender option entirely!!! It's about being comfortable with who you are.

Isn't this fun?!?!?

What I'm trying to illustrate is that the more we play with

In our own state of Massachusetts, where same-sex marriage is a reality, transpeople can still be fired from their job simply because of their gender identity.

that there may be other options. Your kindergarten teacher might have been wrong, or at the very least misrepresenting the situation.

The more gender-fluid among us threaten that idea even more!

Now, for myself, I fall pretty solidly into the simpler "M to F" camp as far as my self-identification goes. I spent many years trying to live as a man and now I'm a woman. Simple and straight forward kinda, but not for everyone. Many people on the transgender spectrum find it more fitting to alter their gender presentation and identification so as to be more fluid. Cross dressers, for instance, generally identify as one gender, but prefer to present as another gender.

tiful new gender options.

Yes it can be confusing. Yes it adds to the overall complexity of the educational outreach the LGBT community needs to do in order to make the public understand who we are and why we deserve the same basic rights as everyone else. But, it's a box that has already been opened. We cannot expect our more gender-fluid siblings, all the grrrrs and the bois, and others to go back in the closet any more than we would expect you to stop being proud of being Gay, Gary!! We are stronger as a group than we are as factions. It would serve us all well to remember that.

If it makes you feel any better though, all this

fresh new weirdness is bound to have the side-effect of making the simpler issues like same-sex marriage seem quaint and kind of tame by comparison.

Welcome to America Columbus, your world is now round.

Hi Lorelei, I want to know your opinion about the "pregnant man." Here I was totally confused trying to explain to my son that men could not have babies, that this was not a man in reality, "she is really a he-wanna-be" son. The more I got into it, the more confused he was. I think that transgender people who have not undergone the operation should be called TRANS man, or TRANS woman, but not just "pregnant man!" There is not such a thing, and that is simply wrong to feed such information to people. Christa "Angry" Lesbian, Northampton, MA

Wow. I can almost hear Archie Bunker asking this question. Personally, I would love to have seen that episode of "All In The Family." You know the formula. A new couple moves in next door, kind old Edith invites them to dinner, Archie asks really embarrassing questions, and it turns out that the husband is a pregnant transgender man, Meathead tries to defend the couple only to have his own masculinity brought into question and Gloria is still trying to save the children in Africa. It all comes to a climax with Archie getting all red-faced and flustered, proclaiming to the gathered family and dinner guests, "she is really a he-wanna-be"!!! Then Sammy Davis Jr. shows up to explain everything. Hilarity ensues.

Seriously though, I suspect the one having difficulty with understanding this issue here is you and not your son. It's been my experience that children are often more easily capable of understanding new and strange ideas than adults are. Everything is still new for them so they have fewer locked down ideas about how things should be.

See TransWoman on Page 8

7th Annual Harbor to the Bay AIDS Ride kicks off

Organizers expect more than 300 Riders on Sep. 12th from Boston to Provincetown

BOSTON, MA—Harbor to the Bay (H2B) the leading AIDS Ride in Massachusetts announced recently that they have already raised nearly \$25,000, well on their way to beat last year's record total of \$417,000. Ride organizers hope to sign up 350 riders this year with a goal to raise \$500,000. As an incentive to signing up early, the ride is giving a 2009 limited edition Harbor to the Bay t-shirt to the first 250 riders and 100 crew members who register this year. One rider who is already signed up again this year is WCVB's David Brown, who is planning to ride the full route in addition to emceeing the opening and closing ceremonies.

Harbor to the Bay is a one-day bike ride from Boston to Provincetown organized and run solely by volunteers. In addition to its goal to donate 100 percent of all pledges to its beneficiaries, H2B's mission is to improve community awareness of HIV/AIDS care and services, and to support those organizations that advance the quality and accessibility of HIV and AIDS care and research.

"H2B aims to lead a world-class event with personalized attention and community spirit" said Jim Morgrage, President and Director of Harbor to the Bay. "Our donors, participants, and volunteers are excited to support an organization that has donated over \$1.4 million to beneficiaries that exhibit the responsibility, accessibility, and tenacity needed to have a major impact in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We celebrate that we are sustained by, and ultimately benefit, the people with whom we work and live"

Riders have a choice of three distances to choose from that day. They can complete the full 125 miles from Boston to Provincetown, opt to ride 68 miles from Boston to the Sagamore Bridge or take a 57-mile ride from the Sagamore Bridge to Provincetown. Non-riders can support the ride by registering to be

2009 RIDE DAY AGENDA

5:45 am - Opening Ceremony begins in Copley
6:00 am - Fast Riders depart
6:15 am - All riders have departed Copley
9 am - Riders prep at Sagamore
9:30 am - Ride Out Speech at Sagamore
9:45 am - Fast Riders depart
10:00 am - All riders have departed Sagamore
Cape Inn open to receive riders: 1 pm to 6:45 pm
7:00 pm - Riders Depart Boat Slip (may be slightly later)
7:20 pm - Riders enter Boat Slip
7:30 pm - Closing Ceremony opens

dedicated crewmembers to staff pit stops, encourage riders and help with fund-raising.

Launched in 2003, Harbor to the Bay (H2B) has raised over \$1,400,000 for four local HIV/AIDS organizations: Fenway Community Health, AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, Community Research Initiative (CRI) and AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts (AAC.) With 100 percent of all rider-received pledges going directly to these beneficiaries, and as an all-volunteer effort, H2B's enthusiasm and grass-roots focus has resonated with local supporters and community members.

Harbor to the Bay was created and inspired by the legacy of Michael A. Tye, who championed the idea of an AIDS Ride where 100 percent of the donations are used to benefit the families and friends living with HIV and AIDS.

For more information on the ride, go to www.harbor-to-the-bay.org.

New England Trans United Pride March

Northampton, MA—Members of the transgender, transsexual, and gender-variant communities and their allies from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maine, and eastern New York have announced plans to hold a *New England Trans United (NETU) Pride March and Rally* this fall. The event, with its theme "Live Out Loud," will take place in Northampton, Massachusetts on October 3, 2009.

The rally will assemble at 11:00 a.m. at Lampron Park. Marchers will step off at noon and proceed down Main Street for a rally at 1:00 p.m. at the Armory Street parking lot.

"This is the second New England-wide march and rally for transgender civil rights. Last year's event in Northampton drew more than 1,000 participants and educated the public about the lives and experiences of transgender people. This year, there is a continuing need to rally for

critical gender-rights bills making their way through state legislatures, speak out against an increase in hate crimes based on gender identity/expression, and celebrate our humanity, diversity, and strength."

Thousands of transgender people and supporters from throughout New England are expected to attend the event, which is free and open to the public. The march will include a wide spectrum of transgender, gender rights, LGBT, and social justice organizations, while the rally will feature a mix of political speakers, musicians, and cultural performers.

"We hope to bring together all segments of the transgender umbrella for political, social, and economic power. Issues including transgender health care, medical insurance, removing gender identity disorder as a psychiatric diagnosis,

See NETU on Page 20

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More Trans News & Creep of the Week Winner

UMass to Offer Protections to Transgender People

Amherst, MA—The University of Massachusetts, Amherst has added "gender identity and expression" to its nondiscrimination policy, providing legal protection for transgender and gender-variant students, staff, and faculty. In May, the town of Amherst made a similar change to its human rights law.

The University of Massachusetts Stonewall Center led the effort to modify the policies of both the town and the university. "It is critical to have 'gender identity and expression' in these policies, because transgender people across the United States report high rates of harassment and discrimination. Until now, transgender people at UMass and in Amherst had no protection when instances of discrimination occur," said Dr. Genny Janiczek Beemyn, the director of the Stonewall Center and a transgender person herself. "The change to the university's policy also sends an important signal to transgender people - that we are welcomed and supported on campus," she adds.

According to the Transgender Law and Policy Institute, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst becomes the 280th college or university to change its nondiscrimination policy to include "gender identity/expression." Other New England schools with transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination policies include Holyoke Community College, the University of Maine, the

University of New Hampshire, the University of Vermont, and the state colleges in Massachusetts.

According to Dr. Janiczek Beemyn, this change is important because UMass Amherst has a significant number of transgender and gender-diverse students, and many of these students are not always open about being transgender or having a transgender parent, if they can avoid it, because of concerns about harassment and discrimination.

"While UMass and Western Massachusetts are relatively trans-friendly, acts of discrimination do happen here, as they do in most places," said Dr. Janiczek Beemyn. "Transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination policies send a clear message that such acts will not be tolerated."

Although UMass Amherst is not one of the first colleges and universities in the country or even in New England to add "gender identity/expression" to its nondiscrimination policy, Dr. Janiczek Beemyn explained that it is the first of the Five Colleges to do so.

"It is also only the second school in the Pioneer Valley to do so on its own, after Holyoke Community College. (Western New England College and Westfield State College gained transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination policies when all of the state colleges adopted a transgender-supportive policy)" added Dr. Janiczek Beemyn.

discussion some, Thomas Beatie. He has a name, he is a person. It's easy to forget that simple fact in the midst of all the media hoopla.

Yes, he is a transgender man. And, I don't think any of the articles I've seen were at all misleading about that. According to my research, he has had what we call "top surgery" and had been taking testosterone as well, but stopped for some time before he and his wife attempted to inseminate him.

He had not had bottom surgery, which is not especially uncommon among transmen due to the fact that the operation to create male genitalia, called a phalloplasty, is unfortunately much more difficult and often less successful than the operation used to create female genitalia in transwomen.

Beatie had also refrained from having a hysterectomy. All of which meant that while he lives as a man and physically resembles a man well enough to legally remove his shirt in public, he still retained the necessary equipment to bear a perfectly healthy child. According to the reports that I read, his wife, who was no longer able to bear a child herself, actually began to lactate while he was pregnant and so was able to nurse the child once their daughter was born.

Beatie considers himself the Dad and his Wife as the child's Mom. It is fairly heteronormative actually. (See, I told you you'd be seeing that word a lot!) In short, there's nothing so wildly complicated about this at all.

I'll sum up so you can repeat to your son. Thomas Beatie was born as a woman. He had surgery and took hormones to make himself look more masculine so that he could live as

Creep of the Week: Nassau County School Board

By: D'Anne Witkowski*

In many places across the country, Gay-Straight Alliances are old news. I don't mean "old news" as in "not needed," I mean "old news" in that they hardly raise an eyebrow anymore.

Sometimes being a creep can also make you a loser. Or so Florida's Nassau County School Board learned after their attempt to keep a Gay-Straight Alliance out of their Yulee High School failed.

When students at the school first tried to start a GSA they were told no. One of the reasons they were given was that it was not OK to use the word "gay" in the organization's title. Why? Because having a group called the Gay-Straight Alliance violated the school's sacred abstinence-only education curriculum. Because, you know, a GSA is a group of students who get together to have sex with each other on school property.

Actually, that's not what a GSA is. According to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, "Gay-Straight Alliances are student clubs that work to improve school climate for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression."

Basically, it's a bunch of kids who want to stamp out homophobia, anti-gay harassment and discrimination in their schools. Some of the kids are gay, others aren't, but all of them have been witness to or touched by anti-gay bias and want to do something to combat it.

Sounds pretty devious, eh? Well, to the Nassau County School Board it did. They rejected requests to form a GSA repeatedly at both the high school and middle schools.

In February, the students sued and the American Civil Liberties Union stepped in and was all. "Uh, you have to let the students form a GSA because of the federal Equal Access Act, which protects all extra-curricu-

lar clubs not just gay ones." And the school board was all, "Well, then no extracurricular groups get to meet. I hope the gays are happy."

Of course, no one was happy with this. In March a U.S. District Judge issued a preliminary injunction saying that the school had to let the GSA meet. On Aug. 14 U.S. district judge Henry Lee Adams issued a permanent injunction saying that the school couldn't discriminate against the club and couldn't put the smack down on people involved in the lawsuit.

"We started a Gay-Straight Alliance because we wanted a safe space where all students can talk about harassment and discrimination that LGBT students face," said plaintiff Hannah Page. "We're grateful that the court recognized that the GSA should be allowed to meet and be treated like any other club."

"This is a victory for our clients, for the Yulee High GSA and indeed for gay and straight kids all across America," said Robert Rosenwald, ACLU of Florida LGBT Advocacy Project Director and lead counsel for the students. "Time and time again, we've seen discrimination and intolerance struck down by the courts in these cases, and for every school that wishes to cross the line, we'll be here to defend the students."

And what did the school board have to show for its hissy fit? A lot of bad press and about \$40 grand in legal fees to dish out. Discrimination is expensive, in more ways than one.

* D'Anne Witkowski has been gay for pay since 2003. She's a freelance writer and poet (believe it!). When she's not taking on the creeps of the world she reviews rock and roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister and teaches writing at the University of Michigan.

the man he knew himself to be. However, he still had female parts inside so that he was able physically to get pregnant and to bear a child. It was a natural childbirth even! He was apparently in labor for some forty hours!

That's it. Done. That's how you can have a pregnant man. You might have to explain about transgender people if you haven't already. It would also help to have a conversation about the differences between Sex and Gender. But you might want to do that anyway. We are becoming more visible every day.

Finally, I cannot finish this column without addressing the statement that pre-operative transgender people should be referred to as Trans Man or Trans Woman. I take issue with that statement personally. I myself am pre-operative. I have been taking hormones for a couple of years now and am physically and emotionally quite changed, but until I can afford to consider expensive medical procedures, I shall retain my former, ah, equipment. And while I often do refer to myself as a transwoman it is because I am proud of my experience as a transgender person. It's something that is a vital part of who I am as a person. NOT because I do not consider myself every bit a woman.

Besides that simple matter of respect, who would you propose determines this? Some government agency or appointed board? What level of surgery would you require? Thomas Beatie had about as much surgery as many legally male transgender men have had. I haven't had any. How would you define me?

It's a slippery enough slope as it is. It's not out of the question that something like what you suggest could happen. You may not have heard, but airlines are now being required to inquire as to the legal gender of all passengers when they purchase their ticket. A requirement, which is bound to lead to all kinds of humiliations and additional tribulations for transgender people.

For space reasons, I'll have to get into that in a later column though. That's all for now folks, thanks for reading and keep those questions coming! We've got a lot to learn about each other but your faithful Trans-Answerwoman is up to the task and excited to do it!!!

Slainte!

* To comment on Lorelei Erisis' column Ask a Transwoman, or ask her a question, please email to: loreeleerisis@therainbowtimes-mass.com. (no hyphens).

Transwoman from Page 6

It never bothers me when I'm out in the world and catch a child staring at me. They are usually genuinely curious and simply want to understand what this new thing is. Once their questions are answered, they simply go back about their lives. Totally content that this giant person is simply a new type of woman they have not previously encountered. Often, they could care less, which is probably the most frank and total acceptance any of us could ask for.

As for there being no such thing as a pregnant man, you should probably brace yourself for the future my Angry Lesbian friend. The theoretical science already exists for allowing a cisgender man to carry a child to term. It's only a matter of time before someone actually tries it. One artist already staged an elaborate prank to pretend that he actually had. Go ahead and check out malepregnancy.com, it even had me fooled for a few minutes.

Also, and this is something my own Father told me about when I was a child myself, male pregnancy is not unknown in nature. Seahorses, which also often pair-bond for life by the way, implant the female's eggs in a special pouch in the male where they are inseminated and gestate until the male gives birth to hundreds, sometimes thousands of baby Seahorses. As a matter of fact, they can give birth in the morning and get pregnant again by that afternoon!!! Presumably, after a romantic candlelit dinner and an episode of The Simpsons.

Getting back to the specific topic at hand. The pregnant man. Or, to personalize this

Ali Forney Center names first purchased residence for homeless LGBT youth in honor of "Golden Girl's" Bea Arthur

New York, NY—The Ali Forney Center (AFC), the nation's largest organization dedicated to homeless LGBT youth, will formally announce its plan to name a residence for LGBT youth in honor of Bea Arthur at her memorial service on September 14th at the Majestic Theater in New York City. The Ali Forney Center is working with a group of Bea's close friends and colleagues to plan the memorial service.

"Bea Arthur was tremendously kind and generous to the Ali Forney Center," says Carl Siciliano, AFC Founder and Executive Director. "The caring and concern that Bea expressed for our kids meant the world to us, and we are thrilled to be able to give honor to her memory in this way".

In November of 2005, Bea flew to New York City from her home in Los Angeles in order to give a special benefit performance of her one-woman show. The performance raised over \$40,000 for the Ali Forney Center. In an interview for Next Magazine Bea explained her decision to offer her support "I'm very, very involved in charities involving youth and the plight of foster children. But these kids at the Ali Forney Center are literally dumped by their families because of the fact that they are lesbian, gay, or transgender - this organization really is saving lives." Bea continued to offer her support, both as a donor and as an advocate. In one of her very last interviews, published in the New York Blade in May 2008, Bea spoke with pride of having done the benefit for AFC, and indicated that she would do anything to help gay kids disowned by their parents.

The Ali Forney Center currently offers eight residential sites in New York City to provide shelter and housing to homeless LGBT youth, all of which it rents. AFC has recently received generous financial support from the Oak Foundation to support a plan to purchase housing sites. The Ali Forney Center is committed to naming its first purchased site the Bea Arthur Residence for LGBT Youth.

"Before Bea became involved with us, we



BEA ARTHUR & CARL SICILIANO

Credit: Linda Lenzi/BroadwayWorld.com

only had two sites, and could only shelter 12 kids," says Siciliano. "We were struggling to respond to an epidemic of homelessness that was not very well understood, even in the LGBT community. Bea's support and advocacy really helped raise awareness in our community. Bea Arthur played a crucial part in our efforts to expand our capacity to respond to the hundreds of LGBT youths who come to us for help. She feels very much like a patron saint!"

The Ali Forney Center is the nation's largest organization dedicated to homeless LGBT youth. AFC currently provides eight residential sites offering emergency shelter and longer-term housing, and additionally provides two drop-in centers which offer medical care, mental health treatment, HIV prevention, testing and treatment, housing and benefit assistance, and job training and placement services. The mission of the Ali Forney Center is to help homeless LGBT youth be safe and become independent as they move from adolescence to adulthood. Ali Forney was a queer youth who was murdered on the streets in 1997, when there was no safe shelter for LGBT youth in NYC.

Sen. Ted Kennedy remembered

Senator Edward Kennedy: A Record of Leadership on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and HIV Issues

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, released the following document on Senator Edward M. Kennedy's (D-MA) historic leadership on issues of importance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Senator Kennedy was been a champion for civil rights since his first term in the United States Senate in 1962. Over the years, Ted Kennedy supported legislation that promoted equal rights and fought closed-minded and discriminatory measures. Senator Kennedy was an unwavering supporter of the LGBT community, leading the charge on important legislation like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the *Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act* and forcefully opposed discriminatory proposals, including the *Defense of Marriage Act* and the *Federal Marriage Amendment*. Senator Kennedy received a perfect 100% on all of HRC's congressional scorecards (101st Congress-110th Congress).

Recently, the Human Rights Campaign issued the following statement on the passing of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA).

"The nation has lost its greatest champion and strongest voice for justice, fairness, and compassion," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "The loss to our community is immeasurable. There was no greater hero for advocates of LGBT equality than Senator Ted Kennedy. From the early



U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., whose championing of gay causes was unrivaled in Congress, died Aug. 25 of brain cancer. He was 77.

Photo by: Rex Wockner circa 1979 in Iowa.

days of the AIDS epidemic, to our current struggle for marriage equality he has been our protector, our leader, our friend. He has been the core of the unfinished quest for civil rights in this country and there is now a very painful void. Our hearts go out to the Kennedy family."

In 2008, Senator Kennedy delivered an impassioned speech to the Board of the Human Rights Campaign regarding his support for LGBT issues. To view the speech: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6t1gRe_XMvQ. To read about all of Senator Kennedy's supportive measures and stance that he took on many human rights issues, please visit: www.hrc.org/13439.htm



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GLBT Events & Honors

Notes for Life Benefit concert

Notes for Life brings together the most incredible talent from up-and-down the Eastern seaboard to create an unbelievable night to remember.

First up, Broadway diva Kate Pazakis will floor you with pipes that are not to be believed. Kate Pazakis's Off-Broadway credits include *A Broadway Diva Christmas*, *Newscial* & her MAC nominated show *The Sexless Years*. She has performed at over one hundred readings & charity benefits including *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* for the Actors Fund & has appeared on NBC's "Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting," at Carnegie Hall in Jerry Springer, the Opera & aboard *Rosie O'Donnell's R Family Cruises*. She recently released her debut album "Unzipped." Her film credits include playing herself in *The Big Gay Musical*. Each Friday, Kate co-hosts "Mostly Sondheim" with Xanadu's Marty Thomas and musical director Brian J. Nash. For more information on Kate, visit www.katepazakis.com.

Next up, indie-folk-rock heroes *Winterpills* will show you what breathtaking harmonies are all about. When *Winterpills* (www.winterpills.com) released their debut album in the fall of 2005. Critics met the album with descriptions like "heavy with moments of sheer beauty," "exquisite vocals, deeply moving, heartrending," and "as textured as the best indie rock around." Fans put the album in the Top 100 on iTunes and Amazon.com and made *Winterpills* a most requested band on radio stations across the country. Closing the

event, Samirah Evans and her Handsome Devils will bring the house down. In New Orleans, a city known worldwide for its music, Samirah was one of its most popular jazz & blues vocalists. She has toured Europe, Asia, and North and South America as a headliner, and shared stages with a multitude of legendary artists from B.B. King and James Brown, to New Orleans own Queen of Soul, Irma Thomas. With a recent move to Vermont, Samirah has been delighting audiences all over New England with her distinct brand of soulful electric jazz rhythms...pure magic. For more info on Samirah, go to www.samirahevans.com.

Proceeds from Notes for Life will be split between the *AIDS Project of Southern VT* (www.aidsprojectsouthernvermont.org/) and the *San Francisco AIDS Foundation* (www.sfaf.org). These funds will help provide vital services and programs designed to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS and to reduce the number of new infections that occur each year.

HIV/AIDS have not gone away...the time for us to help is now. Please join us for a truly special evening where we come together for a single cause and create notes for life. Tickets are currently available for purchase at www.notesforlife.net or in the lobby of the Latchis Hotel (50 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT, 05301). Tickets are \$40 for the first eight rows and \$25 for general admission. For more information, contact: Ken Schneck, kschneck@marlboro.edu (no hyphen)

Boston & P-Town (partial) Calendar

BOSTON

Sept. 3-6: OUT Weekend: Thursday night out, The Glamorous Life at Estate with local icon DJ Rich LaDue spinning the very best in Hip Hop and Top 40's Dance music; doors at 10pm. Free before 11PM and \$10 after, 1 Boylston Place, Boston, MA. Friday night the party returns to Lansdowne Street with superstar Manny Lehman. Doors at 10pm, \$15 for 21+, 15 Lansdowne Street, Boston, MA. Saturday night features the return of DJ/Producer Roland Belmares to Epic Saturdays. Doors at 10pm, \$15, 21+, 279 Tremont Street, Boston, MA. OUT WEEKEND ends Sunday night with a Brazilian Born DJ Ranny. Doors at 10pm, 21+, Free before 11pm and \$15 after, 279 Tremont Street, Boston, MA.

Sept. 11: 6:15pm: Boston Gay Men's Chorus: Totally 80s; Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park, Atlantic Ave, Boston MA.

Sept. 13: Boston Gay Men's Chorus Auditions : 3-6pm; Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St, Boston MA. FMI: auditions@bgmc.org or call the office at 617-542-SING to schedule an appointment.

Sept. 24: Latin Pride National Awards: 7:30pm; Comedy Connection Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont Street, Boston, MA. FMI: 800-745-3000.

Sept. 25: Comedy Connection Presents: Kevin Hart: 10:00pm; Comedy Connection Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont Street, Boston, MA.

Oct. 2 & 3: Dance Showcase 2009: 8pm; Boston University Dance Theater: 915 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215. FMI: 617-358-2500.

Oct. 2: Paula Poundstone: 7:30pm; Comedy Connection Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont Street, Boston, MA. FMI: 617-248-9700.

P-TOWN

Sept. 4: 10:30am-11:45am: "ShowGirls" Provincetown, MA The Documentary. Art House 214 Commercial St.: Tickets: \$12: "ShowGirls" Provincetown, MA is a feature documentary about a small town talent show with a strong dose of vaudeville where an eclectic mix of locals, drag queens and the occasional tourist passing through vie for the \$500.00 prize and their chance at fame on stage. This popular show takes place Monday evenings over the summer. FMI: www.ptownarthouse.com/Late-Night/Every-Friday-Late-Night

Sept. 4, 5 & 6: 4-7pm; Tea Dance @ the Boatslip; (happening most evenings from 4-7pm); Boatslip Resort: Music and mayhem on the waterfront. Not to be missed!

<http://www.boatslipresort.com>

Sept. 4, 5 & 6: The Thirsty Burlington Show in The Cabaret Room @ The Crown & Anchor: 10:30pm; 247 Commercial St. (happening most nights at 10:30pm). Thirsty presents her solo show featuring the very best in celebrity impersonations and rapid fire comic delivery. Thirsty also hosts HUMP DAY Karaoke in the Wave Bar every Wednesday night at 9:00pm; FMI: www.ONLY-atthecrown.com

Sept. 5: 10:30am-11:45am: Planet of the Gays!: Art House 214 Commercial St.: An original Musical with countless Song Parodies, side-splitting Comedy, fabulous Drag Queens, GO-GO Boys, Twinks, Bears, & Leather Queens, Luscious Lesbians visiting from nearby "Planet Home Depot" - and not a friggin' APE in sight! www.myspace.com/planetofthegays

Sept. 5: 4:00pm: 23rd Annual Gala Auction for AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod; Fishermen's Wharf, Provincetown: The live auction begins at 5:30: Original fine artworks, antiques, fine jewelry, and vacation trips available to the highest bidder. Paddle price \$25 includes hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar. FMI: www.asgcc.org

Sept. 5, 19 & 26: Underwear Party: 10:30pm-1:00am: The Club Purgatory at The Gifford House Inn. Boxers or briefs!!! Strip down to your shorts and dance to the latest music with DJ Dave. Pricing for 2009 - BUD AND BUD LITE \$3.00. FMI: www.giffordhouse.com

Sept. 12: Harbor to the Bay AIDS Bike Ride: 5:00am; Copley Square, Boston to Provincetown, MA. 100% goes to charity. FMI or to register: <http://www.harbor-tothebay.org>.

Sept. 12: Annual Swim for Life: 8am-3pm; Boatslip Resort; FMI: <http://www.swim4life.org>

Sept. 16: Wine Lovers Wednesdays, Shipwreck Lounge: 5:00pm-11:59pm; 10 Carver Street; Join us Wednesday Evenings as we feature a special wine by the glass, in addition to our 8 great selections at only \$8. Also enjoy our premium wines by the glass including selections from Cakebread Vineyards. FMI: www.ptownlounge.com

Sept. 18: Illusions in The Cabaret Room @ The Crown & Anchor: 7:30pm; 247 Commercial St A true glamour drag show featuring Billie Jean, Tish DeWilliams, Felicity Lane & Shady Pines. High Style & High Camp! FMI: www.ONLYatthecrown.com

MORE CALENDAR EVENTS CAN BE FOUND AT: www.therainbowtimesmass/calendar.html

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Lesbian Best Sellers*

1. She Likes Girls 4:...
2. The L Word Final Season
3. Steam - the Movie
4. The Secrets
5. Drifting Flowers
6. Girl Play
7. Butch Jamie
8. Le Jupon Rouge
9. Village Affair, A
10. Itty Bitty Titty Committee

* By wolfevideo.com

Gay Best Sellers*

1. Newcastle
2. The New Twenty
3. Were the World Mine
4. Pedro
5. Pageant
6. Mulligans
7. Whirlwind
8. Lilies
9. Chefs Special
10. Queer As Folk: Season 5

* By wolfevideo.com

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Out! For Reel Film Series kicks Off 2nd Season with New England premiere & evening of entertainment

Out! For Reel, Northampton's popular LGBT film series kicks off its second season with a full evening of entertainment on Saturday, September 12. Headlining the event is the New England premiere of the new lesbian romantic comedy, *And Then Came Lola*. The film will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton, MA.

After the film, there will be a catered party with music and dancing to celebrate *Out! For Reel*'s first anniversary, across the street at the Northampton Center for the Arts ballroom. The party begins at 9:30 p.m., immediately following the film.

Out! For Reel events have proven wildly popular, drawing more than 4,200 attendees from greater New England and selling out the Academy of Music multiple times last year.

"With hundreds of LGBT folks and allies together under one roof, *Out! For Reel* events are so much more than a movie - they are a celebration of our community," said Jaime Michaels, *Out! For Reel* producer and founder.

"During an *Out! For Reel* event, you can feel the energy vibrating in the theater from the joy and excitement of being together," added Char Gentes, an O!FR volunteer. "Other than Pride Day, there are no other LGBT events this big—it's inspiring to experience."

Mayor Clare Higgins will help to kick off this year's Premiere event with a welcome to the audience who travel from all over New England. "Out! For Reel is a wonderful new contribution to Valley's cultural offerings and a nice boost to Northampton's tourism market," said Higgins. Before the film, *Out! For Reel* will present a surprise opening act by a talented local singer with comedic back-up singers. "These folks brought the house down at their most recent performance," states Michaels. The Film

Directed by Megan Siler and Ellen Seidler, *And Then Came Lola* (2009) is a ground-

breaking feature that takes the classic lesbian romantic comedy and flips it on its ear with stylistic storytelling, quick wit and perfect casting. Lola (Ashleigh Sumner), a photographer who is newly in love but scared to commit, bounces like a pinball through San Francisco trying to make the delivery on time to her gorgeous lover Casey (Jill Bennet) while dodging a panoply of setbacks: missed trains, lost keys, and large chasing dogs. Structured in a dream sequence, fate gives Lola three chances to relive the day and try to deliver both the designs and her commitment to Casey. The steamy love scenes and laugh-out-loud couple's therapy sessions steal the show.

A review by NBC's affiliate in Philadelphia commented *And Then Came Lola* was "pulled off in a fresh, sharp manner ... Highly recommended...."

The film trailer can be viewed at www.OutForReel.org.

Tickets prices are \$12.50 in advance, \$14.50 at the door, and \$10 for students with ID. Included in the ticket price is a new Academy of Music facility fee of \$1. Tickets to the After Party tickets are \$7.50 for filmgoers and \$11 for non-filmgoers. Because previous shows have sold out, advance tickets are strongly recommended. Tickets may be purchased at *Pride & Joy*, Northampton; *Food For Thought Books*, Amherst; *World Eye Bookshop*, Greenfield; *The Odyssey Bookshop*, South Hadley; or online at www.OutForReel.org.

The *Out! For Reel* Film Series *Out! For Reel* screens the best in first run, award-winning lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender films from around the world on a monthly basis during a 10-month season, beginning each year in September.

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ORQUESTRA DE SÃO PAULO WITH DAME EVELYN GLENNIE

Sunday, October 18, 7 PM, Concert Hall
Pre-performance talk by Mount Holyoke music professor Eric Benjamin from 6:15 - 6:45 PM in the University Gallery
Global Gourmet: Prix Fixe dinner at the University Club & Restaurant. Call 545-2511 for details.
Sponsored by El Sol Latino and Fathers & Son

DAFNIS PRIETO SEXTET

Thursday, October 22, 7:30 PM, Bowker Auditorium
Within a short period of time Dafnis Prieto's revolutionary drumming technique has had a powerful impact on both the Latin and jazz music scene. Funded in part by the Expeditions program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies.
Sponsored by El Sol Latino and WFCR/WNNZ

DAN ZANES AND FRIENDS: Family Dance Party

Friday, October 23, 7 PM, Concert Hall
The Grammy-Award Winner is joined by his "beautifully scruffy, harmonically precise, spirited, and better-than-ever band" and they'll be singing songs both English and Spanish with their own homespun style.
Pre-Show Party: Please come at 6 PM for our annual pre-show party for families. Join the staff of FamilyFun Magazine for hands-on craft activities, Baystate Health's Bandy Bear, and healthy snacks for everyone while they last.
Sponsored by Baystate Medical Practices, Disney FamilyFun Magazine, UMass Alumni Association, Whole Foods and The River 93.9FM

AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER: Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

Tuesday, November 3, 7:30 PM, Bowker Auditorium
Dance, athleticism, and swordplay stage the stage with sonnets, bawdy wit, and soul-searching speeches in this profoundly human and always surprising masterpiece. \$20; Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$10. Pre-performance talk by Professor Arthur Kinney from 6:30 - 7:00 PM in Bowker Auditorium. Co-presented with the Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies.
Sponsored by The River 93.9FM

BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY; ANOTHER EVENING/SERENADE: THE PROPOSITION

Thursday, November 5, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall
Serenade/The Proposition is a lively, colorful rumination on the nature of history that features a cast of fierce dancers, an iconic set, beautifully deconstructed costumes and an original score. \$40, \$30, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC and Youth 17 and under: \$15. Post-performance talk-back with the artists immediately following the performance. The Arts Give Back: Please bring a new, unwrapped toy, game, winter clothing item or non-perishable food item to donate to families through the Amherst and Northampton Survival Centers. Global Gourmet: Prix Fixe dinner at the University Club & Restaurant. Call 545-2511 for details.
Sponsored by the Davis Financial Group, The

Rainbow Times, and The River 93.9FM

WUNDERLE'S BIG TOP WORKSHOP

Sunday, November 8, 2pm - 4:30pm, Concert Hall Lobby, free and open to all ages
An interactive circus adventure appropriate for a wide range of skill levels and ages. Equipment and human stunts will be taught. Troy Wunderle is the founder of Wunderle's Big Top Circus and is the Big Top Tour Director of Circus Smirkus in Vermont.

CIRQUE MECHANICS IN A BIRDHOUSE FACTORY

Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall
It's a wild and wonderful workshop where the machines are circus props and the workers are acrobats, dancers, contortionists, and clowns. The performers, from Cirque du Soleil, Pickle Family Circus, and the Moscow Circus, transform the mundane into the magnificent.
\$35, \$25, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC and Youth 17 and under: \$15. Please join us at 6:30PM in the lobby for some pre-cirque hijinks with Show Circus Studio. The Arts Give Back: Please bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

Global Gourmet: Prix Fixe dinner at the University Club & Restaurant. Call 545-2511 for details.
Funded in part by the Expeditions program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies.
Sponsored by Cooley Dickinson Hospital, the Daily Hampshire Gazette, Finck & Perrras Insurance, Hampshire Hospitality Group, Whole Foods, The River 93.9FM and the UMass Alumni Association.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

Tuesday, February 2, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall
Mark Morris's company of exuberant dancers lives up to its reputation of wit, grace, and a refined musicality that is further reinforced by Morris's use of live musicians in every performance. \$40, \$30, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC and Youth 17 and under: \$15
There will be a pre-performance talk from 6:30 - 7 PM in the rear seating area of the Concert Hall. Sponsored by the Preview Magazine, Silverscape Designs, WGBY and The River 93.9FM <logos>

IMANI WINDS WITH STEFON HARRIS

Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 PM, Bowker Auditorium
The Grammy-nominated quintet will feature their unique collaboration with jazz vibraphonist Stefon Harris.
There will be a post-performance discussion with the artists immediately following the concert. \$25, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$15
Funded in part by the Expeditions program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies.
Sponsored by WFCR/WNNZ

L.A. THEATRE WORKS, SUSAN ALBERT LOEWENBERG, PRODUCING DIRECTOR, PRESENTS "THE RFK PROJECT" by Murray Horwitz and Jonathan Estrin

Tuesday, February 23, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall

"The RFK Project" chronicles Robert Kennedy's dramatic transformation from discomfort with and indifference towards the Civil Rights movement to a champion and crusader. \$35, \$25, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$15. Pre-performance talk by UMass Theater Professor Harley Erdman from 6:30 PM to 7 PM in the rear seating area of the Concert Hall. Post-performance talk-back with the artists immediately following the performance. The Arts Give Back: Please bring an item that will meet the needs of families in transition at Jessie's House. Visit www.jessieshouse.org for their wish list. Global Gourmet: Prix Fixe dinner at the University Club & Restaurant. Call 545-2511 for details. The LA Theatre Works/RFK Project is a commission led by the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Dame and co-commissioned by the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland, Stanford Live Arts at Stanford University, and the Modlin Center for the Arts at the University of Richmond.
Sponsored by The Rainbow Times, the UMass Alumni Association, and WFCR/WNNZ

BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DE MÉXICO

Tuesday, March 2, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall
Ballet Folklórico de México sets itself apart by combining their artists' talents with the traditional music, elaborate dance and ornate costumes of Mexican culture. \$35, \$25, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$15. Please join us in the lobby prior to the show for a Mexican cultural celebration beginning at 6:30 PM.
Sponsored by El Sol Latino, United Wealth Management Group, Whole Foods, and The River 93.9FM

BLACK GRACE DANCE COMPANY

Choreographer, Neil Ieremia
Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall
Predominantly Pacific Island and Maori, this company is renowned for its unique ability to combine their traditional and contemporary dance forms. There will be a pre-performance talk with Artistic Director and Founder Neil Ieremia from 6:30 - 7 PM at the rear seating area of Concert Hall. The Arts Give Back: Please bring an item from the Dakin Humane Society's wish list at www.dpwhs.org.
Sponsored by The River 93.9FM and the UMass Campus Center Hotel

PADDY MOLONEY WITH THE CHIEFTAINS

Wednesday, March 10, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall
The Chieftains are the heart and soul of traditional Irish music. They have collaborated with the giants of the entertainment world and won countless Grammy Awards. \$40, \$30, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$15. Please join us in the lobby prior to the concert for an Irish Cultural Celebration beginning at 6:30 PM. Global Gourmet: Prix Fixe dinner at the University Club & Restaurant. Call 545-2511 for details.
Sponsored by The Coca Cola, The Daily Hampshire Gazette, PeoplesBank, the UMass Alumni Association, and The River 93.9FM

ZAKIR HUSSAIN PRESENTS MASTERS OF PERCUSSION

Saturday, March 27, 8 PM, Concert Hall
A classical tabla virtuoso of the highest order, Hussain's consistently brilliant and exciting performances have not only established him as a

national treasure in his own country, India, but earned him worldwide fame. He will be joined by nine renowned musicians playing percussion instruments as well as sitar and sarangi. \$35, \$25, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$15. Pre-performance talk with Ranjana Devi, Director of the Asian Arts & Culture Program, from 7 PM - 7:30 PM in the rear seating area of the Concert Hall. Funded in part by the Arts Job program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
Sponsored by 93.9FM The River.

ENSEMBLE GAULIEI AND NPR'S NEAL CONAN FIRST PERSON: STORIES FROM THE EDGE OF THE WORLD with featured actress Lily Knight

Saturday, April 10, 8 PM, Concert Hall
A remarkable collaboration featuring spectacular images from the National Geographic archives projected on a large, on-stage screen. Conan's compelling narration, with evocative music created specifically for this project, works seamlessly to take the audience along on some of the world's most extraordinary expeditions. \$35, \$25, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$15. Pre-performance talk with Carolyn Surrick, Neal Conan and WFCR Morning Edition host Bob Paquette from 7 PM - 7:30 PM in the rear seating area of the Concert Hall.
Sponsored by WGBY, WFCR/WNNZ and The Recorder

ROKIA TRAORÉ

Wednesday, April 14, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall
Along with her feather light vocals, Rokia's music is infused with western pop rhythms and traditional African instruments, making for rare and beautiful music. Pre-performance talk by WFCR's Jazz Safari host Kari Nijiri from 6:30 - 7 PM in the rear seating area of the Concert Hall. \$30, \$25, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$15. Funded in part by the Expeditions program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies.
Sponsored by WFCR/WNNZ

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

Friday, April 30, 8 PM, Concert Hall
This innovative dance company with a solid foundation in classical ballet has made a lasting impression with ten versatile, energetic dancers performing a sophisticated repertoire featuring some of the world's foremost choreographers. \$35, \$30, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$15. Pre-performance talk by Executive Director Jean-Philippe Malaty from 7:30 PM in the rear seating area of the Concert Hall.
The Arts Give Back: Please bring a new or gently used suit or professional item of clothing to donate to Dress for Success Global Gourmet: Prix Fixe dinner at the University Club & Restaurant. Call 545-2511 for details. "Sue's Log" was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts' American Masterpieces: Dance Initiative, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts. Sponsored by Easthampton Savings Bank, Fathers & Sons, and Preview Magazine

Deep Inside Hollywood: Dan Savage, Portman, Excalibur, and Jay Leno



*By: Romeo San Vicente**
Portman & Kunis get busy in Black Swan

There's a certain formula to famous actresses shooting lesbian scenes in Hollywood movie—some tee-hee coy kisses, the curtains billow, one lady moans and rolls her eyes to the ceiling, and then the camera discreetly pulls away. Writer-director Darren Aronofsky (*The Wrestler*) is promising the exact opposite for his upcoming feature film *Black Swan*, which will feature Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis having what several sources have described as hungry, aggressive, Ecstasy-induced sex. (That's how it's described in the script—co-written by Aronofsky and Mark Heyman, based on an original screenplay by John McLaughlin.) The film tells the story of a literal gaggle of ballerinas in a New York City dance company, duking it out for the lead role in *Swan Lake*. Will it be about lesbians or about hetero women performing sexually for straight men? Who knows. But this *is* Hollywood we're talking about here. So keep your hopes in check when *Black Swan* grand jete's its way into theaters in 2010.

A "Savage Love" sex column you don't have to read

Gay sex advice columnist Dan Savage has been educating, titillating and infuriating readers for years with his syndicated column "Savage Love," which gives frank answers to questions about everything from coming out to S&M to non-monogamy to getting those tricky stains out of your bedsheets. He's politically frank as well, calling out enemies to the gay community like former Pennsylvania Republican senator Rick Santorum, who once compared gay sex to "man-on-dog" action—Savage coined the phrase "santorum," which refers to ... well, Google it and find out for



Photo by: Focus Features

NATALIE PORTMAN

yourself. Anyway, the columnist may take his bluntly funny advice-dispensing to the airwaves, if the *Savage Love* pilot he shot for HBO in August scores points with the network. And if the cable channel that gave us *Real Sex* and *Taxicab Confessions* can't handle Dan Savage talking about dildos and cross-dressing, who can? OK, yes, Showtime maybe.

Bryan Singer pulls Excalibur from the Stone

Not a month passes without openly gay *X-Men* and *Valkyrie* director Bryan Singer getting talked up as maybe/maybe-not attached to a hot new project. One Singer assignment that looks like it might actually happen is a remake of 1981's *Excalibur*, John Boorman's gritty and mystical take on the King Arthur tale. That film featured a notable cast that included Helen Mirren and Nigel Terry along-

side such then-newcomers as Liam Neeson, Patrick Stewart and Gabriel Byrne. Singer's approach to the material is said to be more epic, along the lines of 2004's *King Arthur*, which starred Clive Owen. No word yet as to when *Excalibur* might start shooting—Singer's known to tie himself to projects like *Logan's Run* or *The Mayor of Castro Street* that never quite make their way out of development hell - but keep watching the interwebs for updates.

The Jay Leno Show taps Feldman

Filling five hours of primetime TV a week is too much for one man to handle, so it's no surprise that Jay Leno is calling out for backup when *The Jay Leno Show* debuts Sept. 14 on NBC. The one-time *Tonight Show* host has lined up several comedians who will contribute taped bits to the show, and one of them is lesbian stand-up comic Liz Feldman, who's

already hit the bricks to shoot a segment in an old-folks home, where she taught a roomful of seniors how to use Twitter. Feldman, along with Mikey Day and D.L. Hughley, will appear regularly on the nightly show, finding the funny out in the world while Jay does his thing in the studio. Will NBC's gamble pay off? Will the show rocket Feldman into a new fame bracket? Check it out weeknights at 10 p.m. Eastern/Pacific and decide for yourself.

* *Romeo San Vicente* has resorted to watching *Gimme Sugar* for his recommended weekly allowance of lesbians on TV. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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Senior Lesbians Happily at Play (SLAPHAPS): Kathy (203) 929-8113
True Colors CT: www.ourtricolors.org (888) 565-5551/National
Runaway Switchboard: (773) 880-9860/Connecticut
Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF): 135 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 - 860.247.6090
Info. and Referral program: (800) 479-2949 or Greater Hartford 524-0601 - Statewide women's rights organization working to end discrimination and hate crimes; provides free legal information and referral to the LGBT community.
XX Club (Twenty Club): Rev. Cannon Jones - 45 Church Street Hartford, CT 06141-0387 - (860)646-8651 - Provides knowledgeable info., and ongoing peer support to transsexuals. 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, 2 - 5 p.m.
connecticut View (cView): A Transgender social and support club, for the TG, TV, TS, CD, both male and female. Monthly meeting in New Haven as well as e-membership, and more. A no dues club, with all the frills; www.transgender.org/ct/

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Queertations

Change Has Finally Come to Black Gay Dallas

DALLAS, TX—Change has now come. The DFW Pride Movement is a new organization that exists to create a sense of unity and social support within the African American LGBT community. The organization was founded on December 19, 2008, by Dallas' youngest and brightest African American LGBT community advocate, Mr. Venton Jones, along with a group of Dallas' three most daring trendsetters.

The DFW Pride Movement aka "The Movement" aka Dallas Black Pride, is the only 501(c)3 African American LGBT non-profit organization in North Texas recognized by the International Federation of Black Prides. Community leaders feel that there is no time better than the present for our Black LGBT community to come together and address issues that are directly impacting the entire community. The Dallas African American LGBT community now has a pride organization that is truly a non-profit tax exempt entity.

The DFW Pride Movement will provide year long activities that address their mission. These activities include but aren't limited to a community business luncheon, happy hour/networking events, cultural events that merge our cultural and ethnic identity as Black LGBT people, as well as community forums and roundtable discussions around policy issues, and will serve as the community advocate for the Black LGBT community in Dallas/Fort Worth.

Their private activities have been building up to "The Movement" aka Dallas Black Pride Festival 2009. "The Movement," will play host

to national and local LGBT organizations and institutions that will have booths with information and resources, a holistic wellness fair, entertainment, a movie screening and activities that promote family and community amongst Black LGBT and affirming individuals in Dallas/Fort Worth. This year's host hotel is the beautiful Westin City Center Dallas Hotel located in the Arts District of Downtown Dallas. Rooms can now be reserved for only \$89.00 per night.

Over the years, the Dallas Black Pride as undergone several name changes. Just as various companies have made changes to adjust to the demands of society and to stay ahead of the curve; so must we. The name DFW Pride Movement makes Dallas Black Pride more marketable to various demographics around the world and it readily states that the African American LGBT community welcomes the partnership of all ethnicities. Just like the colors of the rainbow, we are all beautiful.

The DFW Pride Movement's board is made up of noted and proven individuals who don't believe that pride starts and ends in the first weekend in October, but black pride is something that they display every day of their lives. The DFW Pride Movement is the new Dallas Black Pride of the 21st century!"

If you are interesting in find out more about the DFW Pride Movement, please do not hesitate to contact them at dfwpridemovement@gmail.com or visit the website at www.dfwpridemovement.org.

Queertations: Say what?!

By: Rex Wockner

"Look, I think it's (Don't Ask, Don't Tell) ridiculous. Can you believe they spent - whatever they spent -- \$150,000 to get rid of a valued Arabic speaker recently? And, you know, the thing that changed me forever on Don't Ask, Don't Tell was when I learned that 130 gay service people were allowed to serve and risk their lives in the first Gulf War, and all their commanders knew they were gay; they let them go out there and risk their lives because they needed them, and then as soon as the first Gulf War was over, they kicked them out. That's all I needed to know, that's all anybody needs to know, to know that this policy should be changed."

—Bill Clinton speaking at the Netroots Nation conference Aug. 13 in Pittsburgh.

"Though this page will back same-sex marriage no matter what the year, we hope the Courage Campaign will rethink its timing. Gay-rights activists must recognize that their lackluster campaign did little to sway the public, especially considering the misleading ads by gay-marriage opponents. So far, the Courage Campaign has not articulated a sophisticated strategy for changing this. Without other gay-rights groups by its side, its low chances are further weakened."

—The Los Angeles Times editorial page weighs in Aug. 17 on the battle between gay rights groups over when to attempt to repeal Proposition 8—in 2010 (the Courage Campaign's plan) or 2012 (Equality California's plan).

"Any closeted gay person who votes against the interests of gay people and is outed because of it is getting what they deserve. My only concern is that sometimes the sensational aspect of outing somebody gets us to lose sight of just what it is that was so bad about them. And they get drummed out of office and are replaced by somebody who is just as bad."

—Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese to U.S. News & World Report, Aug. 7.

"His name was Harvey Milk and he was here to recruit us—all of us—to join a movement and change a nation. For much of his early life, he had silenced himself. In the prime of his life, he was silenced by the act of another. But in the brief time in which he spoke—and ran and led—his voice stirred the aspirations of millions of people. He would become, after several attempts, one of the first openly gay Americans elected to public office. And his message of hope—hope unashamed, hope unafraid—could not ever be silenced. It was Harvey who said it best: 'You gotta give 'em hope.'"

—President Barack Obama awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the late gay activist Harvey Milk, Aug. 12.

"I'm running on the gay marriage, no religion, legalization and taxation of marijuana platform. I don't have a chance (at becoming mayor of New Orleans). I don't have a chance. ... That's my answer. I don't have a chance. That's not what I do best."

—Actor Brad Pitt on TV's Today show, Aug. 13.

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Big-mouthed comedian Sandra Bernhard has tackled a lot in her 30-year career; now it's time for global domination

By Chris Azzopardi*

Sandra Bernhard, who's been targeting celebrity culture and politics with a biting snap for over 30 years, always puts it all out there. We mean that in every which way - remember the nude 1992 Playboy pictorial? Now she has a different platform to do so: Twitter, where she rants on drug companies, plugs her new world-music LP—*Whatever It Takes*, out Aug. 25—and talks booze with gal pal and fellow queer actress, Sarah Paulson.

When the comic pacesetter's not tirelessly Tweeting, she's performing "Without You I'm Nothing" shows during a 20th anniversary revival and pitching a New York-set project she co-wrote with Rip Torn's daughter.

From her New York pad, Bernhard chatted about her world music album, Twitter freaks and her "weird" life.

CA: I just started following you on Twitter—and now I feel bad.

SB: I made you feel bad?

Yeah, because you're a more diligent tweeter than me (laughs).

It's summertime—I've got a little more time on my hands than usual. Even when I'm busy, I run to the computer during the day and try to remind people of little things and ideas. It's a nice creative outlet, but don't let it make you feel bad (laughs).

Do you ever get any weirdos sending you messages?

I've gotten maybe a handful of negative off-the-wall responses, but I have to say, all in all, considering how out there I am, everybody's been very cool. If it gets too weird, I'll just jump off.

The new album is very liberating. I felt like I took a trip around the world without having to get on a plane.

That's kind of the point of all of my work, but musically, this album kind of captures that without saying it so didactically. It's just there in the music and the beats and the rhythms and the lyrics. I'm really excited about it.

Why did you decide to make a foray into world music?

It wasn't really my idea. Ted Mason, the producer and co-writer, approached me. He wanted to do an album like this, and he was looking for somebody who had my kind of outlook on the world and my kind of view, and he said, "Would you be into doing this?" And I said, "Yeah, of course." We started collaborating. He's a very creative person, obviously, and he has access to all these people, all these world musicians. I mean, off the top of my head, it's not the first kind of music I'm attracted to, but I feel like we kind of blurred the lines. It's not so heavily African or Latin, but it has a lot of those influences.

Tell me what it was like working with Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders on "All Around."

We're very good friends, but she happened to be in town and we were in the studio those



SANDRA BERNHARD

days. Chrissie's like hardcore. She's a no-nonsense, no-B.S. kind of person.

BOLD Just like you then?

Yeah. Well, she makes me look like a lightweight, to be honest with you (laughs).

You mention shopping in Kazakhstan on "We're on Our Way" - do they have good deals there?

(Laughs) It's just about stopping along the way and experiencing all the different cultures. I'm sure they do. I actually haven't been to Kazakhstan. I can imagine they probably have a few good bargains.

Assuming you've been all over the place, which locations inspired you for this album?

Actually, I haven't been in as many places as I'd like to. The most exotic place I think I've been to is Morocco, which I've been to three times. It's my favorite super-exotic locale, but

The last time I saw you live, when you closed with a song, I recall a sea of surprised faces. Are a lot of people shocked that you're a trained singer?

I think less and less. I've been doing it now for so long. I was on the Lilith Fair Tour. I've gotten to collaborate with a lot of people, like Sheryl Crow. People who don't know my work so completely, they always say, "Oh, I didn't know you could sing." They're happy to hear it. I always get good feedback.

I remember watching you perform with The Dixie Chicks' Natalie Maines in a YouTube clip.

She's another great friend, and I think she has one of the greatest voices in the world. She's the kind of person that opens her mouth, and it's there. She's a big talent.

I can see why you'd get along.

(Laughs) Yeah. Well, obviously, she's another very, very outspoken and ballsy person.

So how about that Mariah Carey—I know that you and her are BFFs (laughs).

I happen to love her.

Really? You're always raggin' on her.

Oh, sure. You can't deny Mariah's talent. She's eccentric, and anytime someone is really willing to put them self out there, for me, it's an opportunity to find an ironic, funny way of talking about them. But there's nothing about Mariah that I find offensive; I just think she's crazy and funny and interesting.

Check out her "Obsessed" video, where she's an Eminem lookalike.

Oh, Mariah. She's a trip. I know Eminem gives her a hard time. We Michiganders don't pull any punches.

What's different about doing "Without You I'm Nothing" now versus two decades ago?

The Internet and the kind of exposure you get now as opposed to the '80s, it's so different. The whole world is different. The material that's from the original show still holds up because it's so personal, but the things I talk about around it obviously are more contemporary. And when you see the difference between what I talk about then and now, I don't know - the world has just moved very quickly, and continues to kind of surprise me at different turns.

It surprises everyone.

It's a lot to take in, and I don't think it's easy for everybody to do. I think that's why so many people are freaked out. It's just a weird time.

Sure is. It was a pleasure talking to you.

Great talking to you, Chris. Keep twittering! (Laughs)

I'll try to keep up with you (laughs).

Just don't wear yourself out.

Gay Socials

Northampton: Gay Men's Social Hour, socializing healthy

By: Nicole C. Lashomb, TRT's Editor-in-Chief

Since its launching last September, the Northampton Gay Men's Social Hour has provided gay men an opportunity to meet and socialize in a healthy environment, according to its founder.

"After living ten years in Northampton, from my early thirties to my early forties, I realized there weren't any healthy environments to meet men my age," said Douglas Fountain, Founder, Northampton Gay Men's Social Hour, Northampton, Mass. "I have never been a club person and thought there had to be other men out there that felt the same way. Over the years, I heard middle-aged men like myself wishing there was a better venue to meet others like ourselves—without loud music, low light and people a little too intoxicated for a healthy conversation."

According to Fountain, although just one

year old, the Social Hour has had great success, with over 120 gay men attending each gathering and coming from a regional area which includes attendance from Vt., N.H. Conn. and Western Mass.

"We ended up having over one hundred guys show up for the first Social hour," Fountain said. "Ever since then, we average [between] 120-150 guys to our monthly Social-men in their 30s, 40s, 50s and some in their 60s and 70s."

Inspired by the Hartford Happy Hour, a similar function based in Hartford Conn., Fountain sought advice from its producer, Dave Cash, to help execute the Northampton-based gathering. Other integral gay men involved in promoting the monthly meeting include former owner of Pride & Joy, Mark Carmien, Ken Molnar, proprietor of mono-ho.com, an online events website catered

specifically toward gay men, and Allan Arniboldi, who worked at the Men's Resource Center, based in Amherst, Mass.

"Without these men, the Northampton Gay Men's Social Hour would have never had such a successful start," said Fountain.

According to Fountain, the Social Hour is held at the Coolidge Park Café in the Hotel Northampton, which provides cheese and crackers, a cash bar, and cocktail waiters—the favorite being Jake.

"The atmosphere is great!" said Fountain. "Steve Campbell, Hotel Northampton's Restaurant manager, sees to it that we are well taken care of. At any given monthly event, you can find our steady faithful guys and always new faces as well. I am grateful to all the men who attend to keep this event going.

Men who attend the monthly gatherings are from diverse backgrounds and may be single,

coupled, married.

"We pull in everyone and they all seem to enjoy the few hours a month we all connect," said Fountain.

Although no known love connections have been made to date from the jamboree, Fountain remains optimistic.

"Interestingly, I have yet to hear of any 'love connections,'" said Fountain. "[That is] not to say there hasn't been any. I do know that many men have met new friends. I am one of them. I have met some wonderful men attending the Socials. No love connection for me as of yet, but I am a 'hopeful romantic,'" he said.

The Northampton Gay Men's Social Hour meets on or about the third Friday of each month at the Hotel Northampton in the Coolidge Park Cafe from 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. For more information, please visit www.monoho.com for updates.

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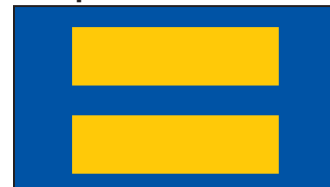
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HRC Completes "Out In Scripture" Collection

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, announced today the release of the complete "Out In Scripture" collection. For the past three years, week-by-week, the HRC Religion & Faith program provided conversations on Bible passages from more than 100 scholars and pastors representing 11 denominations. These conversations are now




available in a complete collection online at www.hrc.org/Scripture.

"This unique collection showcases the extraordinary momentum we're seeing by people of faith committed to LGBT equality," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Through this resource we are helping to assure that no one will again have to choose between who they are and what they believe."

"Over the years my spiritual life and preaching has been transformed by 'Out In Scripture,'" said Harry Knox, Director of HRC's Religion and Faith Program. "This is one of our signature projects. As editor Sidney Fowler said, 'The Bible is not about beating you up, but lifting us all up. It includes the seeds of liberation and justice.' Be prepared to be transformed as well."

The collection includes 175 conversations that span Bible readings organized according to the Revised Common Lectionary. The lectionary is used by numerous Christian denominations to guide worship and preaching.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.



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Political IQ: Children suffer when the Religious Right wins



By: Diane Silver

For any mother, the day her child turns 18 is a milestone, but for a lesbian mom that particular birthday can be overwhelming.

The day my son turned 18 was routine, as birthdays go. I went to work. I made jokes about how I couldn't possibly be old enough for him to be 18. A high school senior, Tony played trumpet in the marching band, and his friends surprised him that night with an impromptu concert on our front lawn. They stayed for cake and ice cream and then jammed in my living room.

It was a good day, but it was also odd. As much as I enjoyed it, I felt strange. It wasn't that I felt bad; I felt relieved, but I couldn't figure out why. Tony had always been healthy. He got good grades. He was a normal, rowdy teen. I couldn't figure out why I was so incredibly relieved that he had turned 18.

Nothing made sense until I had a "eureka" moment in the shower the next morning. Tony had reached the age of adulthood. No one had the legal right to rip him away from his fami-

ly anymore.

Tony is the biological child of my late life partner, who died of breast cancer more than a decade ago. As co-parent - particularly as co-parent in the very red state of Kansas - I was a legal nonentity.

I was there when he was born. I held out my hands for his first step. I heard his first words. I sat up all night with him when he had his first cold. I went to every single parent-teacher conference. I paid for his doctor checkups and school fees, and I kept him in shoes. I held him when his birth mother died when he was just 7. I love him more than I ever knew you could love any soul. Despite all that, without the intervention of a court, I wouldn't have had the legal right to be in the same room with him, let alone to be his parent.

We were lucky, though.

I was able to legally adopt him, largely because my partner's family supported me. I might not have succeeded if they hadn't.

I didn't know how close Tony came to being torn away until my late partner's brother told me he considered taking my son after his sister died. He consulted a psychologist friend. That psychologist - bless him - told the man I

still consider to be my brother-in-law that taking me away from Tony would mean that he would lose both parents and not just one, with the death of his birth mother.

Even though this good man had seen me with Tony for years and knew how close we were, it never occurred to him to think of me as Tony's parent. To his credit, my brother-in-law saw the truth in his friend's statement and supported the adoption.

Think about how close that was. What if my partner's brother couldn't see the wisdom of his friend's words? What if he had talked to a different friend?

My son and I are blessed. Despite one tragedy, our family avoided another. We stayed together when so many other families have been forced apart. In the 1990s, 12-year-old Cassie was taken from her mother, Mary Ward, in Florida and given to her father - a convicted murderer. In 2006 and 2007, the children of Keri Jones of Utah and B.F. in Kentucky lost the right to even visit their co-parents. Today, Kathryn Kutil and Cheryl Hess of West Virginia are fighting to keep custody of the baby they fostered when no one else wanted a child born to a drug addict.

Despite our family's good fortune, it wasn't

until my son became a legal adult that I realized how frightened I had been. I never knew whether the people who believe I'm an abomination would find a way to legally remove my son from the only family he had ever known.

This is just a taste of what it is like to be a lesbian or gay parent in the United States today. With the 2008 passage of the adoption ban in Arkansas and the Religious right's continuing agitation for other bans, our families face repeated attacks.

If an adoption ban had been in effect when my partner died, it would have been impossible for me to adopt Tony. What a tragedy that would have been.

* Diane Silver is a former newspaper reporter and magazine editor, whose work has appeared in *The Progressive*, *Salon.com*, *Ms.*, and other national publications. She can be reached care of this publication or at PoliticalIQ@qsyndicate.com.

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Sherry Wolf at UMass' Bowker Auditorium

By: Gary Lapon

Sherry Wolf will be speaking on September 17, at 7 p.m., at Bowker Auditorium, Stockbridge Hall at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The event is free and open to the public. Visit Haymarketbooks.org for more information.

Here, she speaks with Gary Lapon.

GL: YOU'RE GOING to be speaking in Amherst September 17th to promote your new book, Sexuality and Socialism: History, Politics and Theory of LGBT Liberation. Why did you write the book, and what role do you hope it to play in today's political context?

SW: WHILE THERE are some brilliant historical works that have been written in the last 20 years, there wasn't a full-length accounting of LGBT history and politics from the *vanc Couch from Page 2*

It's inevitable that whether one makes a conscious choice not to reproduce or one's government begins to limit how many children one can have (as we see happening in China), it's coming down the highway of the not-too-distant future.

Our planet can only sustain so many of us. The UK's Optimum Population Trust estimates the world's sustainable population is 5 billion in our current and projected overpopulation is "rapidly destabilizing our climate and destroying the natural world on which we depend for future life."

In recent years, we've seen more evidence of sterility and that it's getting harder for women to conceive. Perhaps that's part of the natural order of things, as Nature intends, and it's Science that's destabilizing the balance of just how many of us should be on the planet.

If that's the case, more of us should have problems reproducing in the future. Or perhaps Nature will give us less folks that are

tage point of an unapologetic anti-Stalinist socialist. Most of what had been written from the left usually conflated Soviet-style repressive dictatorships with socialism and either apologized for those horrific regimes or denied the liberatory core of socialism and the rich history of left-wing social movements and activists in the fights for LGBT civil rights and sexual liberation.

I wanted to not only establish the genuine record, but also take on a number of crucial questions. For example, I explain the material and ideological roots of LGBT oppression in the nuclear family, and explore the fascinating way in which industrialization and even wars created the conditions for people to develop subcultures, come out and fight back. I unpack what lies behind the turn from a movement to a market niche and the utter

heterosexual, and more and more gays and lesbians. (Hmmm ... maybe that explains the up tick in LGBT Prides all across the world!)

Gay could become the new green. I can almost see the bumper stickers now: "Help Save the Planet! Go Gay!" or "Toot if You Don't Want to Reproduce!"

One thing's for sure, we need to slow down on how many humans live on our big beautiful Earth at any one time. And since only 15-30% of gay people actually have had children, I'd say we're well on our way of becoming a shining example to the world. Finally, an opportunity for others to see what we've always known in our hearts: what—and who—we are, is a precious gift to humankind.

** Suzan Ambrose is often seen buying delicate objects for her penthouse and hanging out at the fairgrounds with her nephews when she's not writing diligently for The Rainbow Times.*



SHERRY WOLF

Picture by: Haymarket Books

bankruptcy of looking to the Democratic Party as the means to win liberation. In addition, I found that some theoretical developments in the academy such as queer theory are incapable of either explaining our oppression or challenging it effectively.

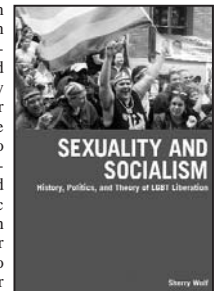
I'm thrilled to see the current explosion of LGBT activism and hope that newer and veteran activists will use my book as a touchstone for understanding our history and plotting a course for fundamental change.

YOU ARE on the Steering Committee for the National Equality March in Washington, DC, on Oct. 11. What drew you to the march, and how do you see it fitting into the movement for LGBT liberation?

WHEN HARVEY Milk's protégé, Cleve Jones, put out the call a few months ago for the march, I was over the moon. Finally we could build on the momentum of the grassroots mobilizations taking off around the country and have a genuine LGBT civil rights

march on Washington that isn't controlled, shaped or funded by the major groups that are beholden to both the corporations and Democratic Party—which have run our movement into a cul-de-sac for the last 20 years. The sheer fact that young radicalized activists and even folks like myself—a 40-something revolutionary socialist—can play central roles in organizing every aspect of the march says a lot about the leftward direction politics is moving in among ordinary people in this country.

I didn't write *Sexuality and Socialism* as an exercise in mental play, but a call to action and debate for a new generation of rebels. Who knew you guys would be taking to the streets by the time the book hit the shelves?!



2006 Heritage of Pride Parade in New York City.

By: Bryan Smith.



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HIV/AIDS Awareness

AFWM launches student advisory board to bring HIV/AIDS awareness

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

Springfield, MA—The Aids Foundation of Western Massachusetts (AFWM) has launched a new initiative to generate student participation in their annual Aids Walk and to bring awareness about HIV/AIDS, transmission facts, and how to eradicate unsafe behaviors, according to one of the groups' leader.

"This is the first year that our Student Advisory Board has been in existence," said Sue Maki, leader, Student Advisory Board and Co-chair, Aids Walk, AFWM. "The group consists of students from middle schools through college. Our original intent for the group was to recruit more students for our walk and also to educate those students on how to eliminate risky behaviors, make the best choices possible and reduce the stigma related to HIV/AIDS. The educational component has really taken over and we are working on developing a peer education program to send these students out into their schools and communities to teach others what they have learned. Students today get very little education about the transmittal of the HIV/AIDS virus in a traditional school setting."

According to Maki, AIDS is 100 percent preventable. However, in the United States, every nine and a half minutes, someone

becomes infected.

"These students know the need of education," said Mark Zatyryka, leader, Student Advisory Board and Co-Chair, Aids Walk, AFWM. "We have to spread the education to end the virus. That is why these students are developing a program to bring back to their schools and their peers so that they have the

order to keep themselves, and possibly their peers, safe," said Berrouard, 19, Longmeadow, Mass.

In addition to educating their peers about HIV/AIDS, the student group will also solicit community participation in the Aids Walk by visiting local parks and basketball courts to hand out educational literature and encourage

dollars have been provided to those in need of support.

"We had one individual who did not have many days of his life left," said Zatyryka. "This individual did not have enough money to purchase a bed. He was spending his few remaining days here on earth, sleeping on the floor. We at the AIDS Foundation believe that everyone deserves to live and die in dignity. We were able to get this man a bed so that he could rest in comfort while battling this virus ... unfortunately a battle he could not win."

This year, the 2009 Aids Walk takes place on September 12 at Forest Park in Springfield, Mass. One hundred percent of all money raised by walkers goes back into the community through the Foundations' individual grant program. It also helps develop its education agenda. For more information about the Student Advisory group or the Aids Walk, please call the foundation's office at 413-301-0955, email info@aidsfoundation-wm.org or visit www.aidsfoundationwm.org.

"These students inspire me every time I sit down with them," said Zatyryka. "They all genuinely care and want to make a difference. It's very moving to see these kids in action. Going into it, we had hoped that we could be good role models for these kids ... it turns out that they have been the role models for us."

"... Going into it, we had **hoped** that we could be good **role models** for these **kids** ... it turns out that **they** have been the **role models** for us."

facts they need to think positive and stay negative."

"We believe that these kids will make a huge difference in educating others to make good decisions regarding their health," Maki added.

Lauren Berrouard, a local Bay Path College student and student leader of the group, joined the Aids Foundation in their mission because of her passion for non-profit work and her desire to help those in need.

"Other youth community members should join the Student Advisory Board so they can become educated in the topic of HIV/AIDS in

others to participate.

"On walk day, their duties will include set up, running the games for the younger kids, perhaps even manning an education table for their peers," said Maki.

The AIDS Foundation of Western Mass. assists individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS in Hampshire and Hampden counties. According to Zatyryka, the support that the Foundation has provided pays for medical expenses, living expenses, emergency needs, appliances, and items as simple as a bed in order to avoid the alternative reality of sleeping on the floor. Over half a million grant

Eramo from Page 3

have never been able to marry in the country that their son ended up leading.

The lesson? Don't leave matters of civil rights up to the public opinion and majority vote.

Civil rights. These two words are supposed to be extended to us all. Black, white, gay, straight, male, female—it doesn't matter. Marriage is our right—and nobody has the

right to take that away from us. Unless gays and lesbians are allowed to use the word marriage to describe their commitment, it's not equal. A civil union is not a marriage. A commitment ceremony is not a marriage. Gay marriage is not marriage. Marriage is marriage. Plain and simple.

A lesson in love

I have no idea when the rest of the country

will come to its senses and realize that this is a civil rights issue and nothing more. Regardless, I know that when I walk down the aisle with my partner one day, I will say the words "I do." I will choose this pronoun and verb that have been available to me in the language that I have spoken for 30 years—the words that have been spoken so many times before by couples young and old in the country in which I was born and raised. And

it will evoke the same meaning for me as it does for everyone else: Love.

** Eramo is a freelance writer and editor living in Cranston, RI. Visit her blog (Same Sex in the City) at <http://samesexinthecity-lisa.blogspot.com/>. Reach her via email at leramo@hotmail.com.*



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AIDS Action Committee moving headquarters from downtown to Jamaica Plain

Space will allow for improved client support & more community support

Boston, MA—AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts (AAC) announced today that it will be moving from its Downtown Crossing location to a new, larger facility in Jamaica Plain near Jackson Square. The agency will move to a renovated building at 75 Amory Street. The MALE Center, AAC's community center for gay and bisexual men, will continue to operate at 571 Columbus Avenue in the South End. AIDS Action staff and volunteers will continue their outreach and prevention efforts throughout Greater Boston. AAC expects to move sometime between late fall and early winter of this year.

AAC conducted an extensive search for facilities that could reduce agency costs while better serving their clients and constituents. The new Jackson Square location was chosen because it gives the opportunity to build a more client-focused space. In addition to being convenient for the agency's staff and clients, it will allow AAC to expand its support and outreach efforts while serving the community-at-large. AAC provides direct services to more than 2,500 clients, and its prevention and education programs reach more than 30,000 people directly each year.

"We are very excited about our new location," said Rebecca Haag, President and CEO of AAC. "As we approach 30 years of HIV/AIDS, the needs of our clients and the agency have changed. Our new facility is being designed from the ground up to meet those needs, with a more client-centered approach which will include a more spacious waiting area with computer terminals, more private meeting rooms, and a large amount of new meeting space for job training, housing workshops, peer groups, and community meetings. To ensure a more efficient and effective service delivery system, we will offer our new space to

other service providers and government agencies that serve our clients and encourage them to make their services available onsite."

Randal Rucker, Chief Executive Officer of neighboring Family Service of Greater Boston said, "We welcome AIDS Action to the community. Their work is critical to advancing leading-edge education and prevention strategies to combat HIV and AIDS. We've seen firsthand the impact of HIV and AIDS on the families we serve. Their move to the Jackson Square community will help facilitate complimentary services for all community residents."

The agency's new headquarters will be located near a number of organizations with which AAC has strong alliances, including Community Servings, Dimock Community Health Center, Family Service of Greater Boston, Martha Eliot Health Center, the Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MAC) and the Whittier Street Health Center. AAC hopes this location will provide new and different kinds of opportunities for partnerships with these and other area groups.

"I am thrilled to welcome the AIDS Action Committee to 75 Amory Street in Jamaica Plain," said Boston City Councilor John M. Tobin, Jr. "AIDS Action is a well-respected organization that has been providing resources, assistance and education to the community for more than 25 years. They will also be a valuable asset to the development of the neighborhood."

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Inc., (AAC), New England's first and largest AIDS service organization, is dedicated to stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS by preventing new infections and optimizing the health of those already infected. More information is available at www.aac.org and at AAC's blog at blog.aac.org.

The Laramie Project: Ten years later, epilogue to premiere in Boston, NY & CT

New York, NY—The creators of the highly acclaimed play *The Laramie Project*, which since 2000 has been one of the most performed plays in America, will premiere a compelling and groundbreaking epilogue to the original piece. Entitled *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, the play will be performed in New York at Lincoln Center, at Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut (TBA), and at Celebrity Series of Boston, Boston, Massachusetts, among others. The writers of this play are Tectonic Theater Project members Moisés Kaufman, Leigh Fondakowski, Greg Pierotti, Andy Paris, and Stephen Belber.

The epilogue focuses on the long-term effects of the murder of Matthew Shepard on the town of Laramie. It explores how the town has changed and how the murder continues to reverberate in the community. The play also includes new interviews

with Matthew's mother Judy Shepard and Mathew's murderer Aaron McKinney, who's serving two consecutive life sentences. The writers also conducted many follow-up interviews Laramie residents from the original piece, including, Romaine Patterson, Reggie Fluty, Jedediah Shultz, Father Roger Schmidt, Jonas Slonaker and others.

Miss Trans Northampton Pageant set to debut

Transgender Women Vie for Crown: Miss Bay State 2009 among Judges

Northampton, MA—On September 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Northampton Center for the Arts, the first-ever Miss Trans Northampton Pageant will sizzle onto the Pioneer Valley's cultural scene. Produced by Christa Hilfers and planned as an annual event, the competition will introduce and recognize talented transsexual women living in the area.

"Having this pageant will be an exciting, fun experience for transsexual women," said Hilfers. "For years, trans people have been knocked down by most of society. It's time we trans women get up, brush the dirt off and show the world we are everyday people whose only issue was being born into the wrong body. Regardless of who wins the title, every trans person is beautiful! It's time the world knows it."

Competing in four categories—glamour, poise, evening gown, and talent—eight contestants each hope to win the title "Miss Trans Northampton 2009" along with a cash prize and an on-stage appearance at the New England Trans United Pride March & Rally. The winner will represent the city of Northampton as she fulfills her responsibilities in the coming year at fundraising functions for the transgender community.

Residents from across Massachusetts, contestants include Danica Marie Ali of Springfield, Samantha Cornell of Worcester, Lorelei Erisis of Northampton, Amy George of Harwich Port, Lily Rin of Newton, Leslie-Ann Rios of Monson, Jessica Thepsenabong of Quincy, and Tammy Twotone of Ludlow.

"Unlike other pageants, this is not a celebration of a single person's beauty, but of a whole community," said entertainer and stand-up comedian Twotone. "This is but one aspect of



CHRISTA HILFERS

our community. It shows that we can appreciate the beauty of everyone, and it empowers us all. And besides, it's going to be a hoot!"

Among the judges is Kimberly Supernaw, Miss

Bay State 2009. Supernaw, a senior at Westfield State College said, "I'm excited to show my support for the gay/lesbian/transgender community. I think it's an amazing opportunity for trans women to feel beautiful and share their stories and identities with others." Also on the judges' panel are Jane Savage, owner of Ultra Gal; Bet Power and Aydin Brannon, transgender activists; Vickie Boisseau, intersex activist; and Susan Cummings Maroni, arts and culture writer for *The Beat* magazine.

Proceeds from the pageant will benefit the New England Trans United Pride March & Rally (www.newenglandtransunited.org), scheduled for October 3 in Northampton. Tickets are on sale at Ultra Gal, Food for Thought Books, and Pride and Joy Bookstore; may be purchased online at www.mistransnorthampton.tk; and will be available at the door.

The pageant has already attracted regional and national attention. WFCR-FM radio recently aired a segment about it and The National Geographic Channel plans to film at the event.

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Visión Latina

¡Prosperidad para mi Patria, Puerto Rico!

Por: Wilfred Labiosa*

Regreso de estar unas semanas en mi patria, Puerto Rico, con diferentes deseos y emociones. Fui para disfrutar y trabajar a mi isla pero salí educándome más de lo que esperaba. Estuve una semana visitando programas para personas ambulantes, para drogadictos, y para personas viviendo con VIH/SIDA, más pude hacer alcance comunitario en las áreas de La Perla y Río Piedras Centro. Pude observar otro lado de mi PR.

Todos los días leía los periódicos y cada día era más de lo mismo. Política, asesinatos, economía, "chismes," y anuncios vendiendo de todo (de verdad que hay más anuncios que noticias en los periódicos). No existen noticias que puedan educar a nuestro pueblo en relación a temas que nos afectan a todo/as. Por supuesto que toda noticia puede ser un momento educativo pero yo digo que debería haber temas históricos, sugerencias de cómo mejorar la economía, de salud, teatro, artes plásticas, espiritualidad, etc. El periódico publica estos temas una vez a la semana, pero ¿qué pasa el resto de la semana? La prensa debería incluir más reseñas de temas educativos en vez de fotografías macabras.

Algunos días pude hacer alcance comunitario. Hay organizaciones que van todos los días por las calles (éstas son organizaciones privadas sin fines de lucro) dando de comer, ayudando y manejando las necesidades de ambulantes, y ofreciendo cuidado médico. Fui y observé como el problema de drogas está incrementando y afectando a toda nuestra comu-

nidad. Conocí a un abogado que ahora vive en las calles, observé jóvenes menores de 20 años de edad prostituyéndose, familias vagabundas, y muchos "hospitalillos". La obra de estas organizaciones se debe aplaudir y reconocer más en los medios noticiosos. Tengo que mencionar que también la prensa en los E.U. debería de hacer algo al respecto y educar a nuestras comunidades de organizaciones que hacen este honroso trabajo localmente. Organizaciones como La Perla del Gran Precio, La Posita de Jesus, y otras más hacen un trabajo que se debe reconocer en PR.

La política en PR se debería reconocer como un deporte olímpico. La gente habla de este "deporte" todos los días. Creo que se habla más que de las peleas de boxeo; la gente habla de sus filosofías políticas, de sus candidatos, del futuro político de PR, y demás. Y los políticos malgastan el dinero sin enfocarse en las necesidades de nuestro pueblo. Tengo que mencionar que aunque el Gobernador Fortuño ha hecho un trabajo excelente en adoptar escuelas públicas para mejorar su apariencia exterior e interior, ¿qué pasa con materiales educativos, con los currículos, y con la educación de nuestra gente?

Ahora en PR se cobra un impuesto, desde un litro de leche a ropa, arroz hasta estacionamiento, una camisa a un cuadro, y ¿las cosas han cambiado? ¡No! ¡Qué barbaridad! Este dinero ahora está cubriendo los gastos de los políticos y las deudas que dejaron los que se fueron. Los salarios no aumentan para la gente, pero sí para los políticos. Los salarios no aumentan pero



Playa de Isla Verde, Puerto Rico. Beach of Isla Verde, Puerto Rico. To read this article in English go to: www.therainbowtimesnews.com/latinvision

Foto por: Wilfred Labiosa

ahora la gente tiene que pagar una tasa contributiva más alta en todo.

Por lo menos tenemos que reconocer que nuestra cultura puertorriqueña y nuestro país es rico en colores, sabores, sonidos, cultura, historia y en su gente. Las playas de Vieques, los colores del Yunque, la historia en el Viejo San Juan, los sabores de Guayanilla y Salinas, los sonidos de nuestra música y fauna, y las riquezas en la diversidad de nuestra gente se observa por doquier. Deseo que mis compatriotas, allá y aquí, ayuden a su prójimo, que nuestra comunidad no sea tan homofóbica, tan machista, y que nuestra gente se eduque de lo que está pasando a su alrededor y que esto lo/as motive a hacer algo al respecto. A todos los viajeros, vayan a mi isla preciosa y gasten sus dólares ya que ayudará a nuestra economía (a largo plazo). Estoy emocionado por un mejor futuro para todo/as y por que la gente GLBT pueda obtener los mismo derechos que todo/as. Tengo fe en que los ambulantes podrán obtener viviendas, que los drogadictos recibirán el cuidado necesario con dignidad y respeto, y que la gente de PR se educará más y vivirán en armonía.

Pronto se celebra un año más del descubrimiento de PR y de la herencia Latina, así que propongo que aunque sea por un día (o quizás más) ofrezcan una donación a alguna organización que ayude a nuestra comunidad Latina en nuestros países o aquí en tu patio. Movilízate e infórmate de grupos que están abogando y trabajando para la comunidad GLBT en PR, como PR para Tod@s, La Fundación de Derechos Humanos de PR, Taller Lésbico Creativo, y otros más. ¡Enorgulécete de quien eres! Si eres de PR, proponte en darte un viaje a PR, y si no eres de PR, ¡viaja a PR y date la vuelta! Tomen sus vacaciones en mi isla del encanto. A mi gente de PR (allá y acá) les deseo todo lo mejor y un futuro más prospero, con paz, igualdad, y estabilidad social y económica.

* Escrito en ambos idiomas por Wilfred W. Labiosa y editado por Grisel Martínez Ocasio. Para comentarios o sugerencias de tópicos en un futuro comuníquense al wlabiosa@hotmail.com Wilfred es el representante de esta región en la mesa directiva de la organización GLBT Nacional llamada Unid@s. To read this article in English, go to: www.therainbowtimesnews.com/latinvision

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The Outfield: 'The OutField' opens eyes



By: Dan Woog*

Last winter, "The OutField" profiled a closeted All-America college soccer player. "Mason" (a pseudonym) described his love for the game - and the repressive environment that kept him from coming out to teammates and coaches.

What a difference six months makes.

When the column appeared in February, Cory - that's his real name - was ready to come out to his best friend. He showed him the story. The friend thought it was great, and shared it with his friends. Soon, everyone knew that "Mason" was Cory. All reacted positively.

A month after graduation, the piece reached Chris Kranjc, Cory's coach at Hastings College. He texted Cory, saying, "We need to talk. I'm here for you."

"I knew what it was about," Cory recalled. "We chatted for a little while about soccer and my new job. Finally we started talking about the article. He said he wished I came to him earlier. He said he would've been very supportive."

"It was so nice to hear him say that. He also said he wants me to come back for the alumni game, and nothing will change. We talked for an hour, and he ended by saying the article was a slap in the face for him. But he said he needed to read it. He wants to do more research, and learn from this."

"After the conversation, I felt amazing. I can't wait to see what the future has in store for the program."

Cory suggested I call Kranjc. The coach was eager to talk.

"Cory's such a great kid. He's responsible, intelligent, he works hard every day," Kranjc began. "He's a heck of a player - and young man."

In his 10 years as head coach, Kranjc said he never knew any gay players. Because Cory had many female friends at Hastings - an NAIA school in Nebraska - Kranjc never suspected he was gay. But after reading the "OutField" article, he knew he had to call his former player.

"It was Cory," Kranjc explained. "He was a human being. For four years he gave his heart and soul to the program. I love him and his family. My kids love him too."

Kranjc told Cory: "I wished you'd talked to me when you were here, so we could have dealt with things. But I understand why you didn't."

Kranjc calls himself "as conservative as can be. And I'm stubborn. But this was Cory. He needed my support, and he needed to know I accepted him. That was the most important thing. I slipped a couple of times when we talked - and I told him to tell me when I did. But I felt we reconnected. It was an awesome conversation."

Kranjc said the talk opened his eyes. He decided to educate himself about gay issues. He began by calling other coaches.

"I asked if they coached someone they knew

come home. When this happens, it's surprising how families begin to open and adjust.

They'll be more work to do in repairing this situation, but this is the hardest first step. So my advice to you and your partner Tim, is to call their bluff. Don't go to the family gatherings. See what happens. You'll most likely be surprised. Should they behave otherwise, contact me again.

Best of luck to you both! Tetty

C'mon Out! Submit your questions to Tetty Gorfine, Director of LifeCourse Counseling Center. Simply go to www.life-course.net and click on "Ask Us A Question." All questions will be answered on the bulletin board. One or two will be printed next month here in *The Rainbow Times*.

* Tetty also been a psychotherapist since 1980. She has worked extensively with LGBTQ individuals, couples and groups and has supervised both clinicians and therapists in training. Her vision and leadership spirited nearly all of LifeCourse Counseling Center's programs. Tetty has also been on numerous radio talk shows and television programs. She has presented at professional conferences on topics pertinent to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.



CORY

was gay, and how they handled it," Kranjc said. "I feel badly Cory didn't feel he could have been who he was. I don't think it affected his play, but I want to hear as many stories as I can. "I need to understand how people look at the world," he added. "Cory's story has taught me so much. It's been a great learning experience. It will help all of us move forward."

As the college soccer season begins, Kranjc will try to make sure his athletes know "they can talk to me at any time. Whatever they say will be confidential, if they want. I've always said that, but maybe I need to emphasize it more."

He apologized to Cory for once saying to a

player who pretended to act feminine, "There are no fags on this team." But, as Cory also knows, team environments are often rife with jokes and putdowns.

"Guys say things," Kranjc noted. "Trying to stop that is like trying to stop drinking in college. You're better off trying to educate people about it." If he hears anti-gay comments now, Kranjc said, he will respond: "Hey, don't say that. You have no idea who you might offend."

Kranjc will also encourage athletes to attend lectures about GLBT subjects. "We're a liberal arts school," he said. "It's important to expose everyone here to everything. They may not always agree, but they have to start thinking about different things. I know I've been opened up to a different landscape, and it's great."

He also hopes to start a discussion on gay issues - perhaps with Cory by his side - at the national coaches' convention in January.

Kranjc is eager for the season to start, so he can influence a new team. But his effect on Cory is already apparent - including one way he never intended.

Recently, Kranjc read a story about another gay soccer college player. He forwarded it to Cory.

The two men are now dating.

* Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Locks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his Web site at www.danwoog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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Women 4 women

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Looking for other women for outdoor activities: biking, hiking, and cross country skiing. I like to cook, especially coming up with healthy tasty recipes. Walks in the woods, sitting by a cozy fire, enjoying all life has to offer. Contact: Treesyster@aol.com.

NEW: I am a 64 who love my high heel boot, would you like to walk with me? FM: Liz at: crossdress88@live.com

C'mon Out from Page 2

It is always terribly unfortunate when family members can not be open to their loved ones.

Often LGBT people think that if they rock the boat too much, love and acceptance will be withheld. When family members exhibit homophobia and try to exclude the LGBT person's partner from the family, such as in your experience, it creates great upset. You and your partner probably feel angry and hurt that his family is so closed minded. Your partner may also feel that if he stands up to these attitudes, things will become worse and he may lose their love.

As I have said before in this column, my overwhelming experience with gay and lesbian clients is that the vast majority of family members will not ultimately disown their beloved. They may kick and scream, carry on in this way or that, but when an the gay or lesbian person puts their foot down, believes in themselves and holds to their knowing that they deserve respect for who they are, family members will begin to change.

Likely, your partner's family love him and they won't want to lose him either. Family members can be jerks about not wanting to accept diversity, but when they're up against the wall and see that if they do not become more flexible, their beloved might just not



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