

The Rainbow Times

Your LGBT News in Western MA, the Capital District of NY, Northern CT, & Southern VT

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FREE!

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Opinions

TRT endorses Sen. Hillary Clinton

By: Nicole C. Lashomb
TRT Editor-in-Chief

The Rainbow Times is pleased to announce our endorsement of Democratic presidential candidate, NY Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

All of the recent and not-so-recent political events and biased lack of support of the mainstream media have encouraged *The Rainbow Times' management* to throw its support behind the Presidential Candidate that we know is the best suited to tackle and defeat the GOP contender, John McCain, in the 2008 Presidential Election. A major contributing factor behind our endorsement lies within the strength, perseverance, determination and fighting spirit of a woman who has been counted down and out numerous times by top media and political analysts since the democratic contests of Super Tuesday.

While Sen. Barack Obama is an eloquent speaker and can undeniably persuade the masses with his motivational speeches, there is relatively little significance to his short-standing political career. If I was being asked by whom I am most moved by in terms of rhetoric, my choice would certainly be Obama. Like with any other motivational speaker, his words just make you feel better. But being the president of the U.S. is not just about words. We have certainly seen that through eight years of a newbie in the White

House. I will stop at that because when it comes to the current President, I could fill in the rest of the 31 pages of this edition of TRT, and yet I would not be able to properly describe what this "Bush" has done to this country.

In the general election, the candidates will not be in a civil battle, but rather one that will be tumultuous and torrential. Let's face it, rhetoric alone will not win. Obama does not have the political experience to survive those types of storms.

Sen. Clinton, as any other human being, has her flaws. She is, however, without doubt, the Democratic contender with a vast experience and a long-standing political career. She can be put on par with John McCain. The attacks that she has withstood from all sides are similar in nature to those she would receive in a general election. In a known war, there are no casualties, unless of course, you are Sen. Barack Obama.

If Obama had Clinton's record, I/we would stand beside him too. However, we simply do not know the skeletons in his closet as we do with Sen. Clinton. After living a life-time in the public eye, dedicated to public service, naturally, she has faced and endured much scrutiny. Yet we know practically nothing about Sen. Obama.

Good luck Senator Clinton and may the best "person" win!

Read TRT's Own Trans Column on Page 4

Love, Rights ... and the Rest of It!

By: JM Sorrell/TRT Columnist

Spring has arrived, and with it, the usually mix of weather. The political climate is notable in that so much energy seems to be spent on who would make the best president (Clinton or Obama) that the hot-button issues of abortion rights and same-sex marriage have taken a back seat. The economy and the war in Iraq are in the forefront of debate. McCain seems beside the point.

How will this play out? Once the Democrat is nominated, there will be little time for debate between her/him and McCain. This is when those wedge issues will arise again. We may not like what we hear from any candidate once the fireworks resume. It will be about getting elected. LGBT voters will be asked to be patient again and to support the least harmful candidate.

This time, though, there is a difference. Both Clinton and Obama have voiced their support for equal rights minus the M-word. This includes federal benefits such as health insurance, social security, and pensions—which have long been denied to same-sex couples. They have expressed that they would not stand in the way of state by state decisions to allow same-sex marriage. This is a significant departure from the current executive office's interference with judicial and legislative decision-making.

Massachusetts has made history in more ways than one. The subsequent elections to the November 18, 2003 Goodrich decision have been important from a socio-political



J.M. the JP

standpoint. No statewide senator or house member who supported the legislature's mandate (to put Goodrich into law on May 17, 2004) has lost a re-election bid. As the backlash and attempts to reverse the decision kept us busy for several years, this continued to be the case.

Deval Patrick got elected governor as he steadfastly supported same-sex marriage without compromise. Governor. All of these elections were watched closely around the country. The electability of candidates on the progressive side of civil rights is no small thing. Voters are supporting these candidates precisely because of their stance or because it is one item that would not make or break a decision and the candidate has other features that impress the voter.

Clinton and Obama would not be nearly as supportive of equality for LGBT citizens without this precedence. All of our rights are important. Marriage is just one of many forms of equality. Unless something goes terribly wrong, we will move forward and we will continue to ally with other groups of people who need and deserve full equality and fair treatment.

* J.M. Sorrell is a Justice of the Peace and a biofeedback practitioner/student. She hopes our energy and commitment will help to effect change this year. Our friends around the globe are counting on it.

The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something

By: Suzan Ambrose/TRT Columnist

"Look! Up in the sky!! Is it a bird? A plane? No, it's the gay bomb!" Yes, the "gay bomb/poof bomb" was actually considered and researched by the U.S. military. A bomb that would render



ple would be strong aphrodisiacs, especially if the chemicals caused homosexual behavior." (\$ 7.5 million were requested by the Air Force Lab to develop this bomb.) This bomb supposedly would release chem-

Maybe they've repackaged the idea in smaller amounts to test the market. Maybe it is in the form of something like Viagra. Because its usage seems to induce a similar uncontrollable urge in men.

enemy forces homosexual, making them more interested in sex than fighting. That must have been a heck of a study group to be a participant in, eh?

This far-fetched discovery was made by the Sunshine Project of Berkley, CA. Using the Freedom of Information Act, Edward Hammond found a copy of the proposal to develop non-lethal weapons from the Air Force's Wright Laboratory in Ohio. The "gay bomb documents" included several proposals for military use of chemicals that could be sprayed over enemy positions. The proposal states, "One distasteful but non-lethal exam-

icals causing enemy soldiers to "become gay." Their units would break down because all men would become irresistibly attracted to one another. Girlfriend, the government has no idea how picky gay men can be, do they? Perhaps that's why we haven't seen it on the market yet. Better yet, maybe we should check and see how those people in Iraq are really doing. Is this the real reason Donald Rumsfeld seemed confident Iraqis would greet us with flowers and chocolates after we bombed their country?

I have to believe that most men ARE far more interested in sex than fighting a war, if you gave them the opportunity. So, is it that nothing has come of the idea? Or the results weren't quite what the government had in mind? Maybe the real truth behind the gay bomb was that the effects were permanent, and not temporary. Or, that an antidote had yet to be developed, or that the soldiers liked their new "male expression" side. (This would come as a "major blow" to top government officials.)

See Couch on Page 28

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Awesomest pic of Janet Jackson. I love her so much! Just wanted to let you know.

Tally A., Chicopee, MA

Dear Editor,

It was great to see The Rainbow Times at the screening of WGBY's Anyone & Everyone at the Academy of Music. Thank you for your dedication to serving our people.

Josh R., Northampton, MA

Dear Editor,

The story on TransCampus was really informative. I am new to the area and didn't know that you have so many trans tools and a newspaper that has so many articles about my T community.

Camilla S., West Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,

I didn't like Libby Post's article The Best men and Women for the Job. How can such an influential lesbian turn against one of our own? We love Libby here, but come on!

—Theresa W., Albany, NY

Dear Editor,

I don't like the Outfield stories. They're boring. Is this guy ever going to write about something interesting?

—Mark M., Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,

I don't get the Trans community, even when you have SO many articles about it, and even a T writer. I just don't get it. A man, who changes into a woman and then marries another man who changed into another woman too? Too confusing! —Christopher L., Amherst, MA

Dear Christopher,

We consider TRT's coverage to be an educational resource for all facets of our community and will continue to keep it that way. It is our belief that all people deserve equal protection under the law. For more trans resources, visit: www.umass.edu/stonewall.

—The Editor

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HB 1722: Gender-Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes' Act— Why It Matters

By: Tynan Power
TRT Reporter

On March 4th, supporters of HB 1722—"An Act Relative to Gender-Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes"—crowded into a hearing room in the Massachusetts state house. The hearing chamber was at standing room only and stifling—until 11:30 pm. Despite the dense crowd, heat and long hours, the atmosphere was one of excitement and something that fluttered contagiously in eyes and hushed voices—something that felt a lot like hope.

Ultimately, the hope is that the state will make gender identity and gender expression protected categories, along with race, religion, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation. If it does, Massachusetts will join 13 states and Washington, D.C.—and will bring the state in line with laws already on the books in Cambridge, Boston and Northampton.

Governor Deval Patrick shares that hope. He wrote in his testimony, "Although the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a rich history of protecting the civil rights of all its citizens, transgender people continue to face serious discrimination in the workplace, in schools and in public accommodations, which should not be tolerated in our Commonwealth."

For years, the Massachusetts Transgender

Political Coalition (MTPC) has been working with other organizations in the Transgender Civil Rights Coalition to make this proposed bill a reality. After successfully working for ordinances protecting gender identity and gender expression in Boston and Northampton, the coalition submitted HB

bill simply aims to make the current law explicit. The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) determined that discrimination based on gender identity or expression is illegal under current laws; because it's not explicitly stated, however, many people don't realize that. Making the

would eliminate that first step—and be preventative.

"Right now [trans people] aren't getting hired," Scott said. "They don't get housing. What's more many people who don't identify as transgender experience discrimination because of 'gender expression.'"

"Although the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a rich history of protecting the civil rights of all its citizens, transgender people continue to face serious discrimination in the workplace, in schools and in public accommodations, which should not be tolerated in our Commonwealth."

—Governor Deval Patrick, Massachusetts

1722 to the state legislature in 2007.

Until March, HB 1722 was awaiting a hearing before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, the first step towards passing it into law.

Opponents have suggested that HB 1722 would create a new law, providing transgender people with "special rights." In reality, the

law clear would seem to benefit everyone, including those who might unwittingly break it.

According to Gunner Scott, director of MTPC, clarity is important. Scott said that if someone is fired because of gender identity or expression, he or she must first demonstrate that it's discrimination. Having a clear law

At the hearing for HB 1722, opponents took issue with the term "gender expression." One person said that the term was "unclear" and "could mean anything." Scott disagreed.

"We use the terms gender identity and gender expression to be consistent with laws in other states and with the laws in Boston and Northampton," Scott said. Including gender expression is key to making this bill relevant to people far beyond the transgender community. For example, it would cover gays and lesbians fired for how they look. Scott cited a case in which a woman almost lost her job for not wearing makeup—an issue of gender expression, not identity.

Does that mean HB 1722 would allow a professional woman to argue for the right to wear jeans on the job, or for someone to opt out of a uniform policy?

"No," Scott said. "The bill does not change dress codes. It would, however, mean a woman could follow the dress code for men, and vice versa."

See Act on Page 31

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RONALD K. BROWN/EVIDENCE

Saturday, April 12, 8pm, Concert Hall

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In 'The Name of God'

Gay, lesbian groups protest lawmaker's anti-gay remarks

By: **Tim Talley/AP Writer**

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—An Oklahoma lawmaker rejected demands by gay and lesbian groups recently that she apologize for anti-gay remarks in which she said homosexuality poses a bigger threat to the U.S. than terrorism.

"I see no reason to apologize for what God says, that homosexuality is a sin," Rep. Sally Kern, R-Oklahoma City, said after 300 people rallied at the state Capitol and called for an end to hate speech.

"I will not apologize. I did not say anything false. I did not say anything malicious or hateful," Kern said. "They are trying to vilify me. That is their tactics."

Spokespersons for gay and lesbian groups demanded that Kern apologize while calling on the Legislature to adopt hate crimes legislation that would enhance penalties for crimes directed at gays and lesbians.

"Hateful speech leads to hate crimes," said Rob Howard, executive director of the Cimarron Alliance Foundation in Oklahoma City. Howard said there were more than 7,700 hate crimes in the nation in 2006, including 79 in Oklahoma.

Howard and other speakers questioned how

Kern can take an oath to uphold the state Constitution but then condemn a segment of the state's population.

"Freedom of speech does not belong to Representative Kern alone," said Howard, adding that gay and lesbian groups have a "moral imperative" to speak out against her remarks.

"If we do not condemn hate speech from an elected public official, we in effect endorse it," said the Rev. Robin Meyers, pastor of the Mayflower United Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. "This represents the state of Oklahoma in a way that is deeply offensive."

Members of the group had planned to invite Kern to the noon rally but were told she had already left the Capitol. No state lawmaker attended the rally.

Kern said she was pleased that gay and lesbian groups expressed their views.

"That's great they came to the Capitol. This is a free country. They're exercising their First Amendment right," Kern said.

But she said she was not interested in speaking to members of the group. She said she has received more than 30,000 e-mails about her comments, including some threatening ones, and that an activist had tried to intimidate her

husband, a Baptist minister, by showing up at his church recently.

"They're sending out letters and making calls in my district. And they really want me to come down and talk to them?" Kern said. "It would be like throwing myself to the lions. That's a metaphor.

"When I am wrong, and it is brought to my attention, I will apologize."

Kern's remarks gained nationwide attention after they were recorded and posted on the video sharing Web site YouTube by the Washington, D.C.-based Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund earlier this month.

"Studies show no society that has totally embraced homosexuality has lasted more than a few decades," Kern says in the recorded comments. "It is not a lifestyle that is good for this nation."

A former teacher, Kern also said gays are teaching young public school children that their lifestyle is acceptable.

"We're not teaching facts and knowledge anymore. We're teaching indoctrination," Kern said. "They are going after our young children, as young as two years of age, to try to teach them that the homosexual lifestyle is an acceptable lifestyle."

"This stuff is deadly and it's spreading and it will destroy our young people, it will destroy this nation."

Gay and lesbian groups called for an end to the anti-gay rhetoric.

"This kind of bigotry has lasted too long," said the Rev. Loyce Newton-Edwards, president of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in Oklahoma City. "We're willing to stand up and say: 'No more.'"

The Rev. James Shields, a retired United Methodist Church minister who lives in Kern's western Oklahoma City district, said her remarks have more to do with a religious doctrine than her duties in the Legislature.

"I think her rhetoric in her speaking got her into a lot of trouble. I think her fears got her into a lot of trouble," Shields said.

Representative Kern has made a number of statements that are fearful, that are lacking in tolerance and that are too emotional for rational public discussion," he said. "It is OK to be afraid of terrorists. All of us are. It is not OK to be afraid of gay people. Most of us are not."

Trans Talk: To be or not to be? That is the question of a life-time

By: **Deja Nicole Greenlaw**
TRT Columnist

"To be or not to be? That is the question. Whether it is nobler in the minds of man to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous deed ... To sleep, perchance to dream ... Aye, there's the rub!"

Please forgive my whimsical take on the Hamlet soliloquy but I've always loved those lines "To be or not to be! That is the question!" It hits so close to home in so many ways for me that it is, indeed, home!

To be whoever or not to be ... Sitting in the

middle of the gender spectrum I kept facing these questions over and over in my life from the very beginning. Yes, I'm going to do it, no, I am not. Should I or shouldn't I? Is this way right or is this other way right for me? Yay or nay? It certainly kept me busy and confused!

The first "To be..." in my life meant me wrestling with my gender identification: "I'm a boy! No! I'm a girl! No!! I'm a boy! No! A girl! and so on and on it went ever since I was a little Trannie.

Growing up with mixed signals regarding gender identity was a confusing, sweet, scary, wonderful, painful roller coaster kind of life.



DEJA NICOLE GREENLAW

You couldn't really ask anybody for help when I was young. Questioning your gender back then would surely put you in trouble if anyone found out. It was just something that I had to deal with in solitude. I didn't understand it but it was

often scary and sometimes made me more confused. Nevertheless, I still lost myself deep in that mirror and other mirrors throughout my childhood. "To be" number three!

I did decide to follow the crowd and date girls, number 4. I eventually found and married one, number 5. We talked about having children and we did have 3 of them making me a Dad, number 6. But all along, I had this feeling inside that things were not right. I continued to want to be female and my confusion remained.

always in my thoughts.

Most young Trannie girls usually try to be macho to snap out of this gender confusion, but I never did. Some girls become bullies to prove their "manhood" or act tough or join the Marines or become a Firefighter. They reasoned that this was a sure way to stop this unacceptable longing to be a girl. After all, a macho male would never even dream of being a girl! I never tried to be macho. I just kind of went along with my confusion. That was my second, "To be." Actually, it was a "Not to be."

Speaking of confusion, I can remember wearing a dress when I was about 7-years old. I would wear my dress and stand in front of a full length mirror and stare at my reflection. I spent a lot of time in that full length mirror trying to understand what was going on with me. The mirror was usually comforting but

I finally accepted being a Crossdresser, number 7. Then, I accepted being a Transgender, number 8, that need to live full time as the opposite biological gender. Last November, I went living as a woman full-time, number 9. Number 9 was a huge ordeal as I came out to family, friends and work but it was long overdue. I just couldn't take the switching back and forth from male to female anymore. It's much easier finally accepting who you are and doing something about it. That confusion ended but there is more to come.

Now, I am dealing with how to get on with my life. And, one of the biggies is companionship, finding a significant other, number 10. Hmmm, will they be female or male? If I find some one, will they be cool with me?

See Trans on Page 30

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE SERVING LGBTQ COUPLES

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A MEMBER OF OUR TRIBE

JM the JP



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—Peace and Blessings, JM

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Core Chiropractic revolutionizes traditional chiropractic practice

By: Nicole C. Lashomb
TRT Editor-in-Chief

As the sole Western Mass. practitioner of the Pettibon System™, an alternative approach to traditional chiropractic medicine, Dr. Darlene Orvieto claims to practice an approach to health and spinal disease that is scientific, measurable, and results in permanent changes unlike any other approach available today.

"Relief in my office is quick and easy because the procedures work so well," said Dr. Darlene Orvieto, Core Chiropractic Clinic, Easthampton, Mass. "The work I do is by far the most powerful I have ever come across. I am honored to be able to be the only person in Western MA who offers it [The Pettibon System]."

A graduate from New York Chiropractic College with over a decade worth of experience as a practicing Chiropractor, Dr. Orvieto, challenged her concept of traditional chiropractic science.

"I was taught and used to believe that [chiropractic] adjustment was the be-all-end-all, I now know better," said Dr. Orvieto. "If you do not warm up a patient properly before the adjustment, you can hurt them or just not help them very much. Also, there are less compressive ways to adjust [a person other] than the way in which most doctors use in conventional chiropractic. There are also [procedures] you can do to fix a spine so a patient gets bet-



DR. DARLENE ORVIETO
Core Chiropractic Clinic, Easthampton, MA
ter instead of suffering on and off for many years, only getting relief when they are adjusted or get a massage. Core Chiropractic Clinic has evolved through my quest to find a way to truly fix people's spines. The spine is the core of the body and the most vital anatomy we possess. When it suffers, our health and our lives suffer. People who are ill without any spinal pain always have a spinal problem!"

According to Dr. Orvieto's website, The Pettibon Weighting System™ consists of specially designed head, shoulder and hip weights, worn twice daily during the begin-

ning of care. Wearing the weights causes new postural information to be sent to the brain, altering the body's positioning. Over time, the brain acclimates to holding the head and body in a new, more ideal alignment.

The weights force weak postural muscles to perform isometric exercises, restoring muscle strength, endurance, and balance. The result is a stronger body accustomed to holding its corrected posture with decreased irritation to nerves, ligaments, discs, joints and muscles.

"The procedures feel great and it's fun to do!" said Dr. Orvieto.

Dr. Orvieto's aspirations for becoming a healing practitioner have derived from her own orthopedic experiences as a child.

"Growing up in an old fashioned Italian family, a doctor's word was gold, she said. "I always thought this was ridiculous. At [the age of] 10, I had a hip problem. They put me in bed, in traction for three weeks--Big mistake. Then, they had to get seven doctors and nurses to hold me down for a shot in my hip. I just intuitively knew that the thought of

healing occurring from the outside in was foolish."

Although Dr. Orvieto is the only practitioner at her Easthampton Office, she is expanding her services.

"Currently I am looking to bring a very special connective tissue massage therapist in to work with me a couple of days a week on a permanent basis," said Dr. Orvieto. "I also work closely with an amazing Naturopathic Doctor [and] time to time I bring Acupuncturists and Massage Therapists in."

Comprehensive Insurance plans are accepted at Core Chiropractic Clinic.

"I accept Blue Cross, Aetna, ConnecticutCare, Medicare and am in the process of applying to HNE, Tufts, HP and Mass Health," said Dr. Orvieto. "Though I despise our health insurance system, I do it for the patient."

Orvieto said that she believes that education is first and foremost to create true change in the health of a community.

See Core Chiropractic on page 21

ATTENTION: Homeowners If You Have a Roofing Problem, DON'T PANIC

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Calif. gay student's slaying sparks outcry, demands for programs

By: Greg Risling/AP Writer

OXNARD, Calif. (AP)—Larry King was a gay eighth-grader who used to come to school in makeup, high heels and earrings. And when the other boys made fun of him, he would boldly tease them right back by flirting with them.

That may have been what got him killed. On Feb. 12, another student, Brandon McInerney, 14, shot him twice in the head at the back of the computer lab at their junior high school, police say.

The slaying of the 15-year-old boy has alarmed gay rights activists and led to demands that middle schools do more to educate youngsters about discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Police would not discuss McInerney's motive. But the day before the shooting, King told McInerney he liked him, eighth-grader Eduardo Segure told the Ventura County Star. If King had flirted with the other boy, "that can be very threatening to someone's ego and their sense of identity," said Jaana Juvenon, a psychology professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

McInerney was jailed on \$770,000 bail on an adult murder charge that could put him behind bars for life. Prosecutors also filed a hate-crime enhancement, which could bring three more years if McInerney is found to have acted on the basis of the victim's race, religion, nationality or sexual orientation.

The shooting has galvanized Oxnard, a city of nearly 200,000 people about 60 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Several vigils for King have been held, including a march that drew about 1,000 people to this strawberry-growing section of Ventura County.

Like the killings of some other gay students—such as Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, and Brandon Teena, the Nebraska transsexual whose story was the subject of the movie "Boys Don't Cry"—King's death has drawn national attention and outraged many gays.

Comic Ellen DeGeneres, who is a lesbian, said on her talk show Feb. 28: "Larry was not a second-class citizen. I'm not a second-class citizen. It is OK if you are gay."

Students at E.O. Green Junior High said the other kids used to taunt King, call him names and throw wet paper towels at him in the boys'

restroom, and he would bravely fire back by flirting with them and chasing them.

"He didn't like people insulting him," said his friend Miriam Lopez, 13. "Larry was brave enough to bring high heels and makeup to school and he wasn't afraid of anything."

The school system said that it has tolerance programs in its middle schools, but that sexual orientation is often not dealt with until high school. Since the killing, school officials have been meeting with gay leaders about changing the program.

"With young people coming out at younger ages, our schools—especially our junior highs and middle schools—need to be proactive about teaching respect for diversity based on sexual orientation and gender identity," said Carolyn Laub, executive director of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network. "The tragic death of Larry King is a wake-up call for our schools to better protect students from harassment at school."

A 2005 survey by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network found that more than 64 percent of gay and lesbian students report verbal, sexual or physical harassment

at school, and 29 percent said they missed at least a day of school in the previous month out of fear for their safety. The group is holding its annual "Day of Silence" in memory of King on April 25.

The families of both boys have refused to comment. An e-mail message left for McInerney's attorney was not immediately returned.

Both teens have been described as good kids. King and his mother crocheted hundreds of scarves that were shipped to U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan. The avid singer planned to belt out the national anthem at his brother's opening-day baseball game this spring.

"He had an amazing voice and was always singing," said Averi Laskey, 13, a friend since elementary school. "He would stick up for you no matter what. Larry was the best kind of person you could meet."

McInerney was described as the typical eighth-grader, goofy and fun to be around. He trained to be a lifeguard and took martial arts. He also enrolled in the Young Marines, a group similar to the Army's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Author emerges as public face for the transgender individuals

By: Jerry Harkavy/AP Writer

BELGRADE LAKES, Maine (AP)—Jennifer Finney Boylan never set out to be the public face for the transgendered.

But the novelist and English professor at Colby College was thrust into that role by her 2002 best-selling memoir about the transition to womanhood that freed her from the decades-long torment of being a female trapped in a male body.

With three appearances on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," two on "Larry King Live" and numerous other interviews and public appearances, Boylan, 49, has become a sunny-faced activist for the nation's transgendered and one of the most widely recognized transsexuals of recent years.

"Activism for me takes the form of living a normal life and doing so very publicly," she said.

Boylan's public schedule is getting busier with this year's publication of her second memoir, "I'm Looking Through You," a poignant but laugh-out-loud story about

growing up in a Charles Addams-like Victorian mansion on Philadelphia's Main Line.

The author, then named James, concealed her conflicted sexuality, hiding her stash of lingerie in a secret panel in her bedroom. The spooky old house, with footsteps in the attic, clouds of blue mist and a ghostlike figure of an old woman in a mirror, serves as backdrop for an adolescence haunted by gender issues that forced Boylan to keep the nature of her true self hidden. In so doing, she became something of a ghost herself.

The inner turmoil about which she wrote is now ancient history for Boylan, who detailed her 2000 sex change in the earlier memoir, "She's Not There." Today, she lives with her spouse Deedie, their two boys and two Labrador retrievers within a mile of the lake on which Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn starred in the 1982 Academy Award-winning film, "On Golden Pond."

James Boylan had met Deedie (named Grace in the two books) while in college and

only told her of his secret about a decade ago, well after they were married. Boylan had hoped that their love would be enough to keep the gender demons at bay. They remain legally married.

Boylan said she didn't go public with her life story to become a role model or a poster child for the transgender community, but rather because writing and storytelling is what she does.

She hopes her story will help to reshape the public's image of transsexuals.

"We think of transgendered people as living in a big locked house somewhere. They never

show their faces, or when they do show their faces they seem tortured and unknowable," she said. "When people see me and they see my family, they see something that's familiar."

Boylan has been a valuable asset in helping to change public attitudes, said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Boylan, tall with strawberry blond hair that flows to the middle of her back, remains

[See Trans on Page 13](#)

New Rally Location Set for New England Transgender Pride March

NORTHAMPTON, MA—The organizers of the first New England Transgender Pride March and Rally have announced a change in location for the rally. The march, which will step off at noon on June 7, 2008 from Lampron Park/Bridge Street School in Northampton, MA will proceed, not to Veterans Field, but to a rally in the Armory Street Lot behind Thornes Marketplace in downtown Northampton.

Veterans Field is unavailable due to re-seeding this year. The Armory Street Lot is the same location where Northampton Pride is held each May.

"We're pleased with the new rally location, as it is more central in Northampton and more easily wheelchair-accessible than Veterans Field," said Justin Adkins, a member of the Trans Pride steering committee. "We'll be providing American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting for the entire event."

The rally, which will begin at 12:30 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m., will be headlined by Leslie Feinberg, a pioneering transgender

writer whose books include Stone Butch Blues, Transgender Warriors, and Drag King Dreams; and Miss Major, a veteran of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion and Lead Community Organizer of the Transgender, Gender Variant, and Intersex Justice Project, which advocates for the human rights of transgender prisoners. Several activists are slated to speak who will address proposed gender identity/expression anti-discrimination legislation in MA and CT, and the civil rights needs of transgender people in employment, education, housing, healthcare, and public accommodations. Featured performers will include the Boston-based drag troupe All The Kings Men and Joe Stevens of Coyote Grace.

New England Transgender Pride is currently seeking volunteer workers and sponsors for the event. Interested individuals and organizations may sign up online at www.transpridemarch.org, and groups that wish to march with their banners may register there, as well.



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Anyone and Everyone: It can be you, or them

By: *Grisel Martínez Ocasio**
TRT Publisher

Anyone and Everyone is a film about the turmoil that the parents of lesbian and gay children experience—their long journey through understanding and acceptance—and the difficulties they encounter once they have to deal with others who are not as accepting as they have become. The documentary aired at the Academy of Music in Northampton, Mass., in March and continues to be televised by WGBY. According to the film's producer, education and empathy were two of the feelings that inspired the making of the documentary.

"I personally was inspired to produce the documentary out of a desire to open dialogue about the gay issue in America, especially in light of current gay rights issues," said Agnes Chu, Producer, Anyone and Everyone. "The executive producer and director, Susan Schutz, was interested in learning from other parents [of lesbian and gay children] to create a documentary that was not only educational, but also compassionate and inspired the sentiment that all people are one."

According to Edward and Ann Bonetti, two parents who participated in the film, their process of understanding—their own coming out process—can be described as a 4-stage process.

"The first stage was our own ignorance and educating ourselves on what it meant to be gay," said Ed who is the Director & Co-President, PFLAG South/Central Rhode Island. "The second stage was coming out to our family members. The third stage was taking the step to be out to everyone around us. The fourth stage was the transition from understanding to activism."

However, knowing that their son was gay was something that surprised Ed and Ann at first. According to Ed, their initial response was to let Greg, their son, know that they loved him and that they were glad that he loved them enough to tell them that he was gay.

"We were concerned about his health and safety, because we really didn't know what was in store for us," said Ed who is also the Director of Operations-Distribution, The

Providence Journal Company. "We only knew what we read or heard in the news, and it was often times negative or fearful. As we educated ourselves, we were better able to understand that we were not alone. We learned that our son still had a bright future in front of him. Ann and I realized that the dreams we had for Greg did not die when he told us that

"We learned that our son still had a bright future in front of him. Ann and I realized that the dreams we had for Greg did not die when he told us that he was gay. Our hopes and dreams for Greg had only shifted. They were still real, they were still obtainable, and they would still be wonderful to experience and share with him."

—Edward and Ann Bonetti, about his son Greg

he was gay. Our hopes and dreams for Greg had only shifted. They were still real, they were still obtainable, and they would still be wonderful to experience and share with him."

The film also portrays the responses that the diverse group of parents (Asian, Indian, African American, Caucasian, Latin, etc.) had when their children presented them with the news of being gay/lesbian.

"We really wanted to show families from all different backgrounds—race, religion, socioeconomic status and geography," said Chu. "We found it so interesting that people who seemingly were so different had many things in common when it came to having a gay child. In the end, we sought to show that really anyone and everyone could have a gay child."

The "coming out" process can also affect families beyond the familial circle. The Bonetti's had to make a difficult decision with regards to their long-time, Catholic faith.

"Presently Ann and I are not active, nor are we involved with the Catholic Church on any level," said Ed. "We still have our faith and we still believe in God, but we are angered by the hatred and intolerance that organized reli-

gion generates against individuals that either identify as, or are perceived to be gay."

WGBY is only the third Public Television station in the country to have a special initiative for the LGBT community, according to Laurie A. Leichthammer, Director of Major and Planned Giving, WGBY. The other two are San Diego and Salt Lake City. The airing

can be purchased via *Amazon.com*.

To read this article in Spanish, please visit www.therainbowtimesnews.com.

Grisel Martínez Ocasio is The Rainbow Times' publisher and founder. She is a graduate of the Temple University's Journalism Department. A seasoned journalist, Ocasio's work has been published in English & Spanish through her 17 years of experience in the field. She has worked with various local bilingual publications. She wishes to thank Agnes Chu, Laurie A. Leichthammer for their help with this article. Especially, she wishes to thank Ed and Ann Bonetti (for their candid interviews). The Bonetti's have been instrumental in the fight for LGBT rights. Their courage and love for their son, Greg, goes beyond what any words can express.

To contact her, please email: publisher@therainbowtimesnews.com

Pride Marches Close to our Gayborhood!

Northampton Pride; May 3
FMI: www.northamptonpride.org/

Boston Pride; June 6-15
FMI: www.bostonpride.org/

CT Pride; June 7
FMI: www.connecticutpride.org/

New England Trans Pride; June 7
FMI: www.transpridemarch.org/

Albany Pride; June 8
FMI: www.cdglcc.org

Toronto Pride; June 20-29
FMI: www.pridetoronto.com/

NYC Pride; June 22-29
FMI: www.hopinc.org/

Pride Vermont; July 7 -13
FMI: www.pridevt.com/blog/tag/parade/

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Queer News

Suicide Mission: “I chose cowardice in another form”

By: Michael Knipp
TRT Special

“Suicide sometimes proceeds from cowardice, but not always; for cowardice sometimes prevents it; since as many live because they are afraid to die, as die because they are afraid to live”

English writer Charles Caleb Colton published that paradoxical aphorism in *Lacon*, or *Many Things in Few Words*, his book of short essays released in the early 1820s. Nearly two centuries later, his terse observation on what causes people to take their own lives, relative to why some don't, is an ardent reminder of the fragility of individual sanity and that which influences it.

As friends go, Chuck (not his real name) was my first. We were preschool playmates drawn to one another by the selective forces of human sociality, contained by a set of anthropological parameters generally established later in life. Like children of ethnicity who flock together to maintain a diverse identity among the majority, Chuck and I built a bond constructed from comparable constraints. Even at age 5, we were aware of our parallels: each born to young mothers, a distinct disinterest in the pastimes of “normal” boys, hair possessing similar shades of sunrise.

But as we grew older and intensely self-reliant—because of internal issues involving

our own sexuality—our striking likenesses dissipated. The disparity between our juvenile character was proven in how our thresholds for effusive torture polarized as we matured: whereas I could weather an onslaught of emotional abuse, Chuck could not. As a result, my very first friend, the one person who would have most understood my own burgeoning plight, fashioned a noose, affixed it to the back of his bedroom door, and said farewell to an insufferable existential existence.

As a result, my very first friend, the one person who would have most understood my own burgeoning plight, fashioned a noose, affixed it to the back of his bedroom door, and said farewell to an insufferable existential existence.

Though the circumstances of Chuck's suicide are shady—even a few months after he was buried his mother maintained that he was murdered—it's likely that this slight, bright boy of 17 succumbed to the demands of those who didn't understand his sexuality—or care to, for that matter. When he came out to his mother, a chain-smoking, blue collar kind of woman, he was told that if he “chose to be

that way,” he also must disclose to his grandparents that he was gay. A burden that didn't fall lightly on the bemused teen—who, in his earlier youth, had possessed an affection for lighthouses and a dingy stuffed dog he lovingly, if not effeminately, called *Le Mutt*—Chuck became withdrawn, distant and suddenly contemplative.

Anyone who knew Chuck well knew that his grandparents weren't just members of his family with whom he was forced to endure

frightening, albeit enlightening, sensation of attraction to the same sex. The opposite was true, in fact. We faked curiosity in girls, to appease the other, in fear of tarnishing a lifelong friendship had one of us not responded with acceptance.

Still, I wonder how he might have handled his demons had he identified an ally.

Would he have felt as isolated and forlorn knowing that the person with whom he had shared his childhood felt the same way?

And would he have had the wherewithal to initiate a slow, painful death if he had someone to reassure him through analogous experience that we were normal, that we would be OK, that we would trudge through our troubles together?

They're questions to which I'll never know the answers. Before I could admit to myself that I was gay, before I was comfortable enough in my own skin, he had given up his. But his sacrifice is not something I'll soon forget, nor one that has failed to impact my life.

Chuck's death imparted upon me the criticality of disallowing others to manipulate my personal fulfillment. When I came out, I could have, like my friend, chosen cowardice over contentment in order to liberate myself and my family—whose emotional reflexes unleashed injudicious hostility toward that which they did not, or will not, comprehend—from introducing homosexuality into their lives.

But I didn't have the gall. Instead, I chose, like Charles Caleb Colton describes, cowardice in another form. Because, as his forethought detailed two-hundred years ago, I'm afraid to die.

I am not afraid, however, to live out and proud, despite the ignorant and unintelligent opinions of others.

It's a choice that's given a sense of self-satisfaction that, for lack of a more tangible origin, I'm convinced bestows from beyond.

**Michael A. Knipp is a 26-year-old freelance writer and the founder of Line/Byline Communications. He can be reached at michael.knipp@gmail.com.*

holidays or otherwise preserve relations because they shared the same blood. Instead, they were a team, three shots of espresso who genuinely and explicitly enjoyed each other's company. The duo doted on their grandson with vivacity, showering him with the sort of elderly adoration of which only grandparents are capable.

Over the years, this reciprocated fondness formed a relationship that Chuck couldn't bear to see falter. The thought of these two people, for whom he had unconditional love, turning against him the way his mother had wasn't feasible. It was easier, he thought, to end it all—to spare the rest of those he cherished from the embarrassment of being related to a “gay.”

Years later, when I came out to my own parents, I thought of Chuck, of how if we hadn't lost our will to sustain a friendship despite the restrictions of time and space, our lives—or at least his—might have turned out better. Before he committed suicide, we had, in the past years beforehand, only managed a handful of correspondences via handwritten letter. In none of those letters were we confident enough to discuss what we felt inside—the

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Corporation & Organization News

Judy Shepard: "Campaign to Erase Hate" at Matthew Shepard Foundation's Annual Gala

Goal is to equip one million people with tools to raise their voices and use their talents to erase hate

Denver, CO—In observance of the ten years since the murder of University of

Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, the Matthew Shepard Foundation launched an aggressive anti-hate campaign aimed at creating a movement of people working to lessen the impact of hate in society. Realizing the importance of this 10th year observance, Judy Shepard, Executive Director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, launched the 'Campaign to Erase Hate' by asking the crowd of more than 500 people to raise themselves to the power of ten and join with her in helping the Foundation fulfill its mission of erasing hate.

The overall goal of this new campaign is to equip individuals with the necessary tools to discuss and address hate in our society. These tools include personal webpages, resources on dealing with hateful speech and actions, monthly correspondence and most importantly, a way to invite ten others to join.

"We are starting a movement of people dedicated to erasing hate from our schools, workplaces, and communities," said Judy Shepard. "For the last ten years, individuals have been raising themselves to do amazing things with no resources. What we are trying to do is give this great work a structure and create a community of individuals who are using their voices and talents to address these issues."

Campaign messaging will focus on ways to involve young people in the campaign. Plans include working with various social networking sites, such as Facebook and MySpace, to tap into the growing trends of how young people communicate with each other. The Matthew Shepard Foundation was founded by Judy, Dennis, and Logan Shepard in memory of 21-year-old Matthew, who was murdered in an anti-gay hate crime in



Wyoming in October 1998. Since that time ten years ago, the family and the Foundation have received thousands of emails and letters from people sharing their stories on what they are doing to help in the mission to "Replace Hate with Understanding, Compassion & Acceptance".

"The philosophy of the campaign is to start with individuals in the community who can put a face on the impact of hate," said Shepard. "Then, if those people engage ten of their friends who then engage ten of their friends, we will quickly reach our goal of changing the hearts and minds of one million people. Your voice is the most powerful tool in erasing hate."

The Matthew Shepard Foundation is dedicated to 'Erasing Hate' through education, advocacy and awareness. The Foundation is the voice for inclusive hate crimes legislation and works to empower and ensure the safety of gay, transgender and allied

youth. For more information, please visit www.MatthewShepard.org and www.MatthewsPlace.com

The Campaign to Erase Hate is a program of the Matthew Shepard Foundation. It models the principles that were core to the beliefs and aspirations of Matthew Shepard. To join the campaign online visit www.MatthewShepard.org/CampaignToEraseHate

These tools include personal webpages, resources on dealing with hateful speech and actions, monthly correspondence and most importantly, a way to invite ten others to join.

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Girls Rock! (Lesbian)

Genre: Documentary. Rating: Not yet rated
Distribution: Limited Release
Director: Arne Johnson, Shane King
Distributor: Shadow Distribution
Synopsis: About a rock 'n' roll camp for girls. Focuses on a handful of girls attending the camp, and features out musicians Carrie Brownstein (Sleater-Kinney) and Beth Ditto (The Gossip).

Shelter (Gay)

Genre: Drama, Romance
Rating: Not rated
Distribution: Limited Release
Director: Jonah Markowitz
Starring: Trevor Wright, Brad Rowe, Tina Holmes, Jackson Wurth, Ross Thomas
Notes: Premiered at 2008 Palm Springs International Film Festival
Synopsis: An unexpected attraction to his best friend's older brother forces Zach, a handsome artist and surfer, to reconcile his own desires with the needs of his family in first-time director Jonah Markowitz's gay surfer romance.

Filthy Gorgeous: The Trannyshack Story (TRANS)

Genre: Documentary. Rating: Not yet rated
Distribution: Limited Release
Director: Sean Mullens. Release Date: 00/00/00
Synopsis: This documentary looks at the "gender delusionists" of San Francisco's infamous club Trannyshack.

Sex and the City, the Movie (Gay)

Genre: Comedy, Romance
Rating: Not yet rated
Distribution: Wide Release
Director: Michael Patrick King
Distributor: New Line
Starring: Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Cynthia Nixon, Kristin Davis, Chris Noth
Release Date: 05/30/08
Synopsis: Based on the hit HBO series, the film picks up where the show left off, following the four best friends as they live their lives in the Big Apple. Willie Garson returns as Carrie's "gay husband" Stanford, and Mario Cantone joins the cast once more as Charlotte's gay friend, Anthony.

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The Atlanta-based company said recently that it is partnering with the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

NGLCC-certified businesses now can register to participate in UPS' supplier diversity process, the company said.

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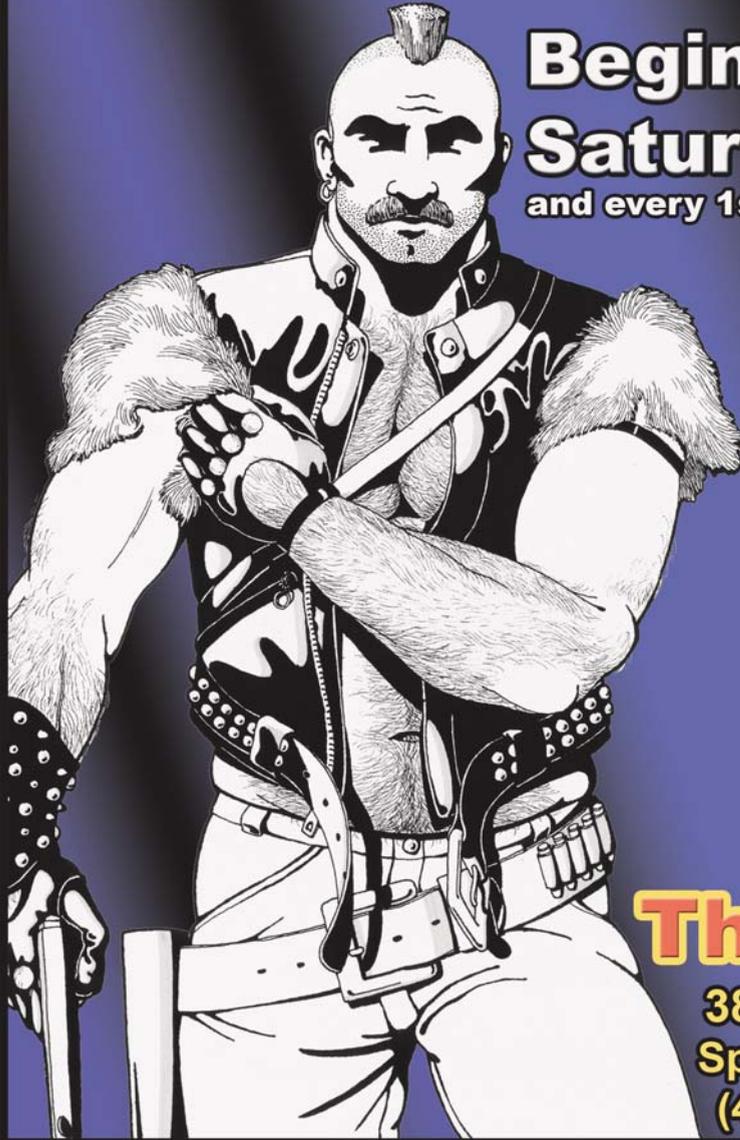
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Q-lebrities

No business like 'Cho' business

By: Mikey Rox
TRT Special

Margaret Cho is back, bi#@&\$*. And better than ever.

Fresh off the Australian leg of her hilarious new tour, "Beautiful," the controversial comedienne gabs about her latest gig, why her heart belongs to homos, her passion for Perez Hilton, and when she's returning to a TV near you.

Which may be a lot sooner than you think.

MIKEY ROX: You're a vocal advocate for the gay community. Do you owe your sense of acceptance for the LGBT community to growing up in San Francisco, or did your parents raise you to be open-minded and liberal?

MARGARET CHO: My parents were very conservative about certain issues, but they were very open-minded about gays and lesbians. They owned a bookstore right on Polk Street, and my father had lots of gay and lesbian employees who would double as babysitters for me and my brother. My father was convinced that gay men were the best nannies. It's true!

Q: In the past 10 years, you've become increasingly active in fighting for gay rights. Why do you devote so much time and attention to the community's political issues?

A: Because gay rights are my rights. These issues affect me, as I consider myself a part of the queer community. It's my community.

Q: You're married to a man, but you've never been afraid to discuss your same-sex sexual experiences. Of course, according to the press, that means you're bisexual. But do you consider yourself bisexual?

A: I don't think so, because many of my past relationships have been with transpeople, so I would really be a "quatraxsexual."

Q: "All-American Girl" was the first—and last—sitcom featuring an all-Asian cast. What went wrong?

A: So many things. I wrote a whole show about it. Ultimately, we were before our time. I think that if the show were to happen now it would be successful. Also, I know a lot more about TV and how to make something work now.

Q: Considering that there are shows on TV that feature black and Hispanic families, why do you think the networks haven't put an Asian family back on television? Do you think that this lack of diversity on TV can be called discriminatory?

A: It is absolutely racist and I can't understand why that is. I think that there are more Asian Americans on TV and in movies in general, which is exciting, but I would love to see another Asian family show.

Q: Perez Hilton recently posted a blog item under the heading "Too Much Information" referencing your own blog post about your period. When something like this happens—i.e. the media gets a hold of something you



MARGARET CHO

Photo by Austin Young

A: I am exhausted! But I love performing and I'm having a lot of fun right now with my new show. Each project energizes me and gets me going in a different way. After doing a rock tour like True Colors and dancing Off Broadway with "The Sensuous Woman," I really missed doing stand-up. So I'm back doing it!

Q: You turn 40 at the end of this year. Will you celebrate? Is this a milestone you're looking forward to?

A: I haven't really given it much thought. I will celebrate, I guess. Birthdays aren't so special to me because I celebrate every day. Every day is my day! Forty is a big deal, I guess, but most people can turn 40. All you have to do is live.

Q: Your last big comedy tour was "Assassin," a politically charged show that took a lot of shots at the Bush administration. But your new tour, "Beautiful" – from the title alone – seems like a complete departure from the former.

A: I still think this show is political, but it is looking to the personal as political a bit more. It's also very raunchy, which is super fun for me!

Q: "Beautiful" premiered first in Australia. What I've heard from comedians like Kathy Griffin, the routine can get "lost in translation" in foreign countries. Do you find that to be true? Do you ever have to tweak the show in order for foreign audiences to "get it"?

A: I don't know, I guess because often I feel like such an outsider and a 'foreigner' in America that my work doesn't need to be translated as much. Certain places are more reserved, like the United Kingdom, and some places are totally wild, like Australia. I have a good time everywhere I go!

Q: You've literally been on tour since "All-American Girl" ended its short-lived run. But you're soon returning to TV with "The Cho Show" on VH1. I'm so excited! What can we expect?

A: Lots of hilarity, much gayness and my mother. Yes, my actual mother.

Who is Mikey Rox? Who gives a f&*%! But you can visit him at www.mikeyrox.com.

say or write and uses it negatively – do you ever have a hindsight moment where you regret ever having said or written it in the first place?

A: I thought it was funny that Perez posted that. I love him! I think that on some level you have to let go of what people think, or what things you say, or what people think about what you say—everything will get taken out of context at some point, so I don't really worry about it.

Q: Last year was a busy one for you. You traveled the country with Cyndi Lauper and crew in support of her "True Colors Tour," part of the proceeds from which benefited the Human Rights Campaign, and you created and starred in the Off Broadway show "The Sensuous Woman." You must be exhausted. What keeps you going?



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Vote with Pride: NoHo Pride kicks off Pride Season, seeks volunteers

By: Nicole C. Lashomb*
TRT Editor-in-Chief

NORTHAMPTON—On May 3, 2008, the 28th Annual Northampton Pride March and Rally kicks off in downtown Northampton to honor, celebrate, and unify the diverse LGBT community and allies in the Western Massachusetts region. This year's theme is "Vote with Pride."

Northampton Pride, an all-volunteer event, aspires to appeal to the masses each Pride Season, according to Northampton Pride Chairwoman.

"Every year we strive to make changes and improvement to the rally that will make the most people happy," said Melinda Shaw, Chairwoman, Northampton Pride, Northampton, Mass. "Taking into consideration the needs of the vendors and the crowds always requires a bit of juggling, but hopefully we can create a space that feels more open and conducive to all the needs of our participants."

Part of Northampton Pride's appeal lies with the entertainment line-up. This year, diversity has been a central theme in selecting performers for the festivities.

"Entertainment, as always, is a difficult thing to put together," said JC Calcaño, Entertainment Chair, Northampton Pride, Northampton Mass. "However, we try our best to select performers and speakers that represent and appeal to the diverse members of the LGBT community. This year the lineup is fairly diverse in its representation (i.e., Female, Male, Transgender, African American, White, Young, "Not-So-Young," etc.).

According to Shaw, the make-up of the entertainment includes a lot of new faces, some local entertainers, and a good mix of other acts that should entertain the crowd. In addition, there will be a nice line-up of kids' entertainment that will include shows and participation with the crowd.

Calcaño said that Pride will be presenting two headliners, Kirsten Price and Brian Kent, who will be sure to get people up and rocking out of their seats.

"This year's headliners are very talented, and I'm sure that men, women, and everyone in between will be very pleased with their performances," he said.

Trans from Page 6

equivocal about offering her private life for everyone to see. But because she had a hard time finding role models while growing up, she said it's probably good to have someone recognizable to look to.

There are many ways of dealing with gender variance, she said, and her story is not the only one that deserves to be told.



Pride attendees watch the PrideMarch pass through downtown Northampton, Mass. Photo: S.E. Chase

Other artists/performers to watch out for are: Carrie Ashton; The Jesse Molina band; Lenelle Moise; Lord Russ as "Queen Elvis;" The Wicked Queeah Band; Laura Wood, Mayra Casales, & Wendy Sobel and Off Beat Women's Drumming Ensemble. There will be guest appearances by Lipstick & Dipstick, and Rachel Maddow.

Aside from entertainment, there will be a large variety of vendor booths, both profit and non-profit, at this year's festivities.

"We'll have our usual non-profit groups (advocacy, political, health, religious), and our for-profit vendors represent a wide gamut of services and products including: books, T-shirts and other clothing, jewelry, builders, hotels and wedding services, chiropractors and massage therapists, photographers, health and reproductive services, publishers, home furnishings, astrology, tarot and toys," said Kelley Hopkins, Vendor Chairperson, Northampton Pride. "In addition we will have food vendors and a fundraising booth where Pride-goers can have their picture taken with either Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton!"

Currently, Northampton Pride seeks volunteers.

"So far we have had about 20 people come forward in addition to the folks working actively on the planning committee [but] we

"There are plenty of people who have, one way or another, gotten on with their lives and live lives of fulfillment and happiness," she said.

Although such positive outcomes are not always the case, some employers, such as Boylan's, are increasingly showing more compassion and understanding. The overall society, too, seems to be showing more awareness of transgender issues, she said.

would like to donate/volunteer their time to Pride.

"We will be offering 'crew' t-shirts and coupons for beverages and ice cream," said Downing. "We will also have a raffle drawing for all the volunteers."

Downing stressed the importance of volunteering for Pride to ensure its continuity.

"The only way this thing is going to happen is if people step forward and participate," she said. "The Pride volunteers are always the best people and volunteering is a great way to meet others."

To volunteer for Northampton Pride, e-mail Lisa Downing at blissfulsunshine@yahoo.com or to become a vendor at this year's rally, e-mail Kelley Hopkins at vendors@nohopride.org. For all other information, please contact Northampton Pride at info@northamptonpride.org, call 413-586-5602, or visit Pride online at www.NorthamptonPride.org.

Donations may be sent to Northampton Pride, P.O. Box 866, Northampton, MA 01061, or through Northampton Pride's website, www.NorthamptonPride.org, via PayPal.

Nicole Lashomb is TheRainbow Times' founder and Editor-in-Chief. Lashomb holds a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York. She has had years of experience in writing, graphic design, desktop publishing, and interviewing. Lashomb is also a published writer and a former teacher. To contact her, email her at: editor@therainbowtimesnews.com

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Gay Traveling

Out of Town: Where to eat and stay in New Orleans



By: Andrew Collins

It's been nearly three years since Hurricane Katrina slammed into New Orleans, but this spirited, supremely gracious, happily eccentric, and gay-friendly bastion of the South has undergone a dramatic comeback. The French Quarter, Uptown, and other prominent, tourist-driven areas have rebounded, and the city's long-famous restaurant scene and wealth of memorable old-world hotels and intimate guest houses are thriving. Here's a look at some of the Big Easy's best places to dine and spend the night, from classic New Orleans favorites to innovative newcomers.

The French Quarter

This historic neighborhood remains the heart of the city's fabled gay scene, with such famed bars as Bourbon Pub, Cafe Lafitte in Exile, Oz, and Good Friends drawing scores of revelers each night, and the lovably raffish Clover Grill, long a fixture in the gay community, doling out plenty of deliciously greasy food and sassy attitude. Other great gay-popular restaurants, such as Peristyle and Bayona, continue to serve up tantalizing contemporary fare.

With so many creative chefs doing wonderful things in this city, it's sometimes tempting to pass by the more established venues, but the French Quarter has some truly vaunted halls of dining that should not be missed. A perfect example is Brennan's, which opened in 1946 and comprises a warren of warmly lighted dining rooms set around a lush courtyard. Meals here are memorable no matter the time of day, but breakfast is perhaps the greatest treat—consider the three-course prix fixe, where you might sample traditional turtle soup, oysters Benedict, and Bananas Foster (which was invented right here at Brennan's).

Another "must" among the classics, Galatoire's has been family-run since it opened in 1905 and is one of the best places in Louisiana to watch local politicians hobnob and broker deals, especially on Friday afternoons. From the enormous menu you can try everything from lavish, high-end dishes like grilled pompano with sauteed crabmeat meuniere to simpler and more affordable standbys like shrimp au vin and oysters Rockefeller.

You'll find dozens of fine places to stay in the French Quarter, but two upscale properties deserve special mention. The Hotel Monteleone, an 1886 stunner, hosted the likes of Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote on numerous occasions. You can sense the hotel's

distinguished history simply by walking through the gracious marble lobby. The nearly 600 rooms are handsomely appointed, some overlooking the Mississippi River. Smaller and with a hipper vibe, the W French Quarter occupies a stately old building anchored by a magnificent courtyard. The 98 rooms have sumptuous featherbeds with 350-thread-count linens, framed black-and-white photos, DVD players, and Bliss Spa bath products. Sip cocktails and nosh on snacks in the mod Living Room lounge, or book a table for dinner at Bacco, a stellar restaurant serving contemporary New Orleans-meets-Italy cuisine. You won't find a more alluring, skillful balance between French Quarter charm and high-tech sophistication.

Faubourg Marigny

The colorful neighborhood immediately downriver from the Quarter—across tree-shaded Esplanade Avenue—is Faubourg Marigny, which has a high concentration of gays and lesbians, many who have restored the area's French West Indies-style cottages and Greek Revival mansions. Moderately priced, less-touristy restaurants and B&Bs are a major draw of the neighborhood, which also has a handful of gay bars, the most famous being the leather-and-Levi's-oriented Phoenix.

A favorite restaurant with the gay community, Feelings Cafe is set on a quiet street in a charming old building with a leafy patio. It's best known for its Sunday brunch (try the crab cakes with poached eggs and Hollandaise sauce) but serves first-rate Creole and Continental fare at lunch and dinner, too. For a sublime blend of soul and Creole cooking, drop by the Praline Connection, famous for both its crawfish etouffee and its bread pudding dessert. Down the street, Marigny Brasserie is a slick modern space whose kitchen puts a contemporary spin on both Louisiana and French ingredients and recipes. If you're a music fan, definitely check out Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro, which books some of the most talented musicians in the city.

Friendly hosts Leigh and Jim Crawford operate one of the neighborhood's best lodging choices, the nine-room Elysian Fields Inn, a handsome old mansion filled with fine antiques, music memorabilia, and local artwork. Other good bets include B&W Courtyards, which comprises a handful of intimate, charmingly furnished guest rooms, all with private entrances and most opening onto a landscaped courtyard, and La Maison Marigny, a gorgeous gay-owned 1898 B&B whose sun-flooded, impeccably decorated guest rooms have 12-foot ceilings and polished hardwood floors. The most popular room has access to a small balcony overlooking the street below.

The Central Business District

Just upriver from the French Quarter, you'll find the city's downtown business center, which is also rife with large hotels and a number of exceptional restaurants. The gay-



The venerable Camellia Grill serves up some of the tastiest burgers in New Orleans.

Photo by Andrew Collins

friendly gaming and hospitality company Harrah's played a visible role in New Orleans' comeback, having morphed from merely a downtown casino into a full-service upscale resort, complete with a first-rate hotel and a handful of noteworthy restaurants. Rooms in the sleek, 26-story high-rise offer panoramic city views and are elegantly furnished with comfy sofas, plush bedding, and marble bathrooms. Among the property's stellar dining options, don't miss Bambu for innovative Pan-Asian food and the outstanding John Besh Steakhouse, which is tucked discreetly into a relatively peaceful corner of the otherwise boisterous casino. Inside this modern, whimsically decorated eatery you might sample cast-iron roast rib-eye of beef with peppercorn sauce, or 30-day aged Prime New York Strip with blue-cheese butter. From the restaurants to the gaming floor to the hotel, Harrah's provides some of the friendliest service in town.

Diagonally across from Harrah's, the Windsor Court has been one of the South's great emblems of luxury and hospitality since it opened in the early 1980s. The large rooms, many of them full suites, contain high-quality European furnishings and Italian-marble baths, giving them the feel and look of a posh English country home. Amenities include a full health club, a pool, and a wonderfully swish bar called the Polo Lounge, as well as one of the most notable restaurants in the city, the New Orleans Grill, which is worth experiencing even if you aren't staying here. Noted chef Greg Sonnier turns out such stellar fare as grilled rabbit tenderloin with grits and a honey-lavender-Dijon glaze, and oyster-artichoke-crust redfish with white beans and a roasted-red-pepper sauce.

Uptown

Comprising the Garden District and its ornate mansions, the fine shopping and dining along Magazine Street, and the verdant scenery of Audubon Park, Uptown is a broad swath of the city upriver from the Quarter and Central Business District, an area best reached via the historic St. Charles Streetcar.

Just stroll along Magazine Street and you'll discover one inviting cafe or restaurant after another. One particular standout is stylish La

Petite Grocery, which serves up modern takes on French favorites, such as tomato-and-mint-braised lamb shank with roasted red onions and ricotta gnocchi. It's a sister restaurant to nearby Sucre, a delightful little bakery acclaimed for its sinful cakes and pastries, potent java, and light lunch fare; and Grand Isle Restaurant, which is back in the Central Business District adjacent to Harrah's, and is a big-city version of an old-style Louisiana fish camp. Seafood lovers will find all their local favorites here - boiled crawfish, shrimp remoulade, and oyster gumbo.

Farther uptown, you'll find still more bustling retail and restaurant activity - places that increasingly compel tourists to explore beyond the French Quarter. In the Riverbend area, Jacques-Imo's Cafe serves up delicious contemporary dishes and New Orleans standbys, from country-fried venison with wild-mushroom pan gravy to fried mirlitons (a popular local squash) stuffed with oysters. Around the corner, wonderful burgers, breakfast fare, and house-made pies are the hallmark of Camellia Grill, a stalwart of delicious, down-home comfort food.

Mid-City

You can count yourself among New Orleans' more enterprising visitors if you take the time to venture into the Mid-City area, a loosely defined section of town about a 10-minute drive north of the French Quarter. It's anchored by City Park, which extends north almost as far as Lake Pontchartrain and contains the New Orleans Museum of Art. Adjacent to the park is the rapidly gentrifying Esplanade Ridge area, which is home to some excellent accommodations and restaurants. The cozy bistro Cafe Degas serves such superb French cuisine as salade Nicoise and Cajun-style bouillabaisse. In warm weather you can enjoy a meal on the lush garden patio.

There aren't too many places to stay in Mid-City, but one superb, gay-owned choice is the 1898 O'Malley House, an imposing Colonial Revival mansion run by friendly innkeepers Brad Smith and Larry Watts. The gracious rooms are filled with exceptional antiques, handsome Oriental rugs, plush four-poster beds, and elegant armoires and bed stands, yet the rates here are far lower than what you'd pay for similarly handsome accommodations in the French Quarter. A bounteous Continental breakfast is included.

If you have even a slight sweet tooth, be sure to stroll around the corner to Angelo Brocato, which serves some of the richest desserts in the city. Try a scoop of chestnut or panna-cotta gelato, or for the ultimate in decadent dining, a slice of Sicilian Cassata cake (filled with ricotta cheese and topped with marzipan). This neighborhood institution opened a century ago, was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, and has been completely rebuilt - just another sign that New Orleans is back, better than ever.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides, as well as Moon Handbooks New Orleans. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.



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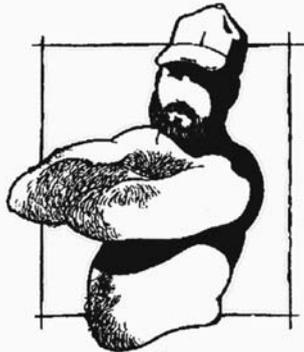
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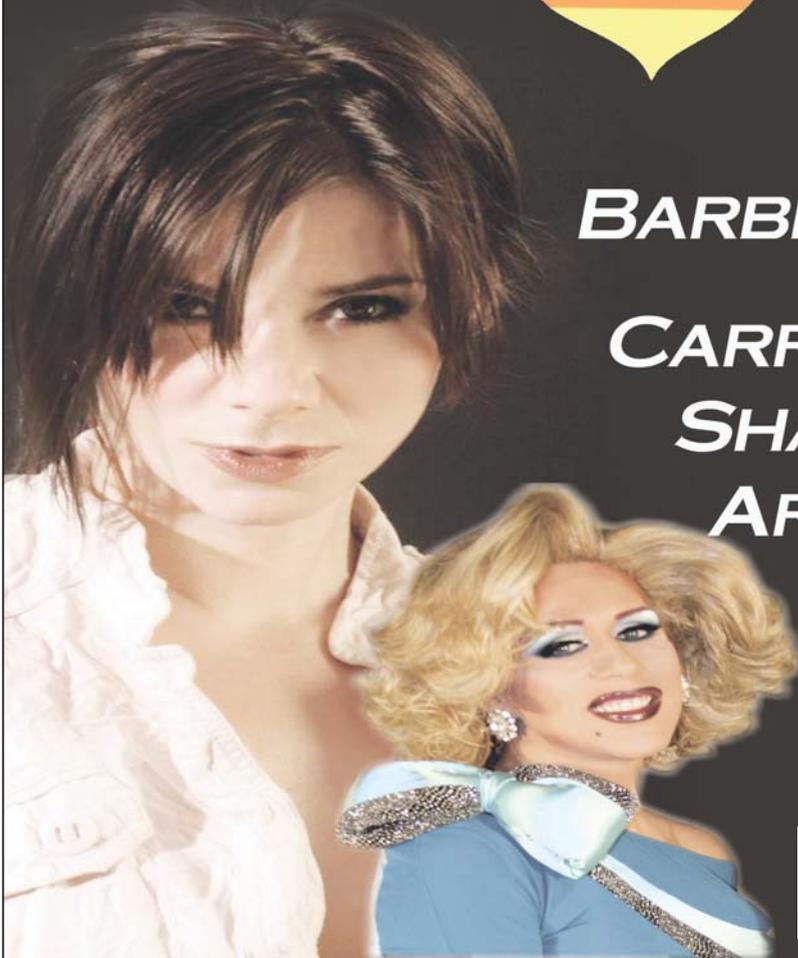
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ACLU demands H&R Block allow civil union couples to file online

By: Susan Haigh/AP Writer

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—The American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut demanded last week that H&R Block change its online tax preparation system to allow gay couples in civil unions to file their taxes.

The ACLU is representing a Hartford couple that tried to file their state taxes by using the company's online system in January, only to be told that the tax preparer's system couldn't accommodate civil unions. A message said H&R Block doesn't "support Connecticut civil unions," referring to the computer program, and advised the couple to visit an H&R Block office or contact a professional by phone.

But ACLU said that is discriminatory

because it would be more time-consuming and cost the couple about \$155 more to file their taxes.

"We're saving for a house and hoping to start a family, so every penny counts right now," said Jason Smith of Hartford, who has been with his partner Settimio Pisu for six years.

Messages were left seeking comment with an H&R Block representative.

Since 2005, about 1,846 couples have received civil union licenses in Connecticut, according to the state's Department of Public Health.

Under Connecticut law, gay and lesbian couples can enter into civil unions, which grant the same state rights and privileges as

marriage. In a letter to H&R Block, ACLU attorney Rebecca Shore said the company's failure to support online filing for taxpayers in civil unions and the imposition of a higher fee "constitutes clear discrimination" based on Connecticut's civil union statute.

Shore said it appears that married same-sex couples in neighboring Massachusetts can use the online tax filing program.

ACLU is demanding that H&R Block immediately provide free, online support for self-filing of state tax returns by taxpayers in civil unions. Also, the organization wants H&R Block to reimburse all customers in civil unions who've already paid the extra charges imposed on them for filing their state tax returns.

Since the federal government does not recognize civil unions, the couples are not filing joint federal returns. Besides Connecticut, Vermont, California, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Maine, Washington and Oregon have laws allowing either civil unions or domestic partnerships. Hawaii extends some rights to same-sex couples and cohabiting heterosexual couples.

Gay rights advocates testified before the Connecticut legislature earlier this month that civil unions are misunderstood by the general public and argue that it makes more sense to allow the couples to marry.

PFLAG National Partners with Cyndi Lauper for the 2008 True Colors Tour!

PFLAG National is excited to announce that we're hitting the road this summer with Cyndi Lauper for the second annual True Colors Tour in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality.

The tour will feature five hours of non-stop music and entertainment by headliners Cyndi Lauper, The B-52s, and exciting special guests in select cities including Rosie O'Donnell, Wanda Sykes, Indigo Girls, Tegan and Sara, Regina Spektor, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Joan Armatrading, Nona Hendryx, Deborah Cox, The Cliks, and many more.

Hosted by Carson Kressley, the tour will visit 24 cities across the United States and Canada from May 31st to July 5th.

The True Colors Tour was conceived by Cyndi Lauper stemming from her desire to give back to the LGBT community for the love and support they have given her throughout her career. The True Colors Tour is a celebration of the basic values and freedoms that should be shared by all Americans regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. Attendees will experience these values through the music of both legendary icons and the newest and coolest acts this generation has to offer.

So, don't miss out on this opportunity to join

The 2008 True Colors Tour closest to our gayborhood*

May 31 Boston, MA Bank of America Pavilion	June 10 Chicago, IL Chicago Theatre
June 1 Wantagh, NY Nikon at Jones Beach Theater	June 13 Atlantic City, NJ Borgata Resort Spa & Casino
June 3 New York, NY Radio City Music Hall	June 14 Bethel, NY Bethel Woods Center for the Arts
June 4 Toronto, ON Molson Amphitheatre	* For the rest of the schedule please visit: http://community.pflag.org/NETCOMMUNITY/Pages.aspx?pid=851&scid=194
June 6 Mashantucket, CT MGM Grand Arena at Foxwoods	
June 7 Washington, DC DAR Constitution Hall	

in the celebration. Tickets for select cities will go on sale beginning March 15th and will be available at www.ticketmaster.com.

For more official tour & ticket information please visit: www.truecolorstour.com.

2nd Annual Trans Health & Law Conference at UCONN

Register now [online or mail/fax] for the second annual Transgender Lives: The Intersection of Health and Law Conference being held on Saturday, April 19 at the UCONN Health Center from 8:00 AM till 5 PM. This all day conference is geared towards Service Providers, Medical and Legal Professionals, Trans and Gender non-conforming community, allies and all those interested in the Health and Law issues facing the Trans and gender non-conforming communities. For up to the minute Conference news go to our website at www.TransgenderLives.org

Registration [online or mail/fax] is suggested at \$25 for Individuals, \$50 for Agency Personnel, though no one will be turned away due to registration cost. Please check sponsorship box in the registration form if you would like to be considered for a paid sponsorship to

the conference. If your organization is interested in sponsoring and/or tabling please contact us at conference@transadvocacy.org or (860) 983-8139. If interested in volunteering please contact us at volunteers@transadvocacy.org or (860) 983-8139.

Workshops will cover topics such as Transgender Legal Protections: Federal and State; Trans Communication Skills for Providers; Hormone Replacement Therapy; Standards of Care for Providers; Community discussion on the Standards of Care; Inclusive health care, counseling and sex therapy with Gender non-conforming clients; Addressing Mental Health Needs for Transgender Individuals; Community discussion around the "Taboo's of Our Bodies;" Disability and Employment Rights and more. To register online: www.transadvocacy.org/?p=30

Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition: HB 5723 Act goes to the House

Hartford, CT—At 4:10 p.m. on Monday, March 24th, the Judiciary Committee voted in favor of HB 5723—An Act Concerning Discrimination, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression. The bill passed with a vote of 37 yeas and only 6 nays and with strong bipartisan support. And importantly there was no teacher amendment raised. The bill now moves to the House for consideration.

Please take a moment to thank your legislator in the Judiciary for their positive vote in support of this bill. For a list of

Judiciary members visit: www.transadvocacy.org/?p=42. Most importantly please drop a special thank you to Ranking member and Chairs: Senators John Kissel (R), Andrew McDonald (D) and Rep. Michael Lawlor (D). Without their leadership, this bill would have died in Judiciary with the other over 100 bills not making the Judiciary JF deadline.

Please visit Connecticut TransAdvocacy's ourwebsite at ConnecticutADC.org for full details on this legislative effort.

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Married Men's Bisexual Support Group of Hartford: (860)264-5605Metropolitan Community **Church of New Haven:** (203) 397-2312New Haven **Gay & Lesbian Center:** www.nhlgcc.org (203) 387-2252

PFLAG Danbury: www.pflag.org (203) 797-4743Connecticut's Kids: (203) 256-8414

Senior Lesbians Happily at Play (SLAPHAPS): Kathy (203) 929-8113

True Colors CT: www.ourtruecolors.org; (888) 565-5551National

Runaway Switchboard: (773) 880-9860Connecticut

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. **connectUT View (ctView):** A Transgender social and support club, for the TV, TG, 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/ctv/

LGBT Announcements

TRT PRIDE Calendar from MA, NY, CT & VT!

(MA) **UNITY** is a Transgender support group which meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Baystate Hospital 3300 Main Street in Springfield, MA. FMI: Deja 860-604-6343 or Kerri 413-364-1749.

(MA) **SOCIAL GROUP FOR LESBIANS**; We always meet on the first and third Friday's of the month. For information call 413-687-2065

(MA) **EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC)** is NOW available without a prescription at all Tapestry Health Services sites. (413) 586-2539.

(MA) **MATURE LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP**; Group for women 55+ meets monthly at the Northampton Council on Aging at 240 Main St., at 6 p.m.; second Monday of each month.

(MA) **DISCUSSION GROUP FOR LESBIANS 40+** meets every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Stonewall Center at UMass. This is a warm and welcoming group of intelligent women. Information email to: JBGreenize@aol.com

(MA) **OLDER LESBIAN DISCUSSION GROUPS**; Amherst/NoHo Area. New members accepted on space-available basis. If enough interest, new groups may form. FMI: 413-247-3257 or 413-253-3049.

(VT) **MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP**; Any male 18 or older; Support group not a therapy group. Free. Every Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brattleboro, VT. FMI: 802-258-3914.

(MA) **JOIN EMAIL GROUP FOR LGBT PARENTS** in the Pioneer Valley area at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lgbt_parents_pioneer_valley/ for exchanging information, chatting about our families, and organizing get-togethers and play-dates.

(MA, NY, CT & VT) **DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE YOU ARE QUEER?** Call *The Rainbow Times*, 413-204-8959; 518-391-2617.

(NY) **Bisexual Brunch**; First and third Sundays of the month, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(NY) **Bagel Bunch**; Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m.; Older gay men's social and discussion group. Bruegger's, Hannaford Plaza, Central Ave., Albany.

(NY) **Capital Pride Singers**; Mondays @ 7 p.m.; LGBT/LGBTaffirming, mixed chorus; St. Andrew's, Episcopal Church, 10 No. Main St., Albany, 12203; FMI: 435-4636.

(NY) **Capital District Prime Timers**; Provides social, cultural, and recreational opportunities for mature gay and bisexual men. 21+. FMI: jallison2@nycap.r.com or CDPPT 595 New Loudon Rd #202 Latham NY 12110

(NY) **Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Men Support Group**; Mondays; 7 p.m.; Support group forGBT men; CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138 or qdiamond@cdglcc.org.

(NY) **Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Support Group**; every other Tuesday; 7 p.m.; Meet at CDGLCC at 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Youth Group**; Friday nights; 7 p.m.; 332 Hudson Ave. in Albany; Group offers peer support to LGBT& questioning individuals ages 13-19. A supportive environment for LGBTQ youth and their straight allies. FMI: Q Diamond (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Confidential HIV Testing**; first Wednesday of each month; 6-8:30 p.m.; Provided by Project H.O.P.E., a program of the AIDS Council of

Northeastern New York. Testing offered at the CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: 518-462-6138.

LGBTQ TEA DANCE at DANCE NORTHAMPTON. Second Sunday of every month; 3-6 PM; \$8 (includes lesson at 3:00) FMI: www.dancenorthampton.com.

(NY) **OUT DANCING** (for the LGBTQ community); every Wednesday evening; 7 to 8 p.m.; Saratoga SAVOY, 7 Wells St. Saratoga Springs, NY. FMI: 518-587-5132. <http://saratogasavoy.homestead.com/files/outdancing.html>

(CT) Every Sunday; **ALL LGBT YOUTH to the Rainbow Room**; at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective; from 3-6 p.m.; 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT; for LGBT youth and allies. 21 & younger.

(MA) **TransForming Families** - Transgender Support Group; Parents, partners, children and their transgender loved ones. Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m. in Hadley. FMI: www.transformingfamilies.org or 413-522-0522

(MA) **Free Breast Cancer Services**; Cooley Dickinson; Women can select therapy services such as acupuncture, aromatherapy, therapeutic touch, healing music, healing touch, Reiki, Reiki, Peggy Huddleston's Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster™, self-hypnosis/guided imagery and therapeutic massage by CD employees that hold certifications in these therapy techniques. FMI 413-582-2424.

(MA) **EAST COAST FEMALE-TO-MALE GROUP (ECFTMG)**; 2nd Sunday of every month from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. FMI: 413.584.7616 or email: betpower@yahoo.com. FTMs or SOFFAs who have never come to one of the meetings should call and introduce themselves to Bet before attending. Meetings are open to ALL masculine-identified, female-born persons, our significant others, family, and allies.

(VT) Third Sunday of Every Month; in Brattleboro. **Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary**, including transpeople of all genders and sexual orientations. FMI: Benjamin Robin: robin@benjaminrobin.net

(NY) **Ask-A-Lawyer Legal Clinic**: Serving the LGBT community Geri Pomerantz, Esq. and Anne Reynolds Copps, Esq.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.; FREE legal consultations to the LGBT community. Appointment only. FMI: 518.432.4188.

(NY) ONGOING: First and third Sundays of the month, 11 - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(NY) Capital Pride Singers LGBT and affirming mixed chorus. Rehearsals on Monday's, 7 PM, Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State St., Albany. FMI: 518-435-4636.

(MA) April 4; 5pm: Jenness & Hardy House; Williams College; Allison Golinoff opens to exhibits on campus exploring transgender issues: Man-Made & Supreme Diva. Part of the Multicultural Center's Canvas Project

(CT) April 4-6; Eat, Drink and be Married; A weekend of parties to benefit marriage equality; No matter what the party is, you will still be raising money for marriage in CT. FMI: Gina Longo, Eat, Drink, & Be Married! Coordinator, at gina@lmfct.org or call 203-675-9943.

(MA) (MA) April 4-6; Intersection V; New World Theater, UMass; FMI: Tickets are \$15-general public; \$8-senior citizens and low-income patrons; and, \$5 for students with valid I.D. Powerful and exciting performances on GLBTQ issues, rights, and experiences. Cherrie Moraga, Lenelle Moise, Djola Branner, D'Lo, Regie

Cabico, and Jesusa Rodríguez.

(MA) April 4; 5:00 p.m.; Jenness House, 10 Morley Drive, Williamstown, MA (William's College; FMI: 413-597-3353). Art Exhibit Opening Reception. The Canvas Project presents Man Made by Allison Golinoff. A series of Art Exhibits exploring issues of transgenderism.

(NY) April 4-20; The Ghent Playhouse presents 6 Women with Brain Death or Expiring Minds Want to Know Fridays and Saturdays - 8:00 p.m.; Sundays - 2 p.m.; Adults \$15 - Members \$12; Directed by Tom Detwiler. Music and lyrics by Mark Houston. Music Direction by Paul Leyden. FMI: (518) 392-6264 or visit: www.ghentplayhouse.org.

(MA) April 5; 7:30 p.m.; Kirtan is a celebratory high energy group practice of call and response yogic chanting (usually in the Sanskrit language) at Mama Nirvana's New Yoga; All are welcome; Suggested donation \$10; 479 West Street, 2nd Floor (Rte 116 and Pomeroy); South Amherst, MA; FMI: 413-256-5444; www.mamanirvana.com.

(CT) April 5; Another Octave: Connecticut Women's Chorus; Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT; 6:30 p.m.; A fund-raiser for the chorus, featuring an elegant catered buffet plus jazz piano and songs prepared especially for the event. Ticket price of \$75 includes concert admission. Concert alone 8:00 for \$18. FMI: 203-672-1919

(MA) April 5; 10:30am-12:30pm; & Sunday April 6, 10am-12pm, '62 Center Dance Studio, Williams College. Dance workshop on Voguing, a movement style developed in urban, black, queer communities. Darrell Jones, a faculty member of the department of Dance at Columbia College, travels from Chicago to give this workshop entitled Sissy Vogue Vop.

(MA) April 6; "Raise the Roof - Music for the Meetinghouse"; A Family-friendly Benefit Concert to Save Northampton's Historic Meetinghouse! 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Calvin Theatre, 19 King Street, Northampton. Tickets \$12 Adults, \$8 Children & Seniors. Available in advance at Northampton Box office (nbotickets.com). FMI: visit firstchurches.org or Gina-Louise Sciarra at 584-5121.

(MA) April 6; La Cage aux Folles (1979 | R | French with English Subtitles); At The Agawam Cultural Council; \$6; includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres before the show; Free drawing for door prizes; Agawam Family Cinemas at 866 Suffield Street, Agawam, and begin at 1:15 pm. Doors open at 12:30 pm. A transvestite-nightclub owner and his drag-queen star attraction masquerade as a straight, married couple for the benefit of the ultraconservative parents of their son's fiancée.

(MA) April 6 to 12, 6th Annual National LGBT Health Awareness Week. Take a moment and learn about the health issues that are affecting our LGBT health. Visit www.lgbthealth.net today and learn more about your health.

(NY) April 7, 2008; The Point Foundation Point Courage Award; A Benefit Honoring Current and Future Champions of the LGBT Community. This year's Point Courage Award goes to Tony® and Emmy® Award-winning actress, Cynthia Nixon. At Capitale; 130 Bowery; New York, New York 10013; 6:00 p.m. Pre-show Reception; 7:30 p.m. Dinner and Awards Program.

(NY) April 8; Suicide Prevention in the LGBT Community as a part of National LGBT Health Awareness Week; 7:30pm; CDGLCC; 332 Hudson Ave, Albany FREE! Featured Speaker: Jill Ordonez, LMSW, Program Director with Samaritans Suicide Prevention Center. FMI: <http://www.rainbowa.ccess.org/>

(MA) April 8; 8:00 p.m.; Paresky Theater

(William's College; FMI: 413-597-3353); Talkin' Trash in the Homo No Mo Halfway House, a lively lecture about gay reparative therapy and the Ex-gay movement, with Peterson Toscano. April 12th-Rocky Horror Picture Show screening at Images Cinema (tentative).

(VT) April 8; Bowling; 7pm; Brattleboro Bowl; at Putney Road, Brattleboro VT. The change of day is due to league times and lane availability. We each pay for our own shoes and then split the cost of the lanes. FMI: eflash@sover.net

(MA) April 8, 8pm, Dodd Living Room, Williams College. Talkin' Trash in the Homo No Mo' Halfway House: A lively lecture about the ex-gay movement and gay reparative therapy, with Peterson Toscano.

(NY) April 9; LGBT Legal Issues: Family, Criminal, and Civil as a part of National LGBT Health Awareness Week; 7:30 pm; FUUSA (First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany); 405 Washington Ave., Albany. FREE! Featured Speaker: Jeffrey McMorris, Attorney-at Law; FMI: <http://www.rainbowa.ccess.org/>

(VT) April 9; BEAR NIGHT; Doors open at 5pm at the Celloid House, Westmoreland NH. The Pub is not normally open on Wednesdays, so this is a private Bear event. Doors open at 5pm, DJ music begins at 7:30pm, and the pub will be open until midnight.

(NY) April 10; LGBT and Growing Old as a part of National LGBT Health Awareness Week; 7:30pm FUUSA (First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany); 405 Washington Ave., Albany; FREE! Featured Speaker: Kim Dill, Executive Director, Sage Upstate. FMI: <http://www.rainbowa.ccess.org/>

(MA) April 10; Swati is a breath of fresh air—a dynamic guitarist and talented songwriter with a pure voice; 7 p.m.; Iron Horse. FMI: <http://www.swatilive.com/>

(VT) April 10; Core Group; 6pm potluck, 6:30pm discussion, at the Menspace, 50 Elliot St, Brattleboro VT. Feel free to come at 6:30 for just the discussion. We always finish up by 8pm. All welcome. FMI: eflash@sover.net

(NY) April 11; LGBT Crime and Sexual Violence Issues as a part of National LGBT Health Awareness Week; 7:30pm; FUUSA (First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany); 405 Washington Ave., Albany. FREE! Featured Speaker: Karen Ziegler, LCSW-R, CASAC, Director of the Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center. FMI: <http://www.rainbowa.ccess.org/>

(VT) April 11; Spirituality; 7pm; Menspace; 50 Elliot Street, Brattleboro VT. If you'd like to get heads up on the topic before you arrive, just give us a call or email and we'll let you know what it is. Or just come on over and be surprised! 802-254-4444 or eflash@sover.net

(VT) GENDER ROLE FREE CONTRA DANCES & DINNER; 4pm; Montague MA. This will be the last GRF Contra for the season, with an "experienced dancers" dance in the afternoon, then a potluck supper, then the usual dance for both beginners and experienced dancers starting at 7pm. FMI: www.lcdf.org and click on Western Massachusetts Dances.

(NY) April 11-18; 2008 Northeast Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Conference - "Changing Campus Climate;" University at Albany; 1400 Washington Ave. Albany, NY. Registration Deadline: April 6. FMI: www.2008nlgbt.ccom or call (518) 442-5853.

More Calendar of Events on page 31

Submit your non-profit calendar event/s* to calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com or calendar@therainbowtimesnews.com

*Certain restrictions apply. Small for-profit events/groups, 35 words or less, are considered for a small fee. Large/for-profit events are not considered. All submissions appear online.

Hate Crime Laws: Why did they not prevent King's murder?

By: **Tynan Power**
TRT Reporter

In March, Lawrence King, a 15-year-old middle school student in California was shot at school by a 14-year-old classmate.

In this tragic case, the killing is being labeled a hate crime—a hate crime targeting King for his sexual orientation, to be precise.

In a perspective about the case published in *The Advocate*, Riki Wilchins, executive director of GenderPAC, said: "There is this weird kind of erasure in the gay community around gender." Yet, she also said, "even when homosexuality is per se at the root of a killing, what is fear and loathing of homosexuality for most males but dread of losing one's masculinity,

"Sadly what we have learned is that this kind of violence is possible anywhere. I think it's less likely to happen in a community like ours, where we've tried to do some pro-active work."

—Clare Higgins, Northampton, Mass. Mayor

King had told people he was gay, yet news reports of the incident focus on the fact that King wore things like nail polish and women's shoes. In a school where King surely was not the only gay student, he was the only one killed. It would seem his gender expression set him apart.

dread of all that is seen as weak or feminine?"

Still, California has hate crime laws that cover sexual orientation. Why didn't they serve to prevent King's killing? For that matter, why weren't standard laws barring students from bringing guns to school enough to prevent it? According to Gunner Scott, direc-



tor of MTPC, even with the best laws in place, it doesn't guarantee that people will be accepted despite their gender identity or gender expression. Without education around gender issues, Scott said, laws don't always do the job of prevention.

Northampton has a non-discrimination ordinance, which covers gender identity and expression—and MTPC is working for a similar law state-wide. Yet if laws aren't enough, could a situation like the one in California happen here? Northampton Mayor Mary Clare Higgins doesn't think so.

"Whenever school violence occurs around the country, the first thing local officials and families seem to say was that they 'never thought it could happen here.' Sadly what we have learned is that this kind of violence is

possible anywhere. I think it's less likely to happen in a community like ours, where we've tried to do some pro-active work. Our schools are welcoming to a diverse array of families and family structures. We've included diversity education for students and staff. We have a GSA at our High School, and more importantly, we have an environment in our high school where students feel very comfortable expressing themselves. I really don't think an NHS student wearing nail polish would run into the same response here. In fact, I'd be willing to bet there are boys in nail polish on an almost daily basis in Northampton! I think education and communication go a long way towards defusing the fear that underlies so much violence."

"Is it perfect here?" she asked. "No; we still have work to do, no question. But I think maybe we've been ahead of the curve a little bit as a community."

MassEquality dives into more equality projects this year

By: **Michele Spring-Moore**
TRT Special Report

Securing civil rights for same-sex married couples and transgender people, and increasing state funding for AIDS/HIV care and LGBT services, are on the agenda for MassEquality now that the legal right to marriage has been secured.

Matt McTighe, MassEquality's political director, presented the organization's 2008 plans at a public meeting at the Unitarian Society of Northampton in late February. The group held similar meetings this winter in Boston and Worcester.

The organization's primary focus remains marriage equality, including assisting other New England states in securing the legal right for same-sex couples to marry. MassEquality is working in partnership with Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), a 30-year-old LGBT legal and advocacy organ-

ization based in Boston, to provide support to the marriage equality groups working in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Closer to home, MassEquality will lobby state legislators to pass the MassHealth Equality Bill, which will grant married same-sex couples the same access to Medicaid benefits as other married couples. This is only one of the legal gaps that haven't yet been closed since same-sex marriage became legal in 2003. MassEquality and other organizations are working to repeal the 1913 state marriage law that prohibits couples from other states from marrying in Massachusetts if the marriage would be considered illegal in their home states. The law was originally passed to keep interracial couples from marrying, but has been used to argue against same-sex marriage. Currently, only Rhode Island recognizes some legal rights of same-

sex couples who were married in Massachusetts.

Transgender rights are also high on MassEquality's agenda. The group has been lobbying state legislators to support House bill H1722, on which the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing in early March.

The bill would add gender identity and expression to existing Massachusetts non-discrimination laws affecting employment, credit, hate crimes, housing, and public accommodations and education.

See *MassEquality* on p. 20

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Deep Inside Hollywood: Where are they now?



BY: Romeo San Vicente

Shrek Sings With Full Cast

The *Shrek* Broadway musical has a full cast of fairy-tale characters now, with Tony nominee Brian d'Arcy James (*Sweet Smell of Success*) recently signed on as the title's gentle ogre and Chester Gregory II (*Hairspray*) as Donkey. Gay Broadway veterans Christopher Sieber (*Spamalot*) and John Tartaglia (*Avenue Q*) will play Lord Farquaad and Pinocchio, respectively, while Tony winner Sutton Foster (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*) will star as Princess Fiona. The plot is still under wraps, but don't expect it to stray too much from the first film's story line. The show, Dreamworks' first venture onto the Broadway stage, will open in Seattle in August before its planned December 14 premiere, when it will take over the Broadway Theater, booting out *The Color Purple* to make way for the color green.



JANEANE GAROFALO

Garofalo at the Gay Wedding

Gay weddings, topical to a fault, have seemingly become the go-to scenario for

queer indie films. *I Think I Do*, *April's Shower*, *Wedding Wars*, *Mambo Italiano*, and

Kiss the Bride have all mined marriage for laughs. And now another nuptials-themed comedy, *For Better or Worse* is coming your way. The plot? Unknown. But if it's smart, it'll be wildly inventive to make up for its dull title and the already crowded genre it's joining. The film stars Janeane Garofalo, Rebecca Gayheart, Chad Allen, Patrick Muldoon, and Brad Rowe (co-star of queer indies *Shelter* and *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*—here, he both acts and produces). Meanwhile, in addition to Chad Allen, another former child star - *Punky Brewster* alum Soleil Moon Frye—is part of the mix. She'll play a lesbian minister. The brides (or grooms, or both) will march down the aisle sometime in 2009.

Spacey Shooting *Telstar*

Kevin Spacey in a film about a flamboyantly gay man? It's not what you think. Spacey will co-star in *Telstar*, a biopic about the short, unusual life of 1960s record producer Joe Meek. Meek was most famous for producing the hit single that shares the film's title, an instrumental by the Tornados, the first American number-one hit from a British band. Spacey will play Major Banks, Meek's money man. Acclaimed Brit character actor Con O'Neill, a Tony nominee for 1993's *Blood Brothers*, will play the outrageous Meek, who famously passed up the chance to

work with the Beatles, and died by his own hand in a bizarre murder-suicide at the age of 37. Another gay tragedy for the screen? Yes, but no less fascinating a subject in spite of it. Audiences will get to know Meek later this year.

The Return of 90210

Yes, it sounds too good to be true, but it's happening. The CW has announced plans to revive *Beverly Hills, 90210* for a whole new generation. A family will move from the Midwest to the famed zip code, a daughter and son in tow: they'll be updated versions, of course (she's an emid wanting to be cool; he has behavioral issues), but the same rich-kid problems will prevail. It's unlikely that gay creator Darren Star will participate, and there's no word yet on when this will all go down. But the biggest question is, after *The O.C.*, *The Hills*, and *Gossip Girl*, how rich will be rich enough, and how bad will be bad enough? Romeo doesn't know, but he's hoping for another Flaming Lips gig at the Peach Pit, one now owned by Donna Martin.

Romeo San Vicente still thinks Jason Priestly is dreamy. Romeo can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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MassEquality from p. 19

It's important for all constituents who support the bill to contact their legislators, McTighe said.

"The [LGBT] community really gets it," he said. "But, right-wing opposition groups have been relying on 'straight guy in a dress goes into the women's bathroom' scare stories in lobbying legislators."

State representatives and H1722 opponents testifying at the hearing focused largely on questions about bathroom use by transgender people.

This year, MassEquality will also advocate returning funding for AIDS/HIV and LGBT services to levels not seen since the 1990s, before Republican governors Mitt Romney and William Weld cut funding for certain social service programs, McTighe said.

MassEquality will advocate for budget increases for LGBT youth programs, including the Safe Schools program and the Massachusetts Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, and for passage of bill S275,

which would require school districts to set up anti-bullying policies. The organization is also asking for the LGBT Aging Project, which was founded in 2001 by a group of advocates from the LGBT community and from the aging services network who wanted to combat the invisibility of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people to mainstream elder service providers and within the LGBT community as a whole.

Another area that has suffered from budget cuts is domestic violence. Two organizations in Massachusetts, both based in greater Boston, provide services specifically for LGBT survivors of domestic violence: the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project, and for women, The Network/La Red. McTighe said that of the 800 beds in safe houses and shelters in the state, only five are reserved for LGBT survivors, and all are in the Boston area. The funding increase sought would provide seven more beds, some in other parts of the state, including Western Massachusetts.

Lesbian Best Sellers*

1. When Night is Falling
2. Tick Tock Lullaby
3. She Likes Girls 2
4. Sonja
5. Exes and Ohs - The...
6. The Gymnast
7. A Love To Keep
8. Spider Lilies
9. The L Word: Season 4
10. Ninas Heavenly Delights

* By wolfevideo.com

Gay Best Sellers*

1. East Side Story
2. Surveillance 24/7
3. Boy Crush
4. The Bubble
5. Naked Boys Singing!
6. Shelter
7. Boys Love
8. S is for Sexy
9. A Very Serious Person

* By wolfevideo.com



An elegant night on the town with dinner at Grill 350, Springfield Mass. Photo by: David Moran

Grill 350: A Taste of France in Springfield, Mass.

By: Julius Child
TRT Restaurant Reviewer

A breath of fresh air arrived to the downtown Springfield, Mass. dining scene, and it is located inside at 350 Worthington St.

We started the evening with cocktails. My partner had a Cosmopolitan that was perfect and I ordered a Negroni, which consists of a combination Compari, gin (or vodka-for those not into gin) and sweet vermouth. I was amazed to have it delivered without being asked how to make it, and it was perfectly blended. Now that's a reason to return to the bar, which incidentally is very attractive.

We were already impressed with the magnificent ambiance, but needed to find out if the menu matched the surroundings.

We started with 2 appetizers (Tapas), Lobster Ravioli and Artichoke Francaise. The Artichoke was served with a wonderful sauce which consisted of 4 large artichokes. The lobster ravioli sauce was tasty, but finding lobster was a bit of a problem.

For my entree, I chose one of the specials of the evening, Steak au Pouve—just hot enough but not so spicy that it hid the taste of a very fine cut of steak. I was reminded of my 2 years in Bordeaux, France where I had consumed many such a meal. Superb! I could have been back at La Fonds Steak House, and

Core Chiropractic from p. 5

As a result, she has taken part in many community health events, and public school programs. She began an educational program at the Easthampton Senior Center in 2001, which since then has been relinquished to be taken over by another Chiropractor. Dr. Orvieto also said that she loves to give talks for different organizations on various subjects throughout the community.

Core Chiropractic Clinic's community service does not stop there.

"I offer regular presentations on the work I do for anyone interested," said Dr. Orvieto, "I also have an amazing team of six professionals who present every quarter on a Monday night about Women's health issues, primarily breast health. One of them is a dear friend who is a Holistic Nurse and specializes in Thermography, a safe alternative to Mammography. The talk is an incredible opportunity for the community to learn a wealth of knowledge from top profession-

Rating: 
4/5 Flags

without the rate of exchange to contend with in France!

My partner chose to have Swordfish Puttanesca, served on top of pasta. The large portion was a bit on the dry side, and could have used a little less sauce, but in general was satisfying.

A word about the house salad—the Italian dressing was pleasant tasting, but we recommend having the dressing on the side—too much dressing.

The waitress was very pleasant and attentive. Although she was quite busy, it was never a problem finding her.

A fine selection of desserts were available, but food portions were so large that we decided to forgo dessert for an apertif and a robust cup of coffee. The executive Chef Doreen Via is someone to be reconed with in Western Mass.

Prices for entrees range from \$13 to \$24, some evening specials were a bit higher, salads from \$6 to \$8. Free parking is available while dining, in the lot adjoining the entrance.

A must try restaurant. My rating: 4 out of 5 Rainbow Flags! Send comments to: TheJuliusChild@aol.com.

als."

The next Women's health talk is on Monday, May 5th, from 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Orvieto attributes her success to her love of the work and the love of her patients.

"Not only do I love what I do but I love the patients I do it for!" she said. "Being an out lesbian and a professional has not always been easy for me, but over the years I have grown and healed in ways that have actually made me a better, more compassionate doctor. I wear my heart on my sleeve and bring all that I am to my practice and my patients. Also, Core Clinic has Certified Chiropractic Chihuahuas 'CCC's'... who are love bugs and bring even more healing energy to the office. Patients love them!"

For more information about Core Chiropractic Clinic and The Pettibon System™, to receive your initial free phone consultation, or to schedule your appointment, call Dr. Orvieto at 413-527-2468. Visit Core Chiropractic Clinic online at: www.corechiroclinic.com.

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Parrots: At least three dozen considered threatened or endangered

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What are the conservation implications of all the wild colonies of escaped pet parrots that have turned up in and around some major U.S. cities?

—Mike Gifford, Kirkland, WA

At least three dozen different parrot species are now considered threatened or endangered in their quickly shrinking native tropical and sub-tropical habitats (mostly in South America). As such, the health of wild flocks in the U.S. and other developed countries around the world may well be key to preserving these birds that could otherwise go extinct.

Today wild parrot flocks thrive in urban and suburban areas of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Texas, Washington State and elsewhere. San Francisco and Brooklyn each host particularly large flocks, especially considering their relative lack of green space. Wild parrot flocks are also reportedly thriving in cities across much of Western Europe. Most of these parrots, of course, are not former pets themselves, but the descendants of birds that long ago may have escaped during transport from their jungle homes to pet stores generations ago.

Parrots are among the most intelligent and adaptable birds, so it is no surprise that they've done so well in North America and other regions, despite colder temperatures.

Photo by Getty Images



A pair of Quaker Parrots (also known as "Monk Parakeets") on a branch in Brazil, one of their shrinking native habitats. Preserving the health of the many wild flocks in the U.S. and other developed countries around the world may well be key to preventing these birds from going extinct altogether.

Indeed it is not uncommon in the Northeast to see large groups of parrots perched in winter on deck railings piled with several inches of snow. The regions they inhabit, despite the cold weather, provide enough food and shelter to meet their relatively modest needs. And once the parrots were able to establish themselves in their new habitats, they got on with

the business of breeding. Therefore, their offspring, though born in the city, are wild birds nonetheless, carrying on lifestyles not unlike those of their ancestors back in the jungles of South America (though their predators are different).

Conservationists are optimistic that the parrots' successful adaptation to more northerly

urban environments bodes well for their future, despite the loss of much of their ancestral rainforest habitat. According to Roelant Jonker of the non-profit City Parrots, encouraging the formation of wild flocks of urban parrots promises to be a much more effective conservation tactic than trying to raise more birds in captivity where they would not so readily pass on their genes or learn the survival, adaptation and social skills necessary to survive. To Jonker, the proof is in the pudding: Some 2,500 wild red-crowned Amazon parrots (a quarter of the world's total) are thriving in and around California's biggest urban areas at the same time their population numbers are plummeting back in their native rainforest habitat.

The 2006 Judy Irving documentary, The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill, shadows wild parrot crusader Mark Bittner and his efforts to care for a wild flock of Red-headed Conyers living in San Francisco. Bittner feeds birdseed to the Conyers and gets to know each individual bird and its idiosyncrasies. The film's shots of parrots interacting with one another and with Bittner really drive the point home how much we have in common with the wild kingdom of animals all around us, whether we live in the city or the country.

Got an environmental question? Send it to: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Saturday, June 7, 2008

Early trans activists Marsha P. Johnson (left) and Sylvia Rivera fought back at Stonewall.

**Northampton, MA
11:00 a.m.**

**Assemble at Lampron Park
Noon: March steps off**

12:30 – 5:00 p.m.

**Rally at Armory St. Lot
(behind Thornes Marketplace)**

**Rally includes:
Speakers, performers,
musicians, drag, and more...**



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Queer Justice: Traveling out of MA

By Atty. Jennifer Dexter*

TRT Law Columnist

Q: What are the difficulties that a person who is married in MA faces when traveling out of state? What can I do to protect my marriage and my rights?

—Norma G., Easthampton, MA

Dear Norma:

The epitome of your concern is portrayed in "If These Walls Could Talk 2". A lesbian couple, together "forever", one passes away and the other is left out in the cold—no rights, no consolation, no justice, no redemption, no respect. (We all remember that one right!)

In a handful of states, taking care of your sick or injured loved one would not be a problem. But we all must travel to the dreaded "red states" from time to time (and some blue), and we must be prepared. Considering that every state does not recognize either equal marriage rights or a Civil Union, when you travel outside the Commonwealth, you and your relationship are at risk.

The easiest and most effective way to secure your rights and privileges is to make sure you have three simple documents; a Will, Durable Power of Attorney and a Health Care Proxy.

A will is a document that is valid upon your death. In your will you can make arrangements for the distribution of all your property, who should take care of your children, whether you want to be buried etc.

A Durable Power of Attorney becomes effective only when the drafter (you) becomes incompetent or disabled. In the event something should happen and you are no longer

GLAAD launches "Newsroom '08" website

New York, March 20, 2008—The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) launched "Newsroom '08," a Web site which will serve as a resource on how media talk about issues affecting to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community as they pertain to the local, state and national elections in November. The national media advocacy organization's dedicated microsite has a blog, "Read Between the Lines," where commentary on and analysis of election coverage will be posted, as well as resources for both community members and media professionals.

"At GLAAD, we're in the business of helping to change hearts and minds about issues affecting the LGBT community," said GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano. "Election years give us increased opportunity to talk about our issues and to hold media accountable for fair, accurate and inclusive coverage. Newsroom '08 provides a unique analysis and insight on media coverage of the November elections as they pertain to LGBT issues."

Newsroom '08 provides expansive educational resources for journalists and community members. In addition to "Read Between the Lines," community members can learn when GLAAD staff will be in their area conducting the organization's signature Media Essentials



ATTY. JENNIFER DEXTER

capable to make appropriate decisions, a Power of Attorney would kick in giving the person you designate as your POA the right to act as if they were you. Your POA can do anything you can do, banking, buying or selling real estate anything you can do, they can do.

Keep in mind, this power can be limited through the language of the document.

A Healthcare Proxy is a document which gives a specific person the right and power to make any and all major medical decisions should you be unable to do so. Again you can limit this power in the body of the document. This document can give you Proxy the right to donate organs, terminate life support, not begin life support, etc.

These three simple documents can ensure that your wishes are carried out no matter where you are.

*Attorney Jennifer L. Dexter earned a B.A. in Psychology from The University of Central Florida. She moved to Massachusetts to attend law school at The Western New England College of Law in Springfield, Mass. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and has a Solo General Practice in the Pioneer Valley Area.

The information contained herein is intended for educational purposes only and does not represent legal advice. Should you need legal advice, please contact an attorney. If you have legal questions that are unanswered, send your questions to: queerjustice@comcast.net

Training Workshops to help advocates become more effective in their media work. There are also ways to be more involved locally and access video clips of recent news coverage.

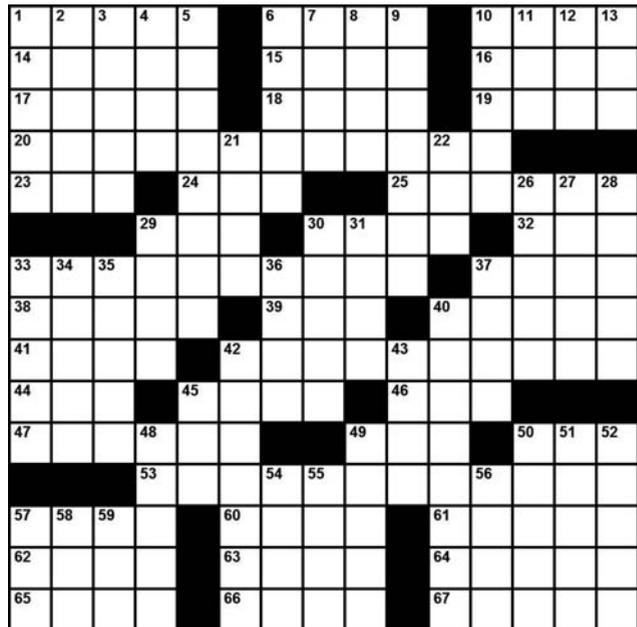
"GLAAD has been hard at work holding media accountable at the national and local levels," said Rashad Robinson, GLAAD's senior director of programs. "Newsroom '08 gives journalists and community members additional resources to move beyond oversimplification and to promote election coverage that portrays the LGBT community and issues in a fair, accurate and inclusive light."

Journalists can find GLAAD's Media Reference Guide, the go-to reference guide and style book for media professionals in their coverage of LGBT issues, which will soon be updated with a special focus on the 2008 elections. Newsroom '08 and its many resources can be found at <http://newsroom08.glaad.org>.

About GLAAD

GLAAD is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. For more information, please visit www.glaad.org.

Q Puzzle: The State of Gay Politics



Across

- 1 Loafer bottoms
- 6 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You ___"
- 10 Hairspray list
- 14 Member of sexual congress?
- 15 Warrior Princess
- 16 Put in a position?
- 17 Material for nice stones
- 18 At once, to Byron
- 19 Club for Sheehan
- 20 Lesbian California state senator
- 23 Madonna's pair
- 24 Dottermans of *Antonia's Line*
- 25 "My lips are ___"
- 29 Announcement from the cockpit
- 30 Welcome response after an S/M session
- 32 Land of singer S. O'Connor
- 33 Gay Vermont state senator
- 37 What there oughta be
- 38 Like phone sex
- 39 Short-order sandwich for porkers?
- 40 Like an ACT UP protester
- 41 Some falcon feathers
- 42 Gay Utah state senator
- 44 And, to Rohm
- 45 Matching notes for *Roem?*
- 46 Bear market opposites
- 47 Like a splendid fruit?
- 49 Coll. of Phil Andros
- 50 *Heather* ___ *Two Mommies*
- 53 Lesbian New York Assembly member
- 57 Rupert Everett's *Ready to ___*
- 60 Cut
- 61 Streisand's *Prince of Tides* costar
- 62 It comes before sum
- 63 Staffer to 53-Across
- 64 Give a large bosom, e.g.
- 65 Supporter of Julia Morgan?
- 66 Not even once, to Whitman
- 67 Love objects

Down

- 1 Where to find Uranus
- 2 Instrument of the Phantom of the Opera
- 3 People in flaming pants?
- 4 Outside opening?
- 5 Like a pirate insignia
- 6 Digital-rectal and such
- 7 Caesar's post-orgasm cry?
- 8 A wink's partner
- 9 Sticks it out
- 10 Cups and such
- 11 Earhart's medium
- 12 Sign of a Broadway hit
- 13 Ann Heron's *One Teenager* in ___
- 21 Star quality
- 22 Cartoon squeal
- 26 Almost the color purple
- 27 Muse for Millay
- 28 Disney duck
- 29 Airline to the land of the cut
- 30 Home near polar bears, perhaps
- 31 Foreman of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
- 33 Enjoy orally
- 34 New York state senator Tom
- 35 Movie about Kahlo
- 36 Nuts and bolts
- 37 They aren't straight
- 40 Bashed
- 42 Meat substitute
- 43 Top target
- 45 *Murder*, ___ *Meowed*
- 48 PC drive insert
- 49 Rock Hudson's *Gun Fury*, for one
- 50 Role of Caroline Rhea on *Sabrina*
- 51 Line of Rupert Everett
- 52 Oriens a certain way
- 54 Garfield's whipping boy
- 55 Take a trolley that goes "Clang, clang, clang," e.g.
- 56 Without a date
- 57 Where to have cybersex
- 58 Preposition that goes either way
- 59 Khan's title

Solution of Puzzle on Page 26



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Thursday 3rd 4:30pm

A conversation with **Rives Kistler**:
openly gay Oregon Supreme Court Judge.
Williams College Hardy House



Friday 4th 5pm

Opening reception for Trans-themed
photo exhibits by Allison Golinkoff:
Man-Made & Supreme Diva
Williams College Jenness House



Saturday 5th 10:30am - 12:30pm
Sunday 6th 10am - 12pm

**Voguing Dance Workshops with
Darrell Jones** (Dance faculty at Columbia
College, Chicago) Sign up for either
workshop: kkhubcha@williams.edu
Williams College '62 Center for Dance



Monday 7th 8pm

Sonia Sanchez: spoken word poet,
social activist, and queer Ally.
Williams College Brooks Rogers Hall



Tuesday 8th 8pm

Peterson Toscano: Talkin' Trash in the
Homo No' Mo Halfway House: a lively
lecture about the ex-gay movement and
reparative therapy.
Williams College Dodd House



Saturday 12th, 9pm - 1am

**MCLA's Annual Drag Dance w/ guest per-
formers: All The Kings Men** (at 9:45).
MCLA Venable Gym (375 Church Street,
North Adams). Vintage Theme. Tickets are \$3 for
couples and \$2 for singles. Age: 17 plus. Drag is
encouraged but not required. Student ID pre-
ferred but not required. There will be prizes for:
King, Queen, Best Couple, and Best Performance.



Sunday 13th, 8:30pm

Laugh Out Loud w/ Vidur Kapur :
Gay, South Asian comedian extraordinaire!
Williams College Paresky Auditorium



Friday 18th, Saturday 19th, 7:30pm

Legally Brown: a politically conscious
Bollywood Dance show!
Williams College '62 Center Mainstage



Saturday April 26, 2pm

Trans 101 Workshop w/ Justin Adkins.
Sign up by emailing:
kkhubcha@williams.edu



Wednesday 30th, 8pm

A conversation with **Dena Zaldua-
Hilkene**: National Center for Lesbian
Rights
Williams College Hardy House

Special thanks to our sponsors MCLA's BGLAD, MCSS, Asian Club, SGA, SAC, & Student Affairs AND sponsors Dively Committee, Multicultural Center, Gaudino Fund, Alumni Affairs, Africana Studies, Dance Dhamaka, Asian American Students in Action, & Eph Rainbow Alliance AND the Rainbow Times.

Queer Voices from NY

Lesbian Notions: Sex, Lies and Press Conferences



By: Libby Post*

The other day I came back to my office to find a note left by Hawk Stone, a nationally known FTM trans activist—his psychotherapy office just happens to be down the hall from mine. He thought that perhaps we should hold a press conference to say that we're not sleeping together. I howled.

For those of you who might have been out of the country the last few weeks, the precipitous fall of Eliot Spitzer, New York's governor, led to the swearing-in of Lt. Gov. David Paterson on March 17. The next day, David and his wife, Michele, held a press conference to let everyone know that they've both had affairs.

Thus, the note from Hawk. I know why Paterson did what he did—he became governor in the shadow of a pay-for-sex scandal that rocked the Capitol in Albany. It was a politically shrewd move. He got out in front of any possible gossip-turned-scandal that could bring down his tenure as New York's chief executive.

For me, it was just a little too much information. Anyone who observes politics or

actually plays the game knows that when you give straight men a little power it goes right to the head between their legs. As a little lesbian running around the New York State Assembly as a press secretary in the mid-1980s, I watched it firsthand - assemblymen and senators hitting on 20-something interns while their wives waited for them back in "the district."

Sex and power go together. That's just the way it is.

Now, I'm no prude, but I do wish that so many of our elected officials weren't womanizers; I wish they respected women more. But ultimately, I don't care about their private lives, as long as they're not abusing kids. I didn't vote for a virtuous Bill Clinton - his randy reputation preceded him. I voted for a Bill Clinton who would end 12 years of Republican rule. To me, that's much more important than the fact he got blowjobs in the White House from someone other than Hillary.

The problem with Spitzer is that we all voted for a squeaky clean Eliot whose personal brand is crime-fighting and integrity. Here was a man who prosecuted prostitution rings and human trafficking and whose ultimate downfall came as "Client #9" of some high-priced call-girl service. I'm not upset about him paying for sex; I'm disappointed that he

was so stupid.

So, what does this mean for LGBT candidates and elected officials? With our sex lives already under a microscope because that's how society defines us, do we have to be even more diligent to be good boys and girls?

When we were just anomalies, our own little scandals may have raised eyebrows but didn't turn us out of office. Former U.S. Congressman Gerry Studds (D-Mass.) was outed in 1983 after a former male page admitted to having a sexual relationship with Studds 10 years earlier.

During the Ethics Committee investigation, Studds admitted he was gay and eventually addressed the House of Representatives saying, "It is not a simple task for any of us to meet adequately the obligations of either public or private life, let alone both, but these challenges are made substantially more complex when one is, as I am, both an elected public official and gay." Studds was eventually censured, but his constituents returned him to office, and Studds left Congress of his own accord in 1995.

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) had his own little sex scandal, but he's still in office. He's now the powerful chairman of the House Financial Services Committee.

Fast forward more than 20 years, and the proclivities of men who have sex with men

are just as much in the spotlight as the sexual antics of Bill and Eliot. Just ask Larry Craig or Mark Foley. Thankfully, they're not our poster children. Craig will go to all lengths to say he's not gay, while Foley hides behind alcoholism—supposedly fueled by his abuse at the hands of a priest - to excuse his inexcusable behavior. Speaking of Craig, did you know that he led the effort to have Congressman Frank censured when Barney's relationship with a male escort came to light?

The bottom line? Their political careers are over, just like Spitzer's.

I didn't need to know that David Paterson slept with someone other than his wife or that Barney got it on with a male escort or that Craig couldn't stop tapping his foot (although I did relish this man getting caught in his own duplicity). But our country's puritanical roots make people's sex lives fodder for character debates.

Here's an idea: Let's leave the running of our country to a bunch of sexually repressed people who get their rocks off bombing people instead of loving them. Did someone just say George W. Bush?

* Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached at this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

University at Albany to hold 11th Annual LGBT Conference

Albany, NY—The Gender and Sexuality Concerns Office for the Student Association of the University at Albany, SUNY is proud to announce the 2008 Northeast Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Conference. The event will be held on the Albany campus during the weekend of April 11th-13th, 2008 and will include universities and organizations from across the Northeast region.

Now in its 11th year, the conference will feature speakers and panel events addressing issues of LGBT student/faculty relations, LGBT campus safety concerns, gender neutral facilities, multi-cultural issues, LGBT politics, discrimination, working with the media, campus programming, grassroots

organizing, sorority/fraternity issues and student networking. In addition, a full day will focus on transgender inclusion workshops examining the college atmosphere for transgender/gender non-conforming students.

Keynote speaker Jessica Pettitt, called "the Margaret Cho of diversity trainers," will present a featured workshop entitled "Facing Trans: Inclusion, Advocacy and Empowerment." Other presenters include PFLAG, Lambda Legal, Empire State Pride Agenda, Soulforce, GenderPAC, In Our Own Voices, Windows of Opportunity, Out for Work and many others.

The theme of this year's conference—"Changing Campus Climate"—is inspired by Campus Pride's "Campus Climate Index" and GenderPAC's "Genius Index" which enable students to learn how LGBT-friendly their schools are before applying or while attending. The mission of the Northeast LGBT Conference is to educate, empower and provide networking for LGBT students, faculty, business and community members, as well as building their commitment to activism, public service and social justice for the LGBT community.

The Gender and Sexuality Concerns Office acts as a liaison between the University at Albany, SUNY and the outside community, bringing in (and out) educational programs about current issues impacting the LGBT community and providing a safe and supportive space for students.



Spaces that we inhabit—be they spaces where we live or work—should elicit an **intensely personal, positive feeling**. These spaces should reflect who we are and allow us to be who we want to be. They should give us **conscious satisfaction** when we walk into them, work in them, converse, dine or wake up in them.

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Q Puzzle Solution from P. 23

S	O	L	E	S		E	V	A	H		C	A	S	T				
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C	A	R	O	L	E	M	I	D	G	E	N							
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The Point Foundation: A benefit honoring current and future champions of the LGBT community

The Point Foundation wants the public to join them in honoring current and future champions of the LGBT community as we Point to the Arts, and celebrate achievements in film, television, voice and theatre. Point Scholars represent the best and brightest in our community. The event will take place on April 7, at Capitale, located at 130 Bowery in NY, NY. The pre-show will start at 6 p.m. and the dinner and awards programs at 7:30 p.m.

The Point Courage Award is awarded to an individual who has advocated for the future of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and lives with the vision that investing in today's potential will produce a brighter tomorrow.

The Point Foundation is honored to present the 2008 Point Courage Award to Tony® and Emmy® Award-winning actress, *Cynthia Nixon*. The consummate New York Actress has made her mark in television, theatre and film, with such memorable characters in HBO's *Sex and the City* as Miranda Hobbes and as Eleanor Roosevelt in *Warm Springs*. Other outstanding roles on the big screen include *Little Darlings*, *Amadeus*, *The Manhattan Project*, and on the Broadway stage in *The Rabbit Hole*, *Indiscretions*, *Philadelphia Story* and *Angels in America*. A concerned parent and a strong supporter and graduate of New York City Public Schools, Cynthia is a shining example of courage and



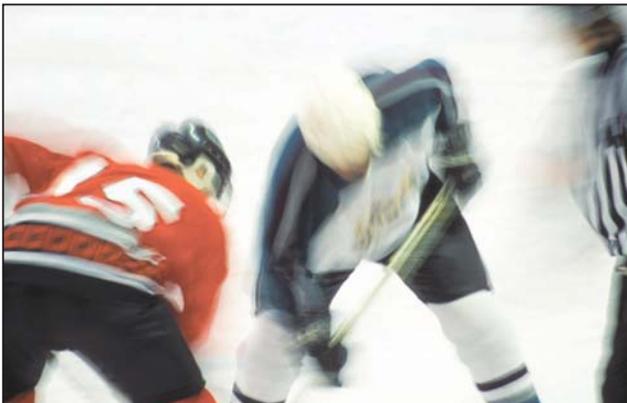
hope to many. For her position in the LGBT community and her pursuit of quality education for today's youth, The Point Foundation salutes her.

The Point Inspiration Award is presented to a corporation that champions respect and inclusion of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, and operates with the vision that the success achieved by talented young people is limited only by the resources and opportunities they are given to help them fulfill their potential.

The 2008 Point Inspiration Award is presented to Time Warner for its commitment to diversity, in terms of its own workplace and the varied content and programming produced by its divisions for audiences around the world.

In addition to the numerous GLAAD Media Awards received by Time Warner over the years for its inclusive coverage of LGBT people and issues, the company also scored 100 on the 2007 Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index. Time Warner was also the first media company to institute an AIDS in the Workplace policy, and among the first companies in the world to provide domestic partner benefits to same sex couples.

For further information or to purchase tickets or a table please contact Development Director – East Michael Marino at (212) 247-7318 or michael@pointfoundation.org



Gay hockey fans complain to Rangers about slurs

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn said Madison Square Garden and the Rangers need to do more to stop anti-gay slurs from being used at hockey games.

A group of gay hockey fans told The New York Times that they're most upset by the chant at fan Larry Goodman. He calls himself "Dancin' Larry" and often dances during breaks in the game.

Quinn said she hopes to meet with Garden or Rangers officials soon to discuss remedies.

After letters of complaint from Quinn and The New York City Gay Hockey Association, the Rangers posted a warning on its scoreboard. It said fans engaging in offensive language and behavior would be tossed out.

A Madison Square Garden spokesman says culturally insensitive behavior is unacceptable at any event at the arena.

Maya Angelou stands by Hillary Clinton

By: Hillel Itatie/AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Like millions of others who watched, or read, Sen. Barack Obama's speech on race, Maya Angelou was deeply moved, calling it "fantastic" and "historic."

But she remains a supporter of Obama's rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, whom Angelou has known since Bill Clinton was governor of Arkansas, in the 1980s.

"I promised myself that 20 years after seeing her passion and courage (as first lady of Arkansas) that if she ever runs for anything, I'm going to support her," the author, who spent part of her childhood in Arkansas, told *The Associated Press* during a recent interview.

Angelou has a long history of political activism, dating back to the civil rights era when she worked with Malcolm X and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and she has contributed money to numerous campaigns, including Hillary Clinton's first run for the Senate in New York, in 2000, and former President Clinton's re-election race, in 1996.

Angelou, who turns 80 on April 4, played a brief, but memorable role in Bill Clinton's first presidential run. The poem she read at his 1993 inauguration, "On the Pulse of the Morning," was an instant sensation that became a million seller when published in book form. She was already widely known as the author of "I Know Why the Caged



SEN. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

Bird Sings," a coming-of-age memoir that is standard reading at schools.

Although committed to Hillary Clinton, Angelou says she would be happy to see Obama become president—the country's first black president—especially after the March 18 speech prompted by his former pastor's racial statements. Obama, a Democrat from Illinois, called upon "the nation to break "a racial stalemate we've been stuck in for years."

"It was fantastic. It was historic," she says. "I have had people calling me from all over, some of whom said that it's going to be compared to (King's) 'I Have a Dream,' because of what it says about race in the United States.

"The truth is, if Sen. Clinton didn't have such a worthy adversary, she wouldn't be challenged."

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QRviews

Women's Film Festival: 17 Years of benefit to southern Vermont women & children

By: JM Sorrell/TVRT Columnist

The Women's Crisis Center (WCC) of Windham County (Brattleboro and surrounding area) has served women and children for 30 years. They provide shelter, counseling, advocacy, and promote peer groups for women who are victimized by violence.

The Women's Film Festival (www.womensfilmfestival.org) is the primary fundraising event each year for the crisis center. It is scheduled for March each year in honor of Women's History Month. This year, 30 films were screened over the course of two weeks. Films chosen by the committee included 24 documentaries and an impressive array of international subjects and filmmakers.

Two things stood out for me. First, I feel nearly idiotic that I have lived in western Massachusetts for most of my adult life and yet I did not know about this festival until this year. I will work to encourage attendance next year. Next, as much as I know and believe that women are competent and talented in many fields, I had no idea how many women from all over the world make films.

As with NIFF, it is impossible to review all of the films I attended, so please go on the web site to get synopses and to learn more about selections you may want to purchase or rent.

The subjects of disability and aging were covered in several of the films, and I found the films about women in politically repressive or dangerous countries to be particularly moving and inspiring. The filmmakers range from experienced to new, and all seem to share a desire to use the art form for societal awareness and transformation.

Whether by design or coincidental to good film choices, this most certainly matches the politics of the festival's beneficiary. By the way, over 50 volunteers work to raise all of the funds necessary to purchase/bring the films to the festival beginning in August of the previous year. This means that 100% of ticket and festival pass proceeds goes to WCC.

Venues donating space are the Latchis Theatre, The Hooker Dunham Theater and Gallery, and the New England Youth Theatre. They are each within walking distance in downtown Brattleboro.

The breaking news I received today is that

the best of the festival is Time to Die. Film audiences were encouraged to complete cards at each screening, and it is the tally of those ratings that determines the overall Best of the Fest. The Polish film follows Aniela, the mistress of her own home after the last Communist-mandated tenant moves out of her crumbling villa. She is left with her dog as her only companion, and her immediate joy of having the place to herself evolves into questioning the isolation v. relationship.

Several films covered issues relating to sexual orientation. They included: Born Again (Markie Hancock's journey from a fundamentalist childhood to coming to accepting herself as a lesbian); Freeheld (Oscar winner for Best Short Documentary); and Mom's Apple Pie: The Heart of the Lesbian Mothers' Custody Movement.

Enemies of Happiness follows the personal story of 27 year old Malalai Joya, the first Afghan woman to enter Parliament. This won the grand jury prize for world cinema documentary at Sundance. The technique in following Joya was without props or provocation. The filmmaker, Eva Mulvad, relied solely on the everyday life of Joya to move the audience to understanding her bravery.

Iron Ladies of Liberia covers the first year of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who is the first woman ever elected as a head of state in Africa. She placed women in positions of leadership to help rebuild Liberia. It is remarkable to see her survive a year where her life is constantly in danger and yet where she invites groups of citizens to meet with her and to openly discuss challenges with integrity and honesty. Prior to her election, the country's unemployment rate was 90% and the infrastructure was destroyed with no running water or electricity. With the pressure on, she does something quite radical. She does not lie to Liberian citizens. She asks that everyone pull together. And it appears to work.

The Sermons of Sister Jane was a therapeutic way for this recovering Catholic to spend time on Good Friday. I suspect the packed audience was filled with us. Sister Jane Kelly has been a nun for 55 years. Her faith is tested as she is censured by her bishop and the Vatican for speaking out about a priest who stole money from the congregation and who molested young men. It turns out the bishop

is having sex with the priest. Today, that bishop resides in Rome with a position in the Vatican. Sister Jane remains a devout Catholic who co-runs a facility for homeless and downtrodden people in northern California. She simply has run out of patience for the corruption of power and money from what she calls the "multi-national corporation" of the Catholic hierarchy. She loves her gay nephew and she thinks that women should be priests.

On the lighter side, the short film (18 minutes), Wear Something Nice, is a powerful testimony to how moms who attempt to run their adult daughters' lives may miss the mark. In this case, the daughter is a feisty, fat and financially successful 30-year old. Mom is a yoga-crazed, skinny, in-shape woman who reads every popular psychology book with the intention of "helping" her daughter. The consequences are hilarious. This film was followed by Making Trouble, which films the

conversation of five Jewish women who are stand-up comedians and having lunch at Katz's Deli in the lower East Side of Manhattan. They discuss their role models, and archival clips of Fannie Brice, Gilda Radner, and others is interspersed with the intimate luncheon conversation.

The largest criticism I have is the accessibility of seating at some of the venues. Because of large audience turnout, it was difficult to see the full screen without stacked seating in some cases, and there was not much room for wheel chairs.

The biggest delight was seeing how many filmmakers came to be on hand for Q&A sessions. Many of them said they were motivated to support the town that has a warrant out for the arrest of Bush and Cheney. Brattleboro has, over time, had more than its 15 minutes. May it continue to be the cooperative, eclectic and deeply sensitive community that it is for many years to come.

Couch from Page 2

Maybe they've repackaged the idea in smaller amounts to test the market. Maybe it is in the form of something like Viagra. Because its usage seems to induce a similar uncontrollable urge in men.

It seems ludicrous to me (and the straight brother-in-laws I posed this question to), that anyone could seriously suggest sexual orientation could be changed. But even if it could happen, you'd have to be willing to assume that if turned gay, you'd be incapable of doing your job. You couldn't keep your mind off what's below the waist line, even if it meant being captured by enemy forces and risking possible consequences. The evidence seems to indicate that that is NOT the case with true-blooded gay and lesbian armed forces.

So does turning gay make men into pussy cats? ("Hellooo Kitty!") Would they be more concerned with love than war? Is that the story they're trying to sell us here? And if that's the case, doesn't the gay bomb military proposal contradict the logic behind Rep. Sally Kerns' statements this past month?

Oklahoma Representative Sally Kerns (R), was in the news after controversial comments, secretly recorded, were posted on YouTube of a speech she gave to a private group of Republicans. In her remarks, she likened gays to being a threat worse than terrorism.

Kern said: "Studies show that no society ... that has totally embraced homosexuality has lasted more than, you know, a few decades. So, it's the death knell of this country. I honestly think it's the biggest threat our nation has, even more so than terrorism ... or Islam, which I think is a big threat ... If you got cancer or something in your little toe, do you say, well, you know, I'm just going to forget about it because the rest of me is fine? It spreads. OK? And this stuff is deadly, and it's spreading, and it will destroy our young people, it will destroy this nation."

So, we're back to the prehistoric days

when being gay is a disease, a cancer? That upon spreading, will destroy the nation, to boot? Wow! Maybe Sally should give up her day job and write science fiction.

Kern (who happens to be married to a Baptist minister) has refused to apologize even though over 30,000 e-mails have been sent to her office. "They're sending out letters and making calls in my district. And they really want me to come down and talk to them?" Kern said. "It would be like throwing myself to the lions. That's a metaphor. When I am wrong, and it is brought to my attention, I will apologize."

Lions? Wonder what metaphor she really had in mind? I'm damn sure it wasn't pussycats. And as for being wrong, I think it's safe to say as an elected official, one has a sworn duty to serve ALL of their constituents, not just the ones who go to the same church or voting booth, or have the same skin color that you do. As a member of the House of Representatives, one is held to a higher standard, and it may not include hate speech when you speak publicly.

So help me out with this: Are gay people angry lions, theoretically ripping "enemy" politicians apart limb from limb? Or are gay people crazy-for-sex pacifists, unable to focus on anything except their enormous sex drive? Tame kittens ... or wild beasts? Gay bombs or ... gay bombers? Will the real homosexuals please stand!

Perhaps we all need a little dose of that "poof bomb"... to make the world a kinder, gentler place. Throw a little fairy dust and ... poof! And we're all about the love.

In Rep. Sally Kern's fear-driven world, that may be the threat they're really afraid of.

Suzan Ambrose can be heard on her radio program, *The Naked Truth, Monday evenings at 8 p.m., and 2 a.m. Tuesdays, on 103.3FM, Northampton.* Or streaming on the web at www.valleyfreeradio.org. For more of Suz's thoughts, check out her website at www.nakedtruthshow.com

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Vote with Pride!

Saturday, May 3rd, 2008
12 noon - 5pm

Schedule of Events

- 12:00 P.M. – 12:45 P.M. PRIDE MARCH
- 12:30 P.M. – 12:45 P.M. OFFBEAT WOMEN'S DRUMMING EN.
- 12:45 P.M. – 12:50 P.M. WELCOME BY M.C., SUZAN AMBROSE, RADIO SHOW HOST, THE NAKED TRUTH & PROCLAMATION BY MAYOR CLARE HIGGINS
- 12:50 P.M. – 12:55 P.M. POLITICAL SPEAKER
- 12:55 P.M. – 1:15 P.M. LAURA WOOD, MAYRA CASALES & WENDY SOBEL
- 1:15 P.M. – 1:25 P.M. GUEST TRANS POLITICAL SPEAKER
- 1:25 P.M. – 1:45 P.M. THE WICKED QUEEAH BAND
- 1:45 P.M. – 1:55 P.M. LIPSTICK & DIPSTICK
- 1:55 P.M. – 2:05 P.M. RACHEL MADDOW
- 2:05 P.M. – 2:25 P.M. JESSE MOLINA
- 2:25 P.M. – 2:45 P.M. LORD RUSS AS "QUEEN ELVIS"
- 2:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. LENELLE MOISE
- 3:00 P.M. – 3:20 P.M. CARRIE ASHTON
- 3:20 P.M. – 3:50 P.M. OUT NOW
- 3:50 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. KIRSTEN PRICE
- 4:30 P.M. – 5:10 P.M. BRIAN KENT

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The OutField: Going to the Mat for a great cause



By: Dan Woog

Mission High School stands just three blocks from Castro Street, the heart of San Francisco's gayest neighborhood. Forty percent Hispanic, 30 percent Asian, and 22 percent black, it suffers the financial and educational woes of many urban schools. So no one was surprised when the wrestling team lost its practice room, and was forced into the hallway.

But what happened next was definitely surprising. The Golden Gate Wrestling Club extended a hand. The 26-year-old, Castro-based group offered Mission its mats - and coaches. They adopted the team, and quickly brought its wrestlers' athletic skills to unimagined heights.

In the process, whatever eyebrows might have been raised at the thought of gay male wrestlers working with young boys (and girls) from "the hood" soon turned to satisfied smiles.

For years, Golden Gate—a no-nonsense club with fistfuls of Gay Games medals—had turned away anyone under 18. "Some of them even came with parents," says president Gene Dermody, a Gay Games winner who competed for New York University in the 1960s and coached at New Jersey high schools for 11 years.

"But we wanted to protect ourselves from 'bad publicity.' I instituted that rule in 1982. It

was just me being anal. But as the years passed, we realized we were discriminating against kids. They wanted a good, healthy activity, and we were keeping them out for a stupid reason."

Things changed when a Mission student asked about renting Golden Gate's facility. "We invited them up, and things just snowballed," Dermody recalls. "It all fell into place."

The first day of practice drew a small, wary crowd of 15 wrestlers, seven parents, and three administrators. But as soon as the Golden Gate coaches—all fingerprinted and vetted by city officials, aided by a white board listing foreign-language translations of common wrestling terms for the non-English-speaking athletes—started the session, the youngsters and adults realized what lay ahead: superb instruction, hard work, and the opportunity to reap great rewards.

The next day, Dermody says, "It was standing room only. Being at a gay wrestling club was no longer a problem."

The Mission Bears, as the high school team is called, thrived, as did a second team from John A. O'Connell High School, a bit further away in the Mission district. They won matches. They earned praise for their technical prowess. Their self-esteem soared—and so did their grades. Mission's wrestlers boasted a team GPA of 3.0, and captain Terrence Li won a \$40,000 scholarship based on scholarship and community service. Ivy League colleges vied to recruit him.

Dermody also points with pride to a 4-foot-9 14-year-old. "He's ripping the competition apart. He can't speak a word of English, but



GENE DERMODY

he's doing great. And he'll take what we're giving him as far as he can."

Dermody is under no illusions that training five days a week at a gay club is easy for teenagers. After practice, many take a round-about route to the bus stop, purposely avoiding Castro Street. "It seems kind of silly, but I'm not a kid anymore," Dermody says. "I don't know what kinds of pressures they get. It's bad enough wrestling has a reputation in schools as a 'gay sport'—even though any wrestler could knock your teeth out."

But, he adds, some wrestlers walk straight through the Castro, clowning unself-consciously with each other as teenagers often do.

"Most kids today don't make snap judgments about homosexuality," Dermody notes.

"They deal with whatever pressures they get. They've made their own decision that our club is the best thing and place for them. They like us, and they appreciate what we do for them. At the same time, they're not going to go out and become gay advocates. We have our T-shirts, and they have theirs. That's fine."

Adult attitudes can be tougher to change. But they, too, see the positive changes in their children, and they're talking publicly about the good things coming out of the Golden Gate Wrestling Club. Dermody even convinced one "old-fashioned" Chinese father to get on the mat himself. "He was damn good!" Dermody exclaims.

"I think the parents have been startled at how nice, clean, and well-run our place is," Dermody says. "And we've been astounded at how nice, polite, and receptive the kids are. They stay after practice, they clean up, and they shake our hands before they leave. I'd love to drag some of them back to the suburbs where I used to coach."

"Our club has been energized and excited," Dermody continues. "We open up our wallets and hearts to these kids. They're like sons and daughters we can pass something along to."

And, like all good works, Golden Gate's outreach has inspired others. A few hours south, the largely gay San Diego Wrestling Club was recently asked to help coach a nearby Christian school.

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

Trans from p. 4

I mean, they may like me but not want to "be" with me. When you cross gender lines you also cross belief systems. Transphobia and Homophobia and some radical religious types may take issue. Some folks are cool with it and some are not. Most don't really care. They don't care until intimacy begins. They start to like us [trans] and have come to the center stage where they have to start thinking about how to explain us to their friends and relatives as well as themselves. I know it shouldn't really matter but in today's world, I'm afraid it still is asking a bit much.

First, I will have to figure out if I am looking for a male or a female. Then my future significant other will have to deal with me being Transgender and will have to deal with me in their world. Maybe it will all work out or maybe it won't. And, maybe one of us will

be heartbroken. Then again, I wonder if it's all just too much trouble.

Yes, relationships do take a lot of work and everyone has issues to deal with in a relationship. Being Trans just multiplies these issues. It seems to anyway. I'm glad that I already did have a wonderful relationship that blessed me with my 3 children, memories, laughs, and loves. I did have the pleasure of living in a happy relationship that worked for a long time. I cannot complain about that.

But time goes on, people change, and they do grow apart—Another "To be?"

I guess that we all have our own "To be's" and we all have to make decisions and deal with them to go on to our next "To be."

Now I must continue to go on and I must live my life and I will undoubtedly meet another "To be or not to be." At least I finally accepted my Transgenderism. Now, my ques-

tions will be about the same issues that everyone else has but probably a bit colored with the Transgender tinge that others do not have

to deal with. But, I am a big girl now. I can deal with it.

Q Classifieds

PERSONALS

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"SWEET TRANSVESTITE" MTF, 51, smiling, slim, healthy, balanced, love to shop, garden, cook, kayak, kiss. Looking for a GG as sweet as me to ride off into the sunset with. Contact "Jennifer" at: jj.nytop@yahoo.com

Men 4 Men

Hey, 18 yo looking for a man in Western MA, for romantic relationship... under 20 ONLY. Thanks. Contact: Josh at PrynceShybo@gmail.com

I am open-minded, nice, intelligent, good looking in an old fashioned way, youthful and historical. Contact Douglas at Droross51@yahoo.com

BiCurious

SWBIF looking for friendship and possibly more in Springfield/Noho area. Very new to scene and test-

ing the waters. Great sense of humor and kind heart. College educated and intelligent. Contact Ashley at honour_huston@hotmail.com or call 413.883.0396.

Women 4 women

Looking to meet women in the Springfield/Northampton MA area for friendship and fun! Diva's, Oz, dinner/coffee/drinks in NoHo or Springfield. Movies, the beach, you name it let's get together and do it! Contact Kris at dolphin-starnight@yahoo.com

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.

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Calendar from p. 18

(NY) April 12: Our Brothers' Keepers Foundation presents Cause for Celebration Dessert Finale 9pm-12midnight; Home and City Savings Bank – a beautiful art deco building 11 North Pearl St.; Join OBKF as we celebrate the end of our 20th year! Featuring music by the Franklin Micare Trio and delicious desserts by fabulous local restaurants and bakeries. Cash bar. FMI: obkf.org@gmail.com or call (518) 542-9353. Visit us at www.obkf.org.

(MA) April 13: 8:30pm; Paresity Auditorium; Queer, South Asian comedian Vidur Kapur performs a wickedly funny stand-up routine. www.vidurkapur.com

(MA) April 13: La Dolce Vita (1960 | unrated | Italian with English Subtitles). At The Agawam Cultural Council; \$6; includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres before the show; Free drawing for door prizes; Agawam Family Cinemas at 866 Suffield Street, Agawam, and begin at 1:15 pm. Doors open at 12:30 pm. Federico Fellini's lush and intoxicating masterpiece is a meditation on the meaning of life and love. Stars Marcello Mastroianni and Anita Ekberg. Nominated for four Academy Awards.

(VT) April 17; Book Group; 7pm; at the Menspace, 50 Elliot Street, Brattleboro VT. FMI: Curtis 802-254-2400.

(MA) April 18 & Saturday April 19, 7:30pm; '62 Center Mainstage @ Williams College; Dance Dhamaka presents 'Legally Brown: A politically conscious Bollywood Dance show.' This performance promises to follow in the footsteps of last year's 'Brokeback Bollywood' to impress its audience with fabulous choreography and lots of melodrama!

(NY) April 19; Progressions Concert Series featuring Camille Bloom; 8:00pm, Doors 7:30pm; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave, 3rd Floor; \$10 admission. FMI: 518.462.6138, x.111 or by email at progressionsconcertseries@cdgclcc.org for more info or to make reservations. Tickets will also be available at the door. Progressions Concert Series is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month. FMI: www.myspace.com/progressionsconcertseries

(CT) April 19; Trans Health and Law Conference; 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; UCONN Health Center; 263 Farmington Ave., Farmington, CT; \$25 for individuals, \$50 for Agency Personnel, though no one will be turned away due to registration cost.

(VT) April 19; Drop-In Night; Menspace doors open at 7pm. Hosted by Brad. 50 Elliot St., Brattleboro VT. New programming! We've had open socials, potlucks, scheduled events, discus-

sion groups and now with the help of volunteers like Brad, we're opening the Menspace for 'drop in' times. Nothing is scheduled, no food required... just drop in if you'd like and see who else is around!

(VT) April 20; Transgender Support Group; 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Brattleboro, VT; Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary, including transpeople of all genders and sexual orientations: transgender(ed), transsexuals, FTMs, MTFs, non-op, pre-op, post-op, crossdressers, bi-gendered, genderqueer, genderfluid, questioning. Confidentiality guaranteed. FMI: Benjamin Robin: robin@benjamin-robin.net

(VT) April 22; Wanted! A Few Good Men; 6 p.m.; to help get the newsletter mailed out! At the APSV office, 67 Main Street, 4th Floor, Brattleboro, Foli, stuff, seal, stamp, laugh. Pizza provided!

(VT) April 23; SEQUENCING with MARILYN ALLEN: 6:30 – 8:00pm at the Menspace, 50 Elliot St.; Brattleboro VT. Allen will conduct a workshop in sequencing, a painting technique for everyone, at the Menspace. No artistic experience or talent required! A donation of \$5 is asked to help offset the cost of materials, which are provided. See page 6 for more details. Space is limited, please register EARLY. You must call to let us know you are attending. 802-254-4444.

(NY) April 24; Dining Out For Life 2008; The AIDS Council of Northeastern New York invites you to the fifth annual Dining Out For Life event in the Capital Region and beyond! Simply dine at one of our participating restaurants on this day and 25 percent of your food bill will benefit the HIV education and prevention programs of the AIDS Council. <http://www.aidscountil.org/> FMI: Janet Andrade at 518.434.4686 x 2424 or jandraede@aidscountil.org or visit <http://www.diningoutforlife.com/Albany>

(VT) April 25; Day of Silence; Speaker Cris Beam at SIT Graduate Institute; 7pm. Beam, the author of Transparent Family Living: Transgender Teenagers, will speak at the SIT Graduate Institute on her book and experiences volunteering at Eagles, a small high school for gay and transgender teens in Los Angeles. April 25 is the National Day of Silence, an annual event to bring attention to anti-LGBT bullying, harassment and discrimination in schools.

(MA) April 26; BSCC THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GLBTQI FESTIVAL; 2:00 p.m. Silent and live auctions, catered buffet dinner, evening entertainment. Details to follow in special mailing and on the website: www.berkshiresstonewall.org. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and a time for all of us to come together to remember our past, cel-

brate what we've accomplished, and have fun! We're making it less formal (and more affordable) this year. Please join us!

(MA) April 26; 6:30 p.m.; LESBIAN Potluck Party; Join in the fun, mingle, socialize, dance, all in the company of wonderful women. 2 King St Hatfield; FMI: Marylou 413 687-1225

(VT) April 26; GayMe Night; 7pm, Menspace, 50 Elliot Street, Brattleboro VT. Always a great time! Bring your favorite game.

(NY) April 28; Aging On Our Own Terms: LGBT Senior Issues Summit; Make your voice heard! LGBT seniors and organizations serving seniors in NY; Professionals working with aging populations need to know about needs within our community! This event will address issues affecting LGBT people as they age and legislative issues facing our community. The New York State Office for Aging will hold a town meeting to hear from LGBT seniors about the concerns and issues facing our community. FMI: Scott Havelka at 914-948-2932 or SCOTT@loftgaycenter.org for more info or to register.

(NY) April 29; LGBT Equality & Justice Day; Join hundreds of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender New Yorkers and our allies from across the state to push for the passage of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), the Dignity for All Schools Act (Dignity), and marriage equality legislation. Register now by going to www.prideagenda.org FMI: (518) 472-3330.

(MA) April 30; 8:00 p.m.; Hardy House, 20 Morley Drive, Williamstown. Williams Bi-Gay-Lesbian-Trans-Alumni Association Stonewall Speaker Series presents Dena Zalduda, of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. (William's College; FMI: 413-597-3353).

(VT) April 30; Sex After Youth; 7pm, Menspace, 50 Elliot St.; Brattleboro VT. Conversation at the Menspace! Come discuss sex and its ever-changing role in our lives with other gay/bi guys. FMI: eflash@sover.net

(MA) May 2-3; at 7:30 p.m.; Documentary "Born Again," about a woman growing up in an Evangelical Christian family coming to terms with being a lesbian. Pothole Pictures Theater is in Shelburne Falls (51 Bridge St.). On the Saturday show on May 3, its director Markie Hancock will be present to answer questions. Both nights Carrie Ferguson & the Cherry Street Band, from Northampton, will play on stage before the film from 7 to 7:30. Admission is \$6 at the door.

(NY) May 2; Romaine Brooks Art Gallery Opening – First Friday featuring: John Frederick 5-9pm; @ Romaine Brooks Art Gallery @

CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Ave., Albany; FMI: Michael at RBG@cdgclcc.org and check out www.romainebrooksgallery30art.com or www.1stfridayalbany.org.

(MA) May 4; Bread and Tulips (2000 | PG-13 | Italian with English Subtitles). At The Agawam Cultural Council; \$6; includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres before the show; Free drawing for door prizes; Agawam Family Cinemas at 866 Suffield Street, Agawam, and begin at 1:15 pm. Doors open at 12:30 pm. An unappreciated housewife finds good fortune when she hitchhikes to Venice to begin a new life, and with newfound confidence, begins a tentative relationship with a lonely waiter.

(NY) Tuesday, May 6, 13, 20, and 27; Pride Planning Committee Meeting; 6pm at CDGLCC (332 Hudson Ave, Albany) If you are interested in becoming involved with the Capital Pride 2008, this is your official invitation to jump in!!! We are looking for several folks who can serve on the Pride 2008 committee... Overview of the Pride planning committee: We meet twice a month now but will begin meeting weekly soon as June is approaching quickly. FMI: capitalpride@cdgclcc.org or just come to the next meeting if you are interested in helping to make Capital Pride 2008 bigger and better than ever! [Note: This year's parade and festival will be June 8]

(VT) May 17; NH Gay Men's Chorus will be in Keene NH; 7:30pm at the Redfern Arts Center. This is the closest performance to us, so let's show our appreciation for them coming over this way and get them a big turnout!

(NY) June 6; Romaine Brooks Art Gallery Opening – First Friday featuring: THE PRIDE Show! 5-9pm; @ Romaine Brooks Art Gallery @ CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Ave., Albany; FMI Michael at RBG@cdgclcc.org.

(NY) June 8; Capital Pride 2008! Parade and Festival; 12noon-5pm, Rain or Shine; Join us in Washington Park in Albany once again for this exciting annual event! More info soon so save the date! FMI: <http://www.cdgclcc.org/capride.htm> Contact Cathi at capitalpride@gmail.com to volunteer!

(VT) Gay Pride in southern Vermont will take place in the month of June, with many events planned. TBA

(NY) June 21; 2nd Annual Black and Latino Gay Pride Celebration hosted by In Our Own Voices: The celebration will take place from 9:00am - 5:00pm; venue for the after party will be announced very soon. FMI: Jasan@518-432-4188.

Act from Page 3

Late in the evening, the Committee heard from Brian Camenker, founder of MassResistance, a group classified as a "hate group" by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Camenker called the bill a "lunatic law." The MassResistance Web site calls the bill "probably the most radical legislation ever seriously considered by the Legislature." In a 125-page report entitled "The Coming Nightmare of a 'Transsexual Rights and Hate Crimes' Law in Massachusetts: Why Bill H1722 Must Be Defeated," MassResistance states that "radical homosexual activists [...] want to offer your children on the bloody altar of transsexuality." The report further states that the law "will result in very disturbed people using opposite-sex bathrooms and locker rooms [...] and indoctrinating children in our public schools that this perverted behavior is a 'civil right.'"

Northampton Mayor Mary Clare Higgins offered a different view in her testimony.

"Many opponents to the inclusion of 'gender identity and expression' through HB 1722

raise wild and often bizarre specters of outlandish public behaviors, confusion—and worse—in public bathrooms, and strangely vague dangers to the children in our communities," she said. "You will, I hope, be pleased and not at all surprised to know that the City of Northampton has suffered no ill impacts since the adoption of this provision. We have had no rash of lewd behaviors in restrooms, no rush of immigrants seeking subsidized gender reassignment surgery, and our children remain, to paraphrase Garrison Keillor,

above average."

After considering testimony, the Joint Committee on the Judiciary sent HB 1722 "to study" on March 19th, giving lawmakers additional time to consider it.

MassResistance calls this a success, saying, "The Joint Judiciary Committee responded to massive public outcry and dealt a huge blow to the homosexual movement."

MTPC doesn't see it that way.

"This is not bad news, but part of the process in getting this bill passed. This also

provides [...] more time to educate the rest of the legislators on the issues of discrimination and hate crimes faced by the transgender community in Massachusetts," according to MTPC.

Supporters hope the bill will be out of "study" by the end of this legislative session. Whether or not it is, efforts will continue until all people facing discrimination based on gender identity or expression can rest more easily with the law in Massachusetts, clearly, on their side.

Jennifer L. Dexter

Attorney at Law & Notary Public



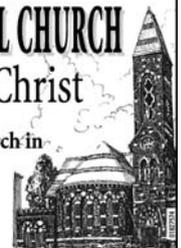
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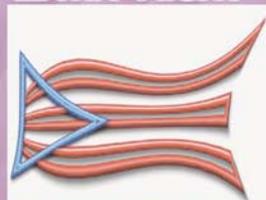
4/12

LADIES NIGHT



4/19

LATIN NIGHT



4/26

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