

The Rainbow Times

The Freshest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Newspaper in New England

PHOTO: SCREEN GEMS



**CLINT
EASTWOOD**
wants Tom Cruise
for Beyoncé.
Really? **p14**

PHOTO: DANIEL GAGNON PHOTOGRAPHY



**DRAG
BRUNCH**
unifies the
community in
Rhode Island **p17**

PHOTOS: THE WEINSTEIN CO.



**'BULLY'
FILM**
documents Alex
Libby's cruel
reality, others **p21**

JUSTICE: Why pay for what only some need? p19

FEDERAL APPEALS COURT: Judge hears DOMA case p13

BOSTON PRIDE: From Russia to Southie, LGBT Discrimination Continues p16

**Ben Pamies
plays
'In Between Men'**

p12

PHOTOS: WWW.DANIELDOTTAVIO.COM

Pro-life vs. Pro-choice, an ethical dilemma

By: Nicole Lashomb*/Editor-in-Chief

OPINIONS As the election year closes in on us, it is no surprise that the GOP forerunners, former Massachusetts governor, Mitt Romney, and former PA Senator, Rick Santorum, have attempted to rile up their conservative base by igniting social issues — one of those issues being abortion.

On both sides of the fence, women and men are passionate about the moral obligation they feel regarding this topic. Both sides have fervently defended their position. Sometimes it is solely based on religious precepts, while at other times, it is based on human rights and women's liberty.

I found myself pondering this topic, a topic that divides so many of us, a topic that fundamentalists have used to destroy abortion clinics while murdering hundreds of doctors, nurses, and women who support their services. I've always found it fascinating (and disturbing) that those very people that have spoken so exuberantly about preserving the life of a fetus could take the lives of others in the process. It is impossible to defend life if you end it, is it not?

Ok. So that is not the majority of pro-life people. I get it. Just like the majority of opponents to same-sex marriage do not belong to the "Gods Hates Fags" group. However, the one fact I cannot dismiss is that pro-lifers who seek to ban abortion, certain political candidates come to mind, are taking away women's rights to choose what is right for their life, in their current situa-

tion.

Many pro-life individuals believe that under no circumstance a woman should have an abortion. No circumstance ... not in cases of rape, incest, nor for a little girl who may have gotten pregnant as a result of being sexually abused by her father, uncle, or family friend. No circumstance. Pro-lifers impose their beliefs on virtually every woman and girl in this country. To me, the answer is simple, if you don't believe in abortion, then don't have an abortion. But, do not tell other women and girls what they have to believe to potentially, at their own detriment, fall victim to a horrific circumstance because of your beliefs. The same thing goes for gay marriage. If you don't believe in it, then don't marry the same-sex. It really is that simple.

Women's choices, whether to have an abortion or not, is only between them and their creator, regardless of which type of religious background you come from. And, that is the point of being prochoice. It does not mean that you are out advocating in favor of reckless abortion. It means that you understand that each woman has a right to make a choice for what is right in her life, in her unique circumstance and it is not up to you to make that choice for her or to take away her free will that we were all God-given.

* Nicole Lashomb is the Editor-in-Chief of The Rainbow Times. She holds an MBA from Marylhurst University and a Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Potsdam. To send a letter to the editor or to reach Nicole, email her at editor@therainbowtimesnews.com.

... those very people that have spoken so exuberantly about preserving the life of a fetus could take the lives of others in the process. It is impossible to defend life if you end it, is it not?

Supplier Diversity Road Show at Boston in May to bring together LGBT, Women & Disability-owned business

By: Jenn Tracz Grace*/CABO's Exec. Director



Each year CABO, CT's LGBT Chamber of Commerce and all of the other chambers across the Northeast region (Boston, Connecticut, New York, Philadelphia, Central Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Hampton

Roads, Virginia and the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce) gather to share best practices and utilize joint resources to provide the best value to members of each chamber. This year this gathering is being hosted by the Greater Boston Business Council, which serves the greater Boston area.

In conjunction with our annual gathering, the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) is hosting a Supplier Diversity Road Show. This event is bringing together LGBT, Women and Disability-owned businesses to learn how business certification can drive strategic growth opportunities for your business. Experts will teach local business owners how to take full advantage of certification programs to access supply chains at the state and federal level. We are encouraging LGBT, women and people with disabilities to attend this wonderful event.

TD Bank, CABO's most recent corporate partner and also a sponsor of the Greater Boston Business Council, is sponsoring this event at the TD Garden (100 Legends Way, Boston, Mass.). The event will be held on Wednesday, May 2, from 1-3 p.m. I highly encourage you to attend. If you are interested in joining us, please send me an e-mail JGrace@TheCABO.org.

Don't forget: CABO is your resource to the Connecticut LGBT business climate both in the corporate and small-business environment. We are able to provide services to our members in large part because of the support of our corporate partners, which include: Aetna, Foxwoods, Murtha Cullina LLP, MetLife, TD Bank, Comcast Business Class, Bearingstar Insurance, Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union and strategic partners like The Rainbow Times. Each of these businesses has something great to offer and their commitment and support to the LGBT community is what separates them from the rest.

* In her role as Executive Director, Jenn is responsible for maintaining and growing membership, developing strategic business partnerships and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. In addition to being CABO's executive director, she also owns Diversity Works LLC, a strategic marketing and communications agency specializing in diversity issues.

Does the Violence Against Women Act really protect women or LGBT communities from violence?

By: Jason Lydon*/TRT Columnist

The majority of the LGBT press is currently heralding the Violence Against Women Act as an essential piece of legislation for our community, and even patting U.S. Sen. Scott Brown on the back for his support, but I want us to look a bit more closely. Firstly, it must be abundantly clear to all of us that violence against women is a serious problem that compromises our capacity to be truly human. Gender-based violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other systemic patterns of control by one person over another are all issues that deeply affect our LGBTQ communities and they require our whole-hearted

"Can a state that is thoroughly infused with racism, male dominance, class-bias, and homophobia and that constructs itself in and through violence act to minimize violence in the lives of women? Should we rely on the state as the answer to the problem of violence against women?"

attention and commitment to action. However, is the Violence Against Women Act the way to solve these problems?

According to the FY2011 budget for the Violence Against Women Act, 70 percent of the \$649.36 million was put in the control of the Department of Justice, distributed to law enforcement, prosecutors and other arms of the penal system. Angela Davis reflected on this in 2000

as she spoke at the founding conference of IN-CITE! Women of Color Against Violence in Santa Cruz. Speaking under the title of "The Color of Violence Against Women," Davis explored the ways the domestic-violence movement made it into the mainstream and the reality of white feminist demonization of men of color as perpetual perpetrators while simultaneously dismissing the concerns of women of color. Even though the mainstream domestic violence and sexual-assault movements were dismissive of many women of color, there have _always_ been strong women of color speaking out about personal, institutional and cultural violence against women of color as well as honoring and celebrating survival strategies.

Victoria Law, author of "Resistance Behind Bars: The Struggles of Incarcerated Women," recently did an interview on resisting gender violence without cops or prisons. In her interview she stated that "the threat of imprisonment does not deter abuse; it simply drives it further underground. Remember that there are many forms of abuse and violence, and not all are illegal. It also sets up a false dichotomy in which the survivor has to choose between personal safety and criminalizing and/or imprisoning a loved one. Arrest and imprisonment does not reduce, let alone ...

See Violence on Page 22

The Rainbow Times

The Freshest LGBT Newspaper in New England

www.therainbowtimesmass.com

editor@therainbowtimesnews.com
sales@therainbowtimesnews.com

Phone: 413.282.8881 or 617.444.9618
Fax: 888-442-2421

Publisher	Columnists
Gricel M. Ocasio	Lorelei Erisis
Editor-In-Chief	Deja N. Greenlaw
Nicole Lashomb	Paul P. Jesep
Assistant Editor	Jason Lydon
Brianna Snyder	Tynan Power
Sales Associates	Jenn Tracz
Chris Gilmore	John Verlinden
Liz Johnson	Reporters
Lead Photographer	Chuck Colbert
Glenn Koetzner	Clara Lefton
Webmaster	Christine Nicco
Jarred Johnson	Tynan Power
Design	Casey Rocheteau
Prizm Designs	Emily Scagel

The Rainbow Times is published monthly by The Rainbow Times, LLC. TRT is affiliated with the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, CABO - The Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunity, and QSyndicate. The articles written by the writers, columnists, and correspondents express their opinion, and do not represent the endorsement or opinion of The Rainbow Times, LLC or its owners. To write letters to the editor, please send your letters, with your name, address and phone number to: The Rainbow Times (address shown above), or e-mail any comment/s to the editor at: editor@therainbowtimesnews.com. All submissions will be edited according to space constraints. The Rainbow Times, LLC reserves the right not to print any or all content, or advertisements for any reason at all. TRT is not responsible for advertising content. To receive The Rainbow Times at your home via regular mail, or through electronic delivery, please visit its website. The whole content and graphics (photos, etc.) are the sole property of The Rainbow Times, LLC and they cannot be reproduced at all without TRT's consent.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The story about Cabaret in P-Town was really informational. I'm aware of what's taking place now and can have fun with my buddies, all our CT bunch going to our fave place to be, P-Town.

— George Ramos, Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,

It's good to hear more people getting involved in social issues. Your paper has some challenging and edgy stories and although I don't always agree, like Mr. Lydon's pro-choice stance, I can always welcome a good challenge to my own older views.

—Jack Henricson, Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,

Thanks for the story about Sir Elton John being at CityStage & Symphony Hall. I'm not missing this one. Thanks for the info!!

—Kathy McIntire, Enfield, CT

Dear Editor,

What can I say about the cover? Loved it! What did my gay friends said? Loved it too, though some want to see gay guys too!

—Justin Rivera, Boston MA

Martin's Murder shows Rustin's lesson are still relevant today

By: Kara S. Suffredini*, Esq., and Corey Yarbrough*/Special for TRT

OP-ED

This year, LGBTQ activists celebrate the life and legacy of Bayard Rustin. Rustin's accomplishments were so great that the 100th anniversary of his birth should be heralded on the front pages of the country's most influential newspapers. However this Civil Rights powerhouse was erased from history because he was gay, and being such, was seen as a threat to the credibility of the movement. The Civil Rights movement's refusal to acknowledge Rustin as a leader and his subsequent exclusion from our history books speak to a debilitating pattern in our society of devaluing the worth of individuals solely based on their identity.

In Rustin's case, the motivating factor was sexual orientation; in another now infamous example, that of Trayvon Martin's, it was race. Martin was fatally marked as unacceptable in a public space by George Zimmerman, a man who was threatened by Martin's Black, teenage male body. Without looking at the physical images of the two males involved, Zimmerman's criminal record would lead most people to believe that he, as opposed to Martin, presented a bigger threat to public safety. However, due to the socially constructed fear of the Black male created by a white dominated society, Martin's simple presence was

MASS EQUALITY.ORG

enough to condemn him to death.

Though the attention currently given to Martin's murder is *extremely* necessary and worthwhile, we must not be fulfilled by seeking justice in this one case alone. The need for social and political activism didn't begin with Martin and shouldn't end if Zimmerman is prosecuted. Instead, it should fuel the fire for

The need for social and political activism didn't begin with Martin and shouldn't end if Zimmerman is prosecuted. Instead, it should fuel the fire for dismantling all forms of systemic oppression that violate innocent bodies daily.

dismantling all forms of systemic oppression that violate innocent bodies daily. As Rustin once taught, we will never experience true freedom as a country until everyone is able to live their lives free of violence generated by ignorance and hate.

The law that may protect Zimmerman from prosecution is not unique to Florida. Twenty one other states across the country have similar so-called "Stand Your Ground" laws on the

books, and there is one even pending right here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This bill would allow Massachusetts residents to use guns, knives, or deadly force to defend themselves in public. As we've seen in Florida, where "justifiable" homicides have doubled in the past five years under their law, if passed, this law could grant individuals like Zimmerman a legal way to police public space based on their subjective perceptions of safety. It would also disproportionately impact commu-



also work to strengthen coalitions with other marginalized groups and apply greater pressure to elected officials to vote against this bill and protect all communities from aggressors motivated by misguided suspicion and hate.

Inevitably, #Justice4Trayvon will stop trending on Twitter, and we will all retire our hoodies to the back of our closets. But let's do our collective work to ensure that America does not consciously erase the story of Trayvon Martin from our history like it has with Bayard Rustin. It isn't until we challenge our own suspicions of others, and then consistently advocate together, that we will build a true movement towards social justice void of suspicion, fear, and intimidation.

*Kara S. Suffredini is the Executive Director of MassEquality.

*Corey Yarbrough is the Executive Director of the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC).

THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

Research
empower
ing
women
in the
fight against
HIV.

1

Fenway Health Ansin Building
1340 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02215

Fenway Health is studying the possibility of preventing HIV using a medicated vaginal ring. We need HIV-negative women 18-40 to help.

Stand up for
LOVE

FACT: 63% of all HIV/AIDS cases in the US are in gay and bisexual men and infection rates are rising among men who have sex with men.

Fenway Health is seeking HIV-negative men who have sex with men to participate in a vaccine trial to determine the safety and effectiveness of an investigational HIV vaccine.

We are seeking volunteers: HIV-negative men, ages 18-50, who have been a top or bottom in the past 6 months. Volunteers receive compensation for their time and travel expenses, as well as confidential HIV counseling and testing.

You cannot get HIV from this investigational HIV vaccine.

BOSTON is READY.ORG

BOSTON

GET YOUR HEART ON

VOLUNTEER FOR AN HIV VACCINE STUDY

617.927.6450

GUYS EXPERIENCING LUBE

projectgel

ARE YOU:

- ◆ 18-30 years old?
- ◆ A man who has sex with men?
- ◆ Willing to be tested for HIV?

IF YOU ENROLL, YOU WILL:

- ◆ Be tested for HIV.
- ◆ Complete a physical exam, including an anal exam.
- ◆ Be asked questions about your medical and sexual history.

You will receive compensation for your participation in this study.

3

THE FENWAY

INSTITUTE



Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

INDICATION

COMPLERA® (emtricitabine 200 mg/rilpivirine 25 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) is a prescription HIV medicine that contains 3 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine), EDURANT™ (rilpivirine), and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one pill. COMPLERA is used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 infection in adults (age 18 and older) who have never taken HIV medicines before.

COMPLERA does not cure HIV and has not been shown to prevent passing HIV to others. It is important to always practice safer sex, use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids, and to never re-use or share needles. **Do not stop taking COMPLERA unless directed by your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly.**

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Contact your healthcare provider right away if you get the following side effects or conditions while taking COMPLERA:

- Nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness. These may be signs of a buildup of acid in the blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical condition
- Light-colored stools, dark-colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow. These may be signs of serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly), and fat in the liver (steatosis)
- If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking COMPLERA. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition

COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.

Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking the following medicines:

- other HIV medicines (COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection.)
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®, Epitol®), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin-125®, Phenytek®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®) and rifapentine (Priftin®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (Nexium®, Vimovo®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), omeprazole (Prilosec®), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix®), rabeprazole (Aciphex®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum)
- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, Combivir®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Trizivir®)
- rilpivirine (Edurant™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

In addition, also tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (Pepcid®), cimetidine (Tagamet®), nizatidine (Axid®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (Biaxin®), erythromycin (E-Mycin®, Eryc®, Ery-Tab®, PCE®, Pediazole®, Ilosone®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (Diflucan®), itraconazole (Sporanox®), ketoconazole (Nizoral®), posaconazole (Noxafil®), voriconazole (Vfend®)
- methadone (Dolophine®)

This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

COMPLERA is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV medicines before. COMPLERA does not cure HIV or AIDS or help prevent passing HIV to others.

COMPLERA. A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.

Ask your healthcare provider if it's the **one** for you.

Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have **liver problems**, including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have **kidney problems**
- have ever had a **mental health problem**
- have **bone problems**
- are **pregnant or plan to become pregnant**. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- are breastfeeding; **women with HIV should not breast-feed** because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby

Contact your healthcare provider right away if you experience any of the following serious or common side effects:

Serious side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA
- **Depression or mood changes** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, or if you have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effect of these conditions are not known
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine

Common side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression

Other side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), and pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it

- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal
- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly**

Please see Patient Information for COMPLERA on the following pages.



COMPLERA®
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Learn more at www.COMPLERA.com

FDA-Approved Patient Labeling

Patient Information

COMPLERA® (kom-PLUH-rah)

(emtricitabine, rilpivirine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) Tablets

Important: Ask your doctor or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with COMPLERA. For more information, see the section “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

Read this Patient Information before you start taking COMPLERA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

1. Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. **Lactic acidosis** is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feeling very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with
 - nausea (feel sick to your stomach)
 - vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA or similar medicines. In some cases these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis) when you take COMPLERA.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA or a similar medicine containing nucleoside analogs for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking COMPLERA, your HBV infection may become worse (flare-up). A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do regular blood tests to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that:

- is used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome).
- contains 3 medicines, (rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one tablet. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and EDURANT is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI).

It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

COMPLERA may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
- Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4+ (T) cells that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4+ (T) cell count may improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

COMPLERA does not cure HIV infections or AIDS.

- Always practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

- Do not take COMPLERA if your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- **Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking certain other medicines.** For more information about medicines that must not be taken with COMPLERA, see “**What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?**”

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have kidney problems
- have ever had a mental health problem
- have bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. Its purpose is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that mothers with HIV not breastfeed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. It is not known if COMPLERA can pass through your breast milk and harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects. If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection. Do not take other HIV medicines with COMPLERA.
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL-XR®, TERIL®, EPITOL®), oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®), phenobarbital (LUMINAL®), phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN-125®, PHENYTEK®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (MYCOBUTIN®), rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®) and rifapentine (PRIFTIN®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (NEXIUM®, VIMOVO®), lansoprazole (PREVACID®), omeprazole (PRILOSEC®), pantoprazole sodium (PROTONIX®), rabeprazole (ACIPHEX®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

If you are taking COMPLERA, you should not take:

- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, COMBIVIR®, EPIVIR® or EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®)
- rilpivirine (EDURANT™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

Also tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (PEPCID®), cimetidine (TAGAMET®), nizatidine (AXID®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (ZANTAC®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (BIAXIN®), erythromycin (E-MYCIN®, ERYC®, ERY-TAB®, PCE®, PEDIAZOLE®, ILOSONE®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (DIFLUCAN®), itraconazole (SPORANOX®), ketoconazole (NIZORAL®), posaconazole (NOXAFIL®), voriconazole (VFEND®)
- methadone (DOLOPHINE®)

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Your healthcare provider and your pharmacist can tell you if you can take these medicines with COMPLERA. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that can interact with COMPLERA.

How should I take COMPLERA?

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA with a meal as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.
- When your COMPLERA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is very important not to run out of COMPLERA. The amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you take too much COMPLERA, contact your local poison control center or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?

COMPLERA may cause the following serious side effects, including:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

Additional common side effects include:

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

How do I store COMPLERA?

- Store COMPLERA at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep COMPLERA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not use COMPLERA if the seal over the bottle opening is broken or missing.

Keep COMPLERA and all other medicines out of reach of children.

General information about COMPLERA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use COMPLERA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give COMPLERA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals. For more information, call (1-800-445-3235) or go to www.COMPLERA.com.

What are the ingredients of COMPLERA?

Active ingredients: emtricitabine, rilpivirine hydrochloride, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

Inactive ingredients: pregelatinized starch, lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, povidone, polysorbate 20. The tablet film coating contains polyethylene glycol, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, triacetin, titanium dioxide, iron oxide red, FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, FD&C Yellow #6 aluminum lake.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Manufactured and distributed by:

Gilead Sciences, Inc.

Foster City, CA 94404

Issued: August 2011

COMPLERA, the COMPLERA Logo, EMTRIVA, HEPSERA, TRUVADA, VIREAD, GILEAD, and the GILEAD Logo are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc. or its related companies. ATRIPLA is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb & Gilead Sciences, LLC. All other trademarks referenced herein are the property of their respective owners.

© 2012 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved.

202123-GS-000 02AUG2011 CON12113 2/12



Secret NOM Documents Show Agenda of Anti-Gay Movement, Race-Wedging

By: **Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter**

IN THE LIMELIGHT

In a move that clearly depicts the division, hatred and vitriol towards marriage equality, the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) left behind documents obtained by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) that prove what its "leaders" and secret donors are really after, according to HRC officials. NOM's campaign is aimed at defeating marriage equality, President Obama's re-election, and creating a wall against racial and ethnic groups.

NOM lies to Americans

The tactics that NOM has used to lie to millions of Americans seem to finally be out in the open and they show the definitive signs of an obscure group filled with hatred trying to desperately impose and spread a culture of fear, hatred and maliciousness against anything and anyone that does not fit the "NOM profile." BuffFeed (<http://bit.ly/GTUSli>) ran a story that reported that the documents are "marked 'confidential' and detail the internal strategy of the National Organization for Marriage."

Divisive Tactics: The Black & Latino Link

According to the HRC, they received the "confidential strategy documents as part of a continuing investigation by the state of Maine. The court-ordered disclosure shows NOM fighting a losing battle with strategy and tactics that are racially and ethnically divisive, "filled with false political calculations, and out of touch with the majority of fair-minded Americans."

The document words target the core of the Black

and Latino base and aims to foster a negative relationship between these groups and the LGBT community. It also, according to Buzzfeed, targets President Obama's re-election via utilizing the Latino "swing vote."

MassEquality Statement

"It has been obvious for years that one of the key strategies employed by opponents of marriage equality is to weaken Americans' collective fairness by pitting parents against children, neighbors against neighbors, and minority groups against minority groups," said MassEquality Executive Director Kara Suffredini. "Nonetheless, such toxic cynicism never ceases to be shocking. The casual tone with which NOM outlines how it will turn fair-minded Americans against each other solely to hurt LGBT families speaks for itself. This is the ugliest example of a 'solution' in search of a problem."

The HRC officials stated that the "Maine Ethics Commission launched a formal investigation into NOM's fundraising tactics in late 2009, based on an initial complaint filed by Fred Karger of Californians Against Hate."

HRC Statement

Said HRC President Joe Solmonese: "With the veil lifted, Americans everywhere can now see the ugly politics that the National Organization for Marriage traffics in every day. While loving gay and lesbian couples seek to make lifelong commitments, NOM plays racial politics, tries to hide donors and makes up lies about people of faith. The contrast could not be any starker. The reason that Americans are steadily moving in the direction of marriage equality is because they identify with the loving and committed couples who want to enter into the institution, not NOM's underhanded tactics of lies and manip-

ulation."

According to the HRC, the key themes that emerge from the documents are:

- **Racial Politics**
✓ NOM's admitted key goal is to "drive a wedge between gays and blacks."
- ✓ NOM aims to manipulate Hispanic communities by "making support for marriage a key badge of Latino identity" and "to make opposition to gay marriage an identity marker, a badge of youth rebellion to conformist assimilation to the bad side of 'Anglo' culture."
- **Facing a Losing Battle**
✓ They were 0 for 3 in their 2010 priority: "Roll back gay marriage in New Hampshire, Iowa, and D.C." Marriage equality remains on the books in all three with the New Hampshire Republican legislature just last week rejecting a move to repeal their law.
- ✓ Huge Coiffers Fund Phony "Research"
✓ NOM outlined a plan to spend \$100,000 on a "study of what schools are teaching in gay marriage/civil union regimes."
- ✓ \$150,000 is earmarked for videotaping stories of those supposedly harmed by marriage equality called "The Face of the Victims" project.
- ✓ \$60,000 in salary earmarked for an "outreach coordinator to identify children of gay parents willing to speak on camera."
- ✓ \$50,000 earmarked for "Expert Witness Project" that couldn't cultivate a single credible witness to stand up in the Prop 8 trial for example.
- **Painting Themselves as Victims**
✓ NOM pushes the false notion that Americans are under attack: "Gay marriage is the tip of the spear, the weapon that will be and is being used to marginalize and repress Christianity and the

Church."

✓ Embracing marriage equality supposedly "affects economic performance, expands the regulatory and taxing powers of government, and threatens the family businesses that generate economic growth and prosperity."

✓ Despite every court to hear the issue finding no evidence of any harassment or intimidation, NOM continues to claim "gay marriage advocates have focused relentlessly on harassing and intimidating local donors."

• **Ignoring Campaign Finance Rules**

✓ NOM brags that "one key advantage we now have is the capacity to protect the identity of our donors."

✓ Worried about disclosure laws, NOM encourages donors to give to a slush fund for use around the country saying, "It is critical that we have a reserve fund to give to these efforts to ensure victory and protect donor identity."

• **Small Movement with a Big Voice**

✓ Recognizing that they are a fringe movement, they brag about having wide media exposure writing: "there is an opportunity for a small countercultural community to have a disproportionate cultural impact."

• **It's Not Just About Marriage**

✓ NOM can no longer claim that they're only focused on marriage. Their "American Principles Project" seeks to "Expose Obama as a social radical" by "develop[ing] side issues" like "pornography" and veering off into issues around the Guantanamo Prison and opposing administration appointments.

Read the rest of this story online at TRT's website at: <http://bit.ly/GUosfS>

Free LGBT Bereavement Support Groups Spring 2012 – 4 Locations

Free 8-week support groups for lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people of all ages who are experiencing the loss of a loved one.

General Loss Support Group

Location: Roxbury
Registration: (617) 477-6610
Tuesday evenings 6:30 to 8:00pm
Dates: April 17 – June 5

1

General Loss Support Group

Location: Dennis/Cape Cod
Registration: 1-800-631-3900, x7715
Tuesday evenings 5:00 to 6:30pm
Dates: April 3 to May 22

2

Co-sponsored by Cape Cod VNA

General Loss Support Group

Location: Sharon
Registration: (617) 477-6610
Wednesday Evenings 6:00 to 7:30pm
Dates: April 4th to May 30

3

Co-Sponsored by HESSCO and Sharon Adult Center

General Loss Support Group

Location: Watertown/
Greater Boston
Registration: (617) 477-6610
Thursday evenings 6:00 to 7:30pm
Dates: April 12th to May 31st

4

About the Massachusetts LGBT Bereavement Support Group Program

The LGBT Bereavement Groups are funded by the Mass Department of Public Health and facilitated by Ethos and The LGBT Aging Project. Partner Organizations providing additional LGBT Bereavement Groups include: Hospice of the North Shore & Greater Boston, Beacon Hospice and Cape Cod VNA Hospice Bereavement Support Program. All groups are free and run for 8 weeks. All groups require pre-registration.

LGBT aging project



Thanks again for voting us the #1 Dating Service in the Valley

As Affordable as Internet Dating with the Personal Touch of a Matchmaker

Over 10 years of professional, private, and very affordable matchmaking

Connecting both gay & straight singles in Western MA & neighboring communities

ADVOCATE OF THE VALLEY READERS POLL 2011

www.massmatch.com. Phone: 413.665.3218

it could be partner abuse

The Network/La Red: Ending partner abuse in LGBTQ, polyamorous and SM communities

617.742.4911 (v) 617.227.4911 (tty)

- bilingual hotline
- emergency shelter
- support group
- línea de crisis bilingüe
- refugio de emergencia
- grupo de apoyo

The Network/La Red: Acabando con el abuso de parejas en las comunidades LGBTQ, poliamorosas y sdomasochistas

puede ser el abuso de pareja íntima



Eileen Cleary (Kathleen Turner) and Monsignor Murphy (Richard Chamberlain) at church in a scene from *The Perfect Family*.

Out! For Reel premieres new LGBT comedy starring Kathleen Turner

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — With plenty of laughs, Hollywood star power, and a catered after party, Out! For Reel LGBT Film Series is celebrating its season finale on Saturday, May 5 with the western Massachusetts premiere of the new comedy/drama, *The Perfect Family*, starring Kathleen Turner and Emily Deschanel. The film screening will be held at the Northampton High School Theater, 7 PM, and the After Party will be held at Diva's Nightclub in Northampton, 8:30 p.m. - Midnight. Advance tickets, trailer, and information are available at www.OutForReel.org.

The Perfect Family touts an all-star cast including Kathleen Turner (Golden Globe winner), Emily Deschanel, (star of the hit FOX TV show "Bones"), Sharon Lawrence ("Grey's Anatomy"), Richard Chamberlain ("Thornbirds"), Jason Ritter ("Parenthood"), Michael McGrady ("24"), and Angelique Cabral ("Friends With Benefits").

"I wanted a film with strong emotions, solid characters and a relatable story," said film director Anne Renton. "Kathleen Turner embraced the role of the protagonist, Eileen Cleary with great depth and an exquisite attention to detail. It was a dream to work with her."

The Perfect Family is a funny, heartfelt story about a devout woman (Turner) who wants to win the Catholic Woman of the Year award. Her problem is that she will need to lie about her entire family to make them "perfect" in the eyes of the church. Her daughter is a pregnant, vegetarian lesbian (Emily Deschanel) who plans to marry her partner (Angelique Cabral), her son (Jason Ritter) wants a divorce and is having an affair, and her husband (Michael McGrady) is a

recovering alcoholic. Her struggle with her homophobia, her faith, and her love for her family is portrayed honestly with compassion and humor.

"The story I have chosen to tell is a messy slice of life comedy-drama about ordinary people struggling to connect. We have the opportunity to take a dive into their lives and to laugh and cry with them," said Renton.

"*The Perfect Family* is the perfect film for our season finale," said Jaime Michaels, executive director of Out! For Reel. "One minute you are laughing out loud and in the next minute you are navigating through the heartache that homophobia causes in families. Using comedy and drama, this film examines universal family dynamics that both LGBT and heterosexual folks will definitely be able to relate to. It's an upbeat yet tender film with superb acting provided by the star-studded cast and plenty of one-liners that keep the humor flowing throughout."

Tickets are \$10 Advance/\$12 Door/\$16 Combo Film & Party/\$8 Student w/ID. After Party tickets are \$6 with film/\$7 Advance/\$8 Door. The film trailer and more information is available at www.OutForReel.org.

Out! For Reel LGBT Film Series screens the best in award-winning lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender films from around the world in a nine month season. Now wrapping up its fourth season, Out! For Reel's mission is to create and strengthen our LGBT community through cultural events, build connections to our heterosexual allies, and work toward the eradication of homophobia through the arts and entertainment. Over 25,000 people have attended Out! For Reel events since its start in 2008.

Out! FOR REEL

LGBT Film Series

Kathleen
TURNER
Emily
DESCHANEL
Jason
ITTER

**"Extremely
funny...
A must-see!"**

- The Examiner

THE PERFECT FAMILY

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 7 pm

Northampton High Theater

380 Elm St., Northampton (easy parking)

\$10 Advance / \$12 Door / \$16 Film+Party / \$8 Students w/ID

AFTER PARTY!

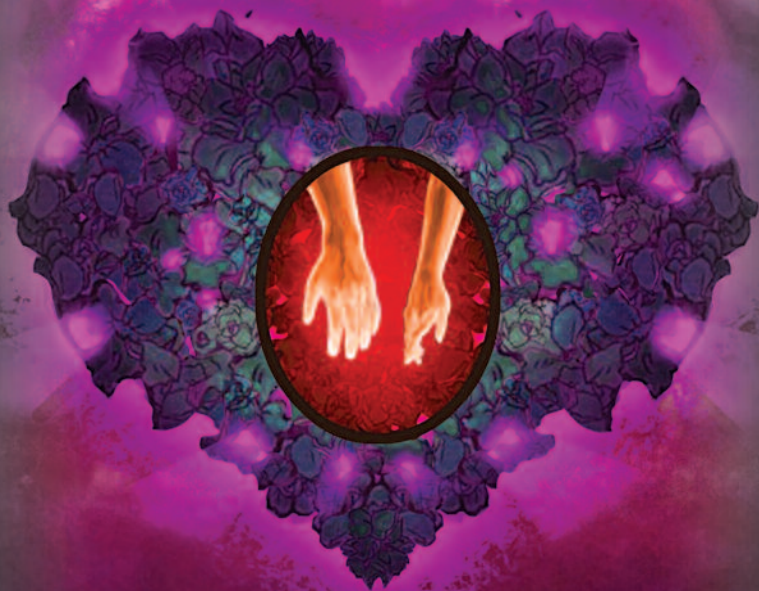
Diva's Nightclub, Northampton, 8:30 pm - Midnight

Buy Tickets/ More info:
[www. OutForReel.org](http://www.OutForReel.org)

thanks to you,
we've reached 7K...
meet us now on our fan page!

search **"rainbow times"** to join us!

**Greene Room Productions "Spring Awakening...
...A Rock Musical by Duncan Sheik & Steven Satar
Based on the German play by Frank Wedekind**



Spring Awakening

May 4-5 & 11-12, 2012

Academy of Music Theatre

274 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

www.academyofmusictheatre.com

Tix: (413)584-9032

The Rainbow Times
The Freshest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Newspaper in New England

DAILY HAMPSHIRE
GAZETTE
GAZETTENET.COM

Greene Room Productions
Theater Production & Educational Outreach

VALLEY
Advocate
VALLEYADVOCATE.COM

preVIEW
MASSACHUSETTS

Producing Company GRP Contact
www.greeneroomproductions.com (413)668-7284

PHOTOS BY: GREENE ROOM PRODUCTIONS



Spring Awakening behind the scenes

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — Greene Room Productions, a local 501c3 functioning out of the Monson/Palmer area is launching its spring production, a rock musical called, *Spring Awakening* by Duncan Sheik and Steven Satar at the Academy of Music in Northampton MA May 4-5 & 11-12, 2012. *Spring Awakening*, based on the German play by Frank Wedekind, is the winner of 8 Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The story is about the journey from adolescence to adulthood, and is told with poignancy and passion. It is a landmark musical that is an electrifying fusion of morality, sexuality and rock & roll.

Behind the scenes, *Spring Awakening* has sparked many cast discussions about the morality of sex, the importance of communication, stresses in teens lives i.e. school, domestic issues etc., and the importance of communication in teen lives, according to the organization's officials. Although the show was written in the late 1900's the scenarios and stressors that the main characters are faced with are still very relevant and prevalent in today's society.

"*Spring Awakening* is definitely a conversation starter," said Erin Greene, director/producer of the show. "I recommend that parents go with their teens. It, without-a-doubt will open up significant conversation between parents and their kids."

During a recent interview with the Palmer's Public Access station MPACT, Devon Bakum (Wilbraham) who plays all of the adult female characters in "Spring Awakening" talked about

the difficulties of having to develop so many different characters.

"The character that I relate most to is Melchior's mother," she said. She is the most ordinary or true-to-life character that I have to play and the only one who is seen as an ally to the kids in the show. After my experience with her, and seeing her 'betrayal,' I had to take a good look at my own life to assess whether or not I am really making myself accessible to my children and the other kids in my life."

Besides the regular theatre seating, special on-stage seating has been made available through the box office at the *Academy of Music* so that audience members and actors sit together during the show, Greene said. Through this limited seating arrangement (only 20 seats per show) audience members have the opportunity to get up-close and personal, gaining a new and unique theatre experience.

"The cool thing about this show, besides the show itself, is the orientation of the audience to the action on stage", said Greene. "... the show is going to be great! It is new and edgy, has beautiful music, its educational-values are very accessible because of the humor used in the telling of the story, and we have one of the best casts I've ever worked with!"

To get tickets and more information about *Spring Awakening* call the Academy of Music Theatre's Box Office at (413) 584-9032, x105, order tickets online at <http://bit.ly/duW11K>, or purchase them at the door. Advance sales in groups of 10 or more are discounted.

Mathew Brockelman LMT

Leominster, MA
At Home Availability

Help yourself reduce
stress and pain today!

Massage by Mathew Brockelman, LMT
Call 978-660-5289



TRUE COLORS XIX
Storrs, CT

Check out the Conference's photos at:
<http://on.fb.me/HeHBTv>

The True Colors Story:
<http://bit.ly/GEiezE>



2nd Annual Mister & Miss HIV Vaccine 2012

Friday, April 27, 2012

6:00PM-9:00PM

Club Café

209 Columbus Avenue
Boston, MA 02116

You are cordially invited to attend the 2012 Mister & Ms. HIV Vaccine Pageant. The Pageant will be held to highlight the efforts & commitments of our volunteers & provide education/awareness on current HIV Vaccine & prevention research in Boston. On behalf of the HIV Vaccine Trial Units at Brigham & Women's Hospital/The Fenway Institute @ FenwayHealth and the Latin American Health Institute, we invite you to join us in crowning a new Mister & Ms. HIV Vaccine.

For more information, please
e-mail Coco Alinsug at
calinsug@fenwayhealth.org or
call 617-927-6088.

**FREE
of Charge!**

*If interested in signing up to be a
contestant, please e-mail Daniel
Ramos at daniel.ramos@lhi.org or
call 617-778-1134.*



Big Ben: From professional baseball to gay show *In Between Men*

By: Randy Myers/Special for TRT

After a brief stint as a professional baseball player, Ben Pamies jumped at an opportunity to model in New York.

At 22, he was signed to the Ford Agency and became one of the most recognized male models in Manhattan. His Adonis form sold underwear and swimwear for 2xist, Polo Ralph Lauren and Dolce & Gabbana.

His agents encouraged Ben to take acting classes to broaden his marketability and make him eligible for commercials and soap operas.

Acting class became an addiction. Under the tutelage of famed drama coach Jennifer Gelfer, Ben found a therapeutic outlet for the anxiety he felt chasing his dreams in the big city. Class became a place Ben could lose himself and gain perspective on life by walking in another man's shoes and embodying a character.

He was a natural and when Gelfer began casting the hunk for her new gay drama series, *In Between Men*, she turned to Pamies. He embodied so many of the characteristics as the show's lead, Ben Reed. Both Bens are sexy and flirty but also intelligent and successful.

At first glance, the show appears similar to *Queer as Folk*. However, where the characters in *Queer as Folk* lived in the gayborhood, *In Between Men* depicts gay men living out and proud in the real world. Through wild adventures and racy storylines set against the fabulous backdrop of New York City, the show depicts

how most gay men live today.

Pamies says he identified most with his character's refusal to be defined by his looks and sexuality. Like the Ben on *In Between Men*, Pamies is a family guy whose career ambitions outshine even his looks.

Q. Many of us live in a perpetual state of in-between: in between jobs, in between relationships, friends, family, and lovers ... what are you living in between?

A. With a somewhat recognizable face through modeling, but yet limited credit in acting, I'd say I'm living in between my modeling and

acting careers. I just moved to Los Angeles and everything seems brand new.

Q. Is acting your priority now?

A. Acting was an interest even through my modeling days. My hopes were always to use modeling as a platform to create a name and branch out towards an acting career.

Q. How have your looks helped or hurt your acting career?

A. I'm a pretty easy going, laid back guy. It's been a struggle at times to own my look and meet the expectations that come with a strong presence.

Q. Can you relate to the characters in *In Between Men* who are trying to make it big?



A. I certainly can. Like them, I feel like I'm about to turn a corner for the better.

Q. Is there a shady side to Manhattan's modeling industry?

A. I think shady is relative. It's very competitive and a guy's ability to network socially can be a powerful attribute.

Q. What's the craziest thing you've seen a guy do to land the job?

A. I'm not sure. Truthfully, I always felt like anything shady that goes on around me is none of my business. I focus on myself because sticking my nose in other guys' business only serves to distract me from my path toward my goals.

Q. You play Benjamin Reed who is the iconic male figure; the guy gay men want to be and be with. Do you feel any pressure having to live up to the ideal?

A. I do feel a certain pressure to having to live up to an expectation that my looks invite. But it's a privilege to be able to embody that ideal

and being able to test the limits within a character like Benjamin has been a blessing in helping me find my strengths and comfort in my own skin.

Q. Benjamin Reed is oversexed and promiscuous ... are you?

A. (Laughs) You can't ask for a better playing field than the limitless variety New York offers. I wouldn't call my past promiscuity an escapade but my experiences have each shaped me in becoming the man I am today. But because those days are behind me, and out of respect for my current relationship,

I'm going to have to answer with a tasteful discretionary silence and leave room for mystery and imagination.

See *In Between Men* on page 22



Don't miss the 2012 Boston Pride Parade and Festival!

2012 Boston Pride week includes parties, special events and Boston's biggest and most popular Parade. The highlight of Pride Week is the Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 9.

Commencing with the annual Pride Flag Raising Ceremony on June 1st, the week will also feature a range of events including:

- Pride Day @ Faneuil Hall
- Pride Idol
- Royal Pageant
- Human Rights Event
- Block Parties
- And Much More!

Join the fun for Boston Pride Week 2012!





For additional information about Pride Week, visit our website or call 617-262-9405. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Keri Aulita at kaulita@bostonpride.org.

www.bostonpride.org

Federal Appeals Court Judges hear arguments against DOMA case

By: Chuck Colbert/Keen News Service

When a panel of three judges on a federal appeals court hears arguments against the federal Defense of Marriage Act, three openly gay lawyers will argue the law is unconstitutional. Opposing them, one straight attorney.

Attorney Mary Bonauto

Legal gay icon Mary Bonauto will once again make a case for equal marriage, arguing on behalf of seven gay couples and three widowers, all married in Massachusetts after the 2003 Goodridge v. Department of Public Health decision.

DOMA denies more than 1,000 benefits to same-sex couples

While the state affords them all the rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of legal wedlock, the federal government, under DOMA, denies them more than 1,000 federal programs, benefits and legal protections afforded to opposite-sex couples.

Perhaps best known for winning the 2003 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling in Goodridge, Bonauto is Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders' civil rights project director.

Goodridge was the first state Supreme Court victory for advocates of the freedom to marry for gay and lesbian couples.

Former civil union historic option

Before Goodridge, Bonauto and two other attorneys won an important 1999 decision in Baker v. State of Vermont, a ruling that prompted lawmakers there to adopt what was

then the ground-breaking option of civil unions. Civil unions afforded same-sex couples all the rights, benefits, and responsibilities of marriage, but not the word marriage. In 2009, Vermont lawmakers made same-sex marriage legal.

Compared to the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Marshall

A May 2004 New York Times Magazine profile on Bonauto likened her to the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, who, before becoming a judge, argued before the high court in the historic case of Brown v. Board of Education, which ended racial segregation in public education.

A native of Newburgh, N.Y., Bonauto is a graduate of Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., and holds a law degree from Northeastern University, located in Boston.

Bonauto and her wife Jennifer Wriggins reside in Portland, Maine, where they are raising twin daughters.

Massachusetts and Assistant Attorney General Maura T. Healey

Just as GLAD won a favorable same-sex marriage ruling in the federal district court in Boston in July 2010, so did the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In a suit brought by the state's attorney general, Maura T. Healey, chief of the Massachusetts public protection and advocacy bureau, argued that DOMA infringed on Massachusetts sovereignty, trespassing on the state's ability to determine eligibility for issuing marriage licenses.

During oral arguments, attorney Healey led a full-court press. In strong words, she told the U.S. District Court judge that DOMA "forces Massachusetts to engage in a kind of invidious discrimination."

How? By denying same-sex married couples of the same benefits received by opposite-sex couples—or risk losing federal aid.

Even worse, DOMA is "animus-based national marriage law," said Healey. She contended that the law infringes on Massachusetts sovereign authority and "forces the state to discriminate against its own citizens."

Like Bonauto, Healey is no stranger to high profile gay litigation. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Healey was an attorney at the Boston office of WilmerHale, a prestigious law firm. There, she provided counsel to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) in a 2006 case, Cook v. Rumsfeld, that challenged the constitutionality of the armed forces' ban on openly gay service, a federal law and military policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Before law school, Healey, a New Hampshire native, played women's basketball for Harvard College. There, as point guard, she captained the school to an Ivy League championship. Afterwards, Healey went on to play professional ball in Europe. She is a 2006 inductee into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame. She holds a law degree from Northeastern.

Game change: DOJ will argue against DOMA

For the April 4 arguments, GLAD's and the

attorney general's lawsuits have been consolidated. They are referred to as Gill v. Office of Personnel Management.

When the cases were first heard in U.S. District Court, the Obama Department of Justice was still defending DOMA. But last year, DOJ said it would no longer argue the law is unconstitutional.

DOJ's Acting Assistant Attorney General Stuart Delery

This time, the Department of Justice will be arguing against DOMA. And it will do so in the person of openly gay attorney Stuart Delery, promoted recently to serve as DOJ's Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division.

Like Bonauto and Healey, Delery has experience with high profile gay litigation. While a partner at WilmerHale in Washington, D.C., he was pro bono counsel of record for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's unsuccessful lawsuit in the First Circuit that challenged the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

A graduate of the University of Virginia, Delery earned a law degree at Yale. He clerked for Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Byron R. White.

Delery and his longtime partner, Richard Gervase, are fathers of two sons, according to the gay newspaper Metro Weekly of Washington, D.C.. Both parents are active in Rainbow Families DC, a non-profit organization for LGBT parents and prospective parents in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Read the rest of this story online at TRT's website at: <http://bit.ly/HnMUWE>



THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

BUILDING A DIFFERENT KIND OF CONDOM FROM THE BOTTOM UP.

We're studying a new investigational latex-free condom designed exclusively for anal sex. We're looking for **male bottoms 18 and older** to join this research study, give it a try, and tell us what you think.

To see if you're eligible and get more info, call 617.927.6085

Participants are compensated for their time.

WEB thefenwayinstitute.org



COM 11140

Clint after Beyoncé, *The Carrie Diaries*, and *Go Fish*

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Clint wants Cruise for Beyoncé. Can you blame him?

If you want to get strict about it, there's nothing gay about *A Star Is Born* except for, you know, everything, especially when you consider its two most recent and famous versions starred Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand and the new one from director Clint Eastwood is going to star Beyoncé. And now Clint is after big game, chasing Tom Cruise to star as the career-in-decline counterpoint to Beyoncé's rising ingénue. This would work perfectly: Cruise is already getting decent buzz for his role in the upcoming *Rock of Ages*, and *Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol* was a gigantic hit. That means the megastar's once-soft-as-an-easy-chair box office moment has firmed up again and he could conceivably open an event film like this is surely going to be. Make them duet on "Evergreen," Clint!

The *Carrie Diaries* finally finds a Carrie

First they said it might be Blake Lively, then it was Emma Roberts, but now it's official: *The Carrie Diaries* pilot will star respected teen actor Anna Sophia Robb. Here's a young woman whose already-solid film career includes acclaimed performances in serious-



PHOTO: SCREEN GEMS

Beyoncé

minded kid dramas like *Bridge to Terabithia*, blockbusters like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and last year's sleeper hit *Soul Surfer*, so her presence can only elevate what hopefully won't turn into just another flashy teen soap opera. Robb will take on the role of Carrie in the 1980s as she navigates school, sex and, of course, the city, but no word yet on who'll take on the roles of Teen Charlotte or Teen Miranda. We hear that Teen Samantha will be motion-captured by Andy Serkis but that might be just a very cool rumor.

Go Fish* director gives you a *Concussion

Rose Troche, filmmaker behind the classic '90s lesbian indie *Go Fish*, is currently wearing her producer hat, hard at work helping her friend, writer-director Stacie Passon, get an unusual lesbian film to the big screen. It's called *Concussion* and, yes, it's about a head injury. Weirder, it's about a lesbian in a longterm relationship who, after the title's accident, decides to become a prostitute for women (look, if women will pay for sex in the fictional lands of *Hung* and *Gigolos*, then they'll do it in this movie, too, OK?). The film stars Robin Weigert, an actor who's already fueled butch lesbian crushes such as Calamity Jane on HBO's *Deadwood*, but here she'll be considerably less dust-covered. And when that's all said and done, Troche is considered reteaming with *Go Fish* collaborator Guinevere Turner for the 20-years-later sequel. Who do we have to hit on the head to make that a reality?

Who's excited for *Gnomeo & Juliet* 2? Elton John, that's who.

It was inevitable. Rocket Pictures' *Gnomeo & Juliet* raked in almost \$200 million worldwide and that means its franchise time for Elton John, who will not rest until previously inanimate garden decorations have 3D-danced-and-sung their way into the consciousness of every moviegoer on the planet. The sequel to the kid-friendly

smash is already underway and its title is *Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes*, which will see a very small yard-dwelling incarnation of the famous sleuth hot on the case of disappearing garden gnomes. John is currently penning songs for the film and all you have to do is wait for the marketing onslaught to begin. You know a tie-in breakfast cereal can't be far behind.

* Romeo San Vicente has electric boots and a mohair suit. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Crimes Against Humanity Case Against Scott Lively



Photos: <http://on.fb.me/HdLGLN> - Tynan Power
Story: <http://bit.ly/yXXf1w>

Thinking Out Loud: Reproductive importance & the LGBTs

By: Abby Dees*/Special for TRT



If you're like me, you don't think a whole lot about birth control. You probably don't have much heterosexual sex, though I shouldn't assume, and you likely believed that we'd come to a grudging truce around a woman's right to control her reproductive life. In the 80s and 90s, of course, abortion was the battleground of the culture wars; nowadays we all know that it's

outrage that has always given them such good political traction. There's good reason for LGBT people to pay close attention to what's happening to reproductive rights:

Consider the new breed of abortion laws, such as a Texas law that forces women seeking an abortion to endure an internal ultrasound, a detailed description of the fetus, audio of its heartbeat and a 24-hour waiting period. This isn't about any health concerns, just morality. In fact women report that the experience is degrading, complicated, and, in essence, medical rape. They're being put through the wringer for mak-

Today's crusade against women's sexual autonomy is only a redecorated version of the same moral outrage that has always given them such good political traction. There's good reason for LGBT people to pay close attention to what's happening to reproductive rights ...

about the gays.

Which is why I have this queasy feeling that I've time traveled back about 30 years. Abortion is the hot topic and I notice that plastic jewelry and jumpsuits are back at Macy's. No one's talking about gay marriage, and women are on TV explaining why having sex for pleasure doesn't make them sluts.

Has the far right (and by that I also mean the 2012 Republican presidential candidates) given up on the gays? Are fundamentalists going retro? It would be nice to imagine they've gotten tired of us. Maybe we can worry about other things now, like whether Martina Navratilova has had some work done.

But don't relax just yet.

The far right still has its sites on us. Today's crusade against women's sexual autonomy is only a redecorated version of the same moral

ing personal choices about their bodies. Sound familiar?

Women can exempt themselves from part of the requirement by signing a sworn affidavit that they got pregnant through rape or incest. In other words, they didn't mean to have sex; someone made them. If the real issue here were the sanctity of life, I don't see why rape should let anyone off the hook. But proponents of these laws say they exist to "protect women." I'm ware of this word, "protect," when I see the harm done to LGBT people in order to "protect" the family.

A bill recently passed the Arizona House that would force doctors to lie about the breast cancer risks associated with abortion (there aren't any, by the way) to scare women out of terminating their pregnancies. This protects women

See Out Loud on page 16



DINSMORE STARK
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Our Community.
Our Families.
Our Lawyers.**



Bernadette Stark, Esq. and Raymond E. Dinsmore, Esq.

The Law Office of Dinsmore Stark is committed to the compassionate, yet aggressive handling of our clients' cases.

We understand that retaining the right attorney for you can be a challenging decision. Our office prioritizes communication with our clients, keeping you regularly informed on the status of your case and offering you the personal attention that you and your case deserve.

We have a family-oriented approach to our business and our practice, making a special effort to get to know our clients. Some of our clients come to us at the most difficult times in their lives and this personal attention and understanding is essential to providing quality representation.

The office of Dinsmore Stark offers reasonable rates, affordable retainers and flexible billing arrangements. Contact us to schedule a free initial consultation.

Our main office is conveniently located in downtown Northampton, MA. Evening and weekend hours are available by appointment.

Areas of Practice

Attorney Stark

- Divorce/Family Law
- Marital/Family Based Agreements
- Same-Sex Families
- Immigration
- Wills/Estate Planning

Areas of Practice

Attorney Dinsmore

- Bankruptcy
- Employment Law
- Landlord - Tenant
- Personal Injury
- Consumer Protection Law

Making room for diverse trans identities at the May LGBT Muslim Retreat

By: Tynan Power*/TRT Reporter & Columnist

TRANS MAN



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

For the last few months, my life — or at least my e-mail — has been dominated by the upcoming LGBT Muslim Retreat. Last year's retreat was a wonderful opportunity for education, support, connection and community-building. This year promises to be even more rewarding, though we are still ironing out a few wrinkles.

The people involved with planning this event are some of the best of the LGBT Muslim movement: scholars with deep compassion, religious leaders unafraid to acknowledge where their expertise ends, volunteers who put their time and energy into doing the work because it needs to be done. They are all genuinely committed to meaningful inclusion.

On one team, they had a wonderful idea: assigning "companions" to new people, because the retreat can be very emotional for those who have never before experienced a welcoming community of queer Muslims. These "companions" would act as mentors, offering some informal counseling, while also being prepared to refer people to physical and mental health professionals, as needed. The team noted they should be sure to have "companions" who are men, women and transgender.

I love the idea of these "companions." I also

love that the team was sure to think of the needs of transgender people. When I saw "men, women and transgender," though, I knew we had some work to do.

I see this a lot. It's always well-intentioned. Unfortunately, to me, the effect is more alienating than welcoming.

When I hear "men and women" set apart from "transgender," I hear an invalidation of my identity as a man. "Transgender" is not my gender. "Transgender" refers to the relationship between my self-identified gender and the gender I was assigned at birth. It's not my destination; it's how I got there.

Viewing "transgender" as my gender identity is like looking at a happy family and seeing only the fact that the children are adopted. How they got to be a family may be an interesting story or different from the norm, but it doesn't change the simple reality that they are a family. They view themselves as a family, and they want — and deserve — to be treated as a family.

Many people, like me, fall under the "transgender" umbrella and identify as "men" or "women." For us the process of changing genders — socially, medically and/or legally — is undertaken with the aim of moving from one gender box to another. When "transgender" is treated as a gender in and of itself, equated with "man" and "woman," it seems to say that our transgender experience prevents us from being men and women. When groups are divided by gender into three categories — man, woman, and trans — it forces us to choose what part of

See Transman on page 16

Kirk Cameron may be a bigot, let's not dismiss him

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist

IN THE NAME OF GOD

Actor Kirk Cameron upset many when he honestly answered a direct question during an interview about homosexuality via CNN Piers Morgan's Show. Without hesitation, he condemned it. According to

you to engage with such folks, do it. Pray for patience first. Lots of it. It's better to keep them in the discussion than push them away. It ends an opportunity to change hearts and minds.

My faith, theology and philosophy are based on the empowerment of holy logic, holy reason and holy common sense gifted from the Creator

Catholic bishops, with limited personal experience of falling in love or having physical relationships, should be asked on national television what makes them qualified on matters of the heart.

Cameron, homosexuality is "unnatural. ... I think that it's detrimental, and ultimately destructive to so many of the foundations of civilization."

Although everyone reading this column disagrees with Cameron's opinion, he is entitled to it no matter how offensive anyone finds it. But calling his opinion "un-American" as one celebrity did is contrary to the free-speech values in the Constitution. Let's stay clear of labels.

LGBT reactions to folks like Cameron include anger, frustration and an "I'm not going to take it anymore" attitude. Unfortunately, there is a certain reality that has to be accepted. Take the world as you find it, not how you want it with the snap of your fingers.

The Kirk Camerons aren't going away. Nor can they be simply ignored, marginalized, or dismissed as unthinking kooks. Even if it's beneath

through Holy Sophia (the Holy Spirit). She guides, inspires and helps to create positive, profound social change, clearing away fear, ignorance and misinformation. She is a revelation who shares the Creator's unfolding mystery.

It's also important to remember that because a law provides for a certain protection doesn't mean bigotry or prejudice ends. They may still undermine the law. As tiresome as it is the dialogue must continue with those who misunderstand LGBT people.

Cameron's comments are illogical, but don't personalize them. Society would be better served if the Camerons of the world are asked to define "unnatural" and then discuss why it's detrimental to civilization. Not one civilization in history has ever collapsed because of homosexuality. Hence, I'd be interested in his evidence. If he

See God on page 16

Transgender Lives

The Intersection of Health and Law Conference

Healthcare for the Trans Patient • Intersex Issues
Transgender Rights • Gender Theory • Transmasculine Concerns
Employment Issues • Non-binary Gender Identities
Legal Perspectives • Trans Advocacy • Family & Parental Issues
CEUs • Lunch Provided • Keynote Address from Jennifer Levi

Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
UConn Health Center Farmington, Connecticut
transgenderlives.org conference@transgenderlives.org

BP: From Russia to Southie – LGBT Discrimination Continues

By: Linda DeMarco/President, Boston Pride

Over the past month, there have been a troubling series of events for the LGBT community from as far away as Russia and as near as in our hometown of Boston. These events underscore the need for continuing the effort among all Pride organizations to provide visibility for our community and for the fight for equality and civil rights, from a grassroots, local level, to an international level. We must be vigilant in our actions to bring to light stories of human rights abuses and never forget that there are LGBT brothers and sisters who continue to live in fear and discrimination.

Russia: Life as an LGBT person

In St. Petersburg, Russia, Governor Georgiy Poltavchenko recently signed a law that would censor people's ability to communicate their experience as a member of the LGBT community by criminalizing reading, writing, speaking or reporting on anything related to gay individuals. Kristina Chemareva, one of our Boston Pride volunteers, is from the St. Petersburg area and she says it is a difficult place to live as an LGBT person: "There is an extremely harsh climate toward homosexuality in Russia. A lot of hype and fear has been created around homosexuality, especially by politicians and media. And now with this "propaganda" law I think it will get even worse. It is impossible to be openly gay and to have a safe life there because that country offers no protection for people like me. Basic fear – being killed, fined, arrested, assaulted, not being able to have a family or lead normal social life."

Iraq and "emo killings"

In Iraq, there are reports of extreme violence – including murder-directed towards gay Iraqis. These incidents, reported in *The New York Times*, are being called "emo killings," and are focused on gay individuals and, as described by the Times, "teenagers who style themselves in a uniquely Iraqi collage of hipster, punk, emo and goth fashions."

Boston Pride stance & St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston

Boston Pride condemns both the violence itself and the climate of fear and ignorance that produces it. Even in our country, where the Pride movement is decades old, we still see incidents of hate and violence towards our community.

During the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston, the shameful tradition continues of shutting out the LGBT community. Parade organizers rejected requests by *Join The Impact Massachusetts* and by *MassEquality* to join the roster of groups and individuals allowed to march. To protest this discrimination, and for the second year, a protest parade, the *Peace Day Pa-*

rade, was organized directly following the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Boston Pride marched in the Peace Parade with others who take great pride in the regional celebrations of St. Patrick's Day that celebrates the heritage and traditions of people who spent years oppressed by others. By participating in the Peace Parade, Boston Pride sought to highlight the many diverse voices Boston has, and especially to focus on the economic and social challenges that many across our region still face every day.

One of our board members, Sylvan Bruni, marched in the St. Patrick's Day Peace Parade and he shares his experience:

"At the Peace Parade, I felt the message, the why, the meaning of it all: we are being discriminated against, I am being discriminated against by the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Even here, in Boston, Massachusetts, some folks think that there are places where LGBT people should not be visible, should not exist, should not be allowed to express themselves. And these folks will fight to prevent LGBT people from being, literally, out to the world. Obviously, the emotional strain that results from this discrimination is not as grueling as being beaten up in other parts of the country, or being killed in other parts of the world. But still, you would think that, in 2012, in Boston, progress has been such that discrimination against the LGBT community would have disappeared a long time ago. It's all the more surprising considering the amount of coverage, publicity and recognition this event gets.

Along the parade route, our contingent, which included folks from Join The Impact Massachusetts, Boston Pride and multiple LGBT-friendly faith groups (such as Dignity Boston), was all but met with great cheers, thumbs up, lots of applause, and even a few mini-standing ovations. We saw people of all ages, all ethnic backgrounds, all genders, and all walks of life in fact, rooting for us and hailing our participation and our visibility on this day. We even saw a few gay couples dare hold hands when they saw the LGBT contingent pass by. And to me, this is what Boston Pride is about: providing visibility to our community so anyone, anyone, can be who they are, everywhere, every day of the year, even on St. Patrick's Day in South Boston."

Boston Pride continues its commitment to equality

This is why Boston Pride continues to provide the visibility and platform for our community to advocate and fight for equality and why we have created a Human Rights and Education Committee so watch for events this spring and during Pride Week. We will still have lots of fun at the Pride Parade and parties, but we will not forget that the battle is not over and has just begun for some of our LGBT brethren across the globe.

TransMan from page 15

our identity to uphold and what part to suppress.

Of course, having "transgender" listed as a gender option isn't a problem for everyone. There are plenty of trans people who don't identify as "man" or "woman." That would be better indicated, though, by a gender box that says "gender nonconforming," or better yet "other (please specify)."

It seems to me that the key to creating a pool of spiritual "companions" that meet the needs of the retreat is to figure out what it is we're truly trying to ask or address. In offering trans "companions," are we trying to provide support for people who have transitioned, or are transitioning, from one gender to another? Are we offering experienced trans mentors for people newly out? Or are we trying to prevent forcing people into two gender boxes?

In the end, our retreat will be able to say that our spiritual "companions" include men, women, and gender nonconforming people, that they are cisgender and transgender — just like our beautiful spectrum of attendees, who vary as much in gender identity as in age, race, ethnicity, religious practice and sexual orientation. I want to know that our new attendees are supported in the ways that they need to be and the rest of us, who have been around a while, are doing the work of making sure there is room for them, no matter how they identify.

**Tynan Power is an FTM parent, writer, Muslim and interfaith leader. He is the co-chair of the 2012 LGBT Muslim Retreat in Philadelphia, May 25-28. For more information about the retreat, visit www.lgbtmuslimretreat.com or e-mail tynanpower@gmail.com.*

God from page 15

can't offer any credible documentation then maybe seeds will be planted in him to re-think his positions. If you can't change his thinking you may change someone who is sitting on the fence listening to the discussion.

Catholic bishops, with limited personal experience of falling in love or having physical relationships, should be asked on national television what makes them qualified on matters of the heart. I'd like to know why there's so much focus on the physical act and why some Catholic men want to discuss it with such detail. Do they understand that being LGBT goes beyond physical intimacy? Do they realize that if a relationship is to last through the years it, like heterosexual relationships, must be grounded in much more than sex? Can they answer from experience?

The Kirk Camerons and Catholic bishops should not be chased away. Get them on panels to discuss their positions with other committed people of faith who disagree. As soon as they're forced to defend their positions with logic, reason and common sense, not with celebrity status or the authority of a religious office, their arguments fail. This is the best way to bring about change. Don't name-call (though it's tempting at times). Talk to them. They can't win. They don't have the facts or science on their side. In my opinion, these discussions also will show that those who support LGBT rights are on God's side.

**Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. Email questions to Dilovod@aol.com.*

TRT: Main Media Partner/Boston Pride 2012

Out Loud from page 14

from the truth, evidently. Hiding the facts has been a frequent anti-gay tactic too. For example, the Prop 8 people successfully sued to permanently seal the video record of the federal Prop 8 trial, a record that beautifully demonstrates the importance of LGBT rights. In Tennessee, legislators are trying to forbid any discussion about LGBT lives in school, as if ignorance were a moral virtue.

Almost all of this moral hypocrisy is wrapped in the mantle of religious freedom, as in, "Your laws about equality and respect for people trample on our religious rights." The far right howled when Obama pushed for contraception coverage in business run by religious institutions. If you heard any Rush Limbaugh last month, you heard some of the story. What you might have missed amid all the outrage about Rush's "slut" and "prostitute" language is how he reframed the debate so that people who are restricting women's freedoms were presented as the real

victims – victims of religious persecution. This is a continuing trope also used against LGBT people for ostensibly forcing our lifestyles on God-fearing folks, in violation of their 1st Amendment rights. It's a clever trick.

All of this shows how quickly issues that we thought were settled ages ago suddenly become debatable again. History proves that progress can turn on a dime, but I don't really think that's happened yet. Still, we're far from being able to sit back and chill, assured that anyone's freedoms are here to stay.

**Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. Whether examining our community's latest legal battles or the delicate etiquette of coming out to evangelicals, she always finds humor and compassion in even the most challenging situations. She is a busy presenter on diversity issues as well as the author of *Queer Questions Straight Talk*. She can be reached directly through her website found at: www.queerquestionsstraighttalk.com*



CAROL WILLIFORD

BOOKKEEPING PLUS

**ACCOUNTING and
TAX SERVICES**

**51 Village Hill Road #203
Northampton, MA 01060**

413-552-8496 • Email: candm884@aol.com

FREE

Instant Access to Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and the Nation's Top Gay & Lesbian Realtors.

SOLD

GayRealEstate.com

Find Your Perfect Agent Online:
www.GayRealEstate.com

Or Call Toll Free:
1.888.420.MOVE (6683)

Goldman Sachs, the Human Rights Campaign & class politics within the community

By: Casey Rocheteau/TRT Reporter

PROVIDENCE, RI — Recently, activists from the Occupy L.A. Queer Affinity Group and *GetEqual* in Los Angeles, protested a Human Rights Campaign, HRC, gala event because of the HRC's ties to *Goldman Sachs* and CEO Lloyd Blankfein. According to most reports on the protest, the main issue was Blankfein being dubbed the first corporate sponsor of the HRC's marriage-equality campaign.

The Rainbow Times spoke with Michael Cole-Schwartz, communications director of the HRC, as well as a number of Rhode Islanders who were involved in the Occupy movement to investigate local views of such a fissure in LGBTQ organizing.

Cole-Schwartz was very clear in stating that Blankfein "is not an official spokesperson by any means. He did a video for the video campaign for marriage equality." Blankfein was one of many prominent individuals to make such a video. Actors such as Michael K. Williams, Aisha Tyler and John Leguizamo also lent their support to the project, as did politicians such as Al Franken and public figures like Rev. Al Sharpton. Blankfein's video was the only one to raise such ire,

and the video's release was also coupled with Goldman Sachs being presented with a corporate equality award. The groups who protested the event wore hazmat suits to represent Goldman's hazardous financial practices.

Providence activist Brian Gay put the issue into perspective, saying, "I think that by having a corporate sponsor representing LGBT folks and their interests, the HRC is supporting a system (capitalism) which reinforces and profits from oppression. I think that choosing to work with the corporate model is supporting a system that in the end does not help society's most poor and oppressed, and that is unfortunate since HRC aims to represent a part of that oppressed population."

Cole-Schwartz, when asked what his response was to anyone upset about Blankfein's connections with the HRC, said that "the activists and other folks who are upset about the issue may be on the same page as the HRC and just not know it." He went on to say that the HRC "wants full equality for all LGBT people. Having [Blankfein] speak out is something that will get people to think about the issue in a different way. This is something that crosses all boundaries — race, class, faith."

Another activist with the *Rhode Island Anti-Sexism League*, Chris Gagnon, explained it this way: "To me, asking for an endorsement from a CEO of one of the very financial institutions

whose business practices perpetuates, even if unknowingly or unintentionally, some of the practices and beliefs the HRC is trying to fight seems rather backwards."

Of course, even within the activist community, the issue is not at all one-sided.

"I think it is good to have someone from Corporate America be part of our representation," said Kevin Fletcher, a senior technologist at a company in Providence. He added that he knows people "in Corporate America who have to be closeted. It is nice to have a corporation show public support."

Fletcher's sentiment was reflected in the HRC's goal for the campaign. While many corporations have made progress in LGBT equality, Goldman Sachs has had policies in place for years that make it exemplary in its field. In 2002, the company's insurance policy was designed to cover gender-reassignment surgery, and under Blankfein's leadership the company also now reimburses employees in domestic partnerships to offset their taxes. Of the many faces in the HRC marriage-equality videos, Blankfein was the only member of a financial organization to publicly support the campaign.

The current issue with Goldman Sachs is not particularly new, as there have been some activists who have objected to the organization's financial business practices for years. Len Moorehead, a local activist who works in edu-

cation, commented that "class divisions in the USA are very strong and working-class people of any denomination are downtrodden, exploited, overworked and underpaid for very little respect. The HRC is a classic case of gay people acting more straight than straight people to show 'we're just like you,' to preserve a niche in the higher-paying ranks of society."

When asked if he thought the HRC supported working-class LGBTQ people, the group of six respondents were divided. A few saw the HRC as representing all people, while others, such as activist Josh Kilby, said, "Even [the HRC's] 'best places to work' campaign have an over-focus on the white-collar world. If they really cared about improving workplace homophobia, they would be helping in the effort to organize LGBT caucuses in unions like Pride at Work."

Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of people's responses was that no one's reaction was entirely negative. Even Kilby's response was hopeful. He was asked if he thought corporate endorsements were helpful in the struggle for full equality. "No," he responded, "but I think it shows that the 1 percent is not united on queer oppression anymore, which is a good thing."

To view the marriage equality video campaign, visit: <http://bit.ly/qmn2uN>.

Drag Brunch, open in new locations, appeals to gay, straight and even family people

By: Casey Rocheteau/TRT Reporter

PROVIDENCE, RI — Drag Brunch is a monthly Providence tradition. *The Rainbow Times* spoke with Anthony DeRose, or, as he is better known, Jacqueline DiMera, who is the powerhouse behind Drag Brunch.

"Years ago there were drag brunches that used to happen at Olive's and Intermezzo," DiMera explained, "but it faded away." In June 2008, when DiMera was crowned Ms. Gay Rhode Island, she hosted a drag brunch at Down City, as a post-Pride hangover event. Down City was so thrilled by the show that they asked if it could be a monthly event.

DiMera agreed, but assumed that it would only be for a few months. "It really took off after that," she said.

Now that Down City is closed, Drag Brunch has moved to a different location,

Murphy's Deli and Pub downtown. While at Down City they would have two seatings, the event at Murphy's seats at 11 a.m., and it always sells out. The event has been so successful, in fact, that they've added a second monthly show at Hotel Providence's restaurant, Aspire. "So now, hopefully we'll be able to serve anyone who wants to see the show," said DiMera. "If you want a more relaxing, casual brunch, you can go to Murphy's, or if you're looking for a more upscale contemporary brunch, there's Aspire."

Occasionally, the brunches are themed, and there's an annual Christmas brunch. For last year's holiday event, all of the queens' tips went to AIDS Care Ocean State's family program and they were able to fulfill a wish list



PHOTO: DANIEL GAGNON PHOTOGRAPHY

Jacqueline DiMera who runs drag brunch.

for kids who otherwise wouldn't have much to look forward to. Drag Brunch has also done events for breast cancer awareness, the Trevor

Project and the Harvey Milk Foundation. They've also managed to get their venues to donate 25 percent of the proceeds they make from food to these charities, making the event both entertaining and profitable for good causes.

DiMera stressed the variety of the show, both in performers and crowd. She tries to book a balance of seasoned drag queens as well as those who are new to performing. The crowd is also often a mix, with "a large group of straight people, the regulars from the gay community, and families," she explained. "Yesterday, I did a number with the baby of a lesbian couple in my arms! There was a straight guy with his girlfriend who was really uneasy at first, and we kept picking on him, and by the end of it, he was half naked with three drag queens basically molesting him!"

To make reservations for an upcoming Drag Brunch, e-mail dragbrunchri@gmail.com, or

Nominated AVN Awards
2012 Best Boutique
in New England!

Mister Sister Erotica

Lingerie • Fetish • Leather
Gift Certificates

More toys than
the devil has sinners!

Open Tues.-Thurs. 11am-9pm
Fri-Sat. 11am-10pm Sun. 11am-5pm
MONDAY 12-8pm
268 Wickenden St. • Providence RI 02903 • 401.421.6969

TRT HEROES!

Know someone who works
for the LGBT community
and who gives endlessly
and selflessly to everyone?

Nominate them
to be our next
TRT HERO!

Please send your nominations to:
editor@therainbowtimesnews.com

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. Pariah
2. And Then Came Lola
3. Tomboy
4. Albert Nobbs
5. Hannah Free
6. The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls
7. Leading Ladies
8. The L Word: The Complete Series
9. Circumstance
10. Elena Undone

GAY TOP 10

1. Kawa
2. @SuicideRoom
3. Private Romeo
4. The Seminarian
5. Eating Out: The Open Weekend
6. What Happens Next
7. Jitters
8. The Green
9. Judas Kiss
10. Beginners

The story of a little boy, born in the '50s, who wanted to be a girl

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



Let me tell you a little story about a boy who was born in the early 1950s.

He was born into a family as the first male child in almost 20 years. This was

cause for celebration! A male is finally born in the family! He will be everything that we want him to be and he will carry on the family name! Gotta feeling that '51 is gonna be a good year!

Yes, this little boy was hailed as a kind of prince, if you will. He was special. Yes indeed he was special but in a different sort of way. He was a little transgender child except that that he didn't know it. No one knew it. As a matter of fact, the word "transgender" wasn't even coined yet. That would come in the early '80s. It really didn't matter anyway when you are very young. Gender wasn't an issue to a preschooler and everything was fine,

sort of.

This little boy grew up with lots of uncles playing with him and he was the darling to the female part of the family. He would sit on the floor with one of his uncles and he would roll up his pant legs to his knees and play "Yeggs!" with his uncle. There was no game really. He just wanted to roll his pants up to expose his legs.

When he was about 3, he was outside in the yard and one of his sister's friends came over with a big smile. She just had her first Holy Communion and she looked so pretty dressed up in her white dress, white veil and white shoes. Mom took pics of the smiling girl and then suddenly the little 3-year-old boy started crying. Mom asked him what's wrong and he told her that he wanted to be pretty, too. He wanted to wear the white dress and veil and shoes. The young girl agreed to let the little boy wear the white veil and the little boy had his own big smile. Then the little boy demanded that Mom take a picture of him wearing the white veil. Mom did. The little boy was ecstatic!

Time went on and the little boy had to go to

school. He was deemed a boy and was separated from the girls. The little boy just went along with the arrangement. He kind of got used to it.

The little boy had to wear a little sport jacket and tie and long pants. Not the same. Not even close. The little boy was silently sad that he couldn't be pretty like his mom, his sisters, his aunts, and his grandmothers. He had to sit with the males in his family in the living room and watch "the game." He was bored. He would go out to the kitchen to get a soda and the females would be chatting and laughing and having fun. He would get his soda and stand and watch the females interact and he would smile and laugh along with them. Then he was told to go back to the living room with the other males. There were no smiles and laughter there like the kitchen had. Yes, there was laughter and smiles but usually only after a big play. Again, not the same.

He would dream of sitting at the dinner table with a dress on. In his dream his relatives would ask him "Is this what you want?" and he would happily say "Yes!" Then he enjoyed the holiday feast with his family being a girl. It was a won-

derful dream but that's all it was: a dream. He knew that he couldn't come to the table in a dress. That would be a huge no-no and there would probably be repercussions, most likely of the physical kind; after all, it was the 1950s. He kept his thoughts to himself. He shoved them way down, down deep into his soul where no one would ever know of them. This made him sad but he knew that he had no other way. Welcome to the closet, little boy.

It was the late '50s and early '60s and not a good time for a young gender rebel. Even the gays were suppressed and scorned back then. They were called homosexuals and queers and they were considered to be very sick people and people to avoid. The little boy then had a bad feeling that he was even worse than the homosexuals. This better never come out that he wanted to be a girl. It was at this point when the little boy knew that he was in for a lifelong struggle. (To be continued next month.)

*Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has three grown children and works at a local Fortune 500 company. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.

Ask a Transwoman: Among women; my experience doing 'The Vagina Monologues,' even without a vagina

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



Sometimes these columns get written in the strangest places. This one was actually written on a Greyhound bus from NYC to Springfield. I was in New York to perform in a production of "The Vagina Monologues" at 4th

U, a Unitarian Cathedral on the Upper West Side once frequented by the Carnegies. It was a benefit being produced as part of a nationwide event called "V-Day," in which cities all over the country put on "The Vagina Monologues" for charity.

It was really an amazing production and I felt honored to be a part of it. Not to mention the chance to perform for the first time in New York City!

It did get me thinking though, quite a lot really, about the experience of being trans and being accepted by other women, as well as by society in general. It can be enormously nerve-racking, especially for an "out" transsexual.

It often feels as if I am being held to a higher standard of "woman-ness" than cisgender women. I constantly feel as if I have to prove myself, justify myself. Fortunately, I'm pretty outgoing most of the time, but still it can be enormously stressful.

Most of the time, women are pretty accepting of me. But even then there are sometimes surprising limits. I am a woman up to the point that

For all my nervousness about my transgender identity, my transsexual history, I was not the "other." I was surrounded by women who had no question that I was indeed one of them. I was a Vagina Warrior!

it becomes inconvenient or uncomfortable. There's almost a wink and a nod. "Of course you're a woman, absolutely! Wink, wink, nudge, nudge."

It's the kind of attitude transwomen encounter with the Michigan Womyn's Festival. Often, the women who have that attitude don't even seem to realize they are entirely negating our gender. My gender. Saying that we're not *really* women. It happens most often when it comes to entry into "women only" spaces.

I always want to scream and throw things when I encounter this attitude. And say that, yes, really, I am a woman! Not kind of, not sort of, but actually a bona fide woman who happens to also be transsexual!

So, it was with some trepidation that I decided to audition for "The Vagina Monologues." Even though the call I got was specifically for transgender women, I

was still nervous.

Not that being nervous often stops me. So my friend Tammy and I drove down to NYC.

As a transgender woman I'm always making all these calculations and social estimates in my head. What kind of women were these going to be? Would they judge me harshly if I dressed too femininely? Was it OK to wear a skirt or should I opt for jeans? And what if I didn't look feminine enough? Makeup or no makeup?

I usually don't wear jeans and T-shirts out because I often end up getting called "sir" all day if I don't push my look a little extra feminine. Baggy clothes and winter layers are a nightmare. I've even had people call me "sir" while they were staring at my breasts!

"Listen, you get to stare at my breasts or call me sir, you don't get to do both!"

As a result, my look is often a little extra femme. But groups of women, most especially

dition though, so I put on some makeup and dressed nicely. Much to my surprise, Tammy and I and one other transwoman were the only ones who came for the audition.

The women thankfully were all very nice, but even so I had my gender very politely questioned by a couple of parishioners who were at the church for services. Answering people's questions about trans stuff is kind of what I do. So I politely answered questions and then put my all into the audition.

It went very well, I'm pleased to say. They were excited to have Tammy and me be part of the cast. But still some nervousness remained. I talked Tammy's ear off in the car on the way back. They all seemed nice, but would they turn on us if we said the wrong thing or looked the wrong way? And for me, what if they found out I don't yet have a vagina of my own? I mean it's called "The Vagina Monologues"! Would they only accept me as sort of a woman?

It's a wonder Tammy didn't slap me. I was so neurotic I felt like a female Woody Allen.

None of these things happened, though. The rehearsals went well and by the time we did the show, I had gotten over my initial trepidation. All the talk of vaginas and the power of women got to me in a very positive way. My fears melted and by the time we got to doing the flash-mob opening of the show on Friday night, a piece called, "Over It," as the house lights dimmed and I sat on stage with my fellow cast members, I knew that these were women I could honestly call sisters.

For all my nervousness about my transgender identity, my transsexual history, I was not the "other." I was surrounded by women who had no question that I was indeed one of them. I was a Vagina Warrior!

So to answer a question I am asked far too often — the persistent "are you really?" question — I am now, have always been and always will be, A Woman. And if you don't believe me, ask one of my sisters! Slainte!

*Lorelei Erisis, former Miss Trans New England, can be contacted at her TRT email address: loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.

Unexpectedly Gay

THE ADVOCATE MAGAZINE TOP 15 GAYEST CITIES

SPRINGFIELD, MA

www.GLBTSpringfield.com

The Highlands Inn

"One of the most romantic lesbian destinations on the planet."

-Planet Out

www.highlandsinn-nh.com

1-877-LES-B-INN

Bethlehem, New Hampshire

A Lesbian Paradise

feminist-minded women, sometimes seem to judge this. They ask why I don't wear jeans. Why in Goddess' name would I wear skirts?

It was an au-

Chief Justice: Why make everyone pay for what only some need?

By: Lisa Keen*/Keen News Service

The March 27th landmark oral argument in a case testing the constitutionality of President Obama's Affordable Care Act had some very interesting moments—such as when the chief justice seemed to support the notion that if a person doesn't have kids he or she should not have to help pay for taking care of kids. It's the kind of argument some in the LGBT community have made in years past when complaining about paying local taxes to support schools even though many gay people don't have children.

LGBT Angle

In this week's landmark case before the U.S. Supreme Court, all three of the nation's major LGBT legal groups signed onto a brief in support of the new federal health insurance law. They did so along with two other LGBT groups and 11 groups helping people with HIV. And their point was not that gays shouldn't have to pay for maternity or pediatric services that many LGBT people will never need.

The 30-page brief was one of more than 130 briefs filed in *HHS v. Florida* and several other lawsuits seeking to strike down the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), signed into law two years ago by President Obama.

Swing vote?

Initial reaction to oral arguments Tuesday suggest the law is in peril of being struck down as constitutional. That's because the presumed "swing vote" on the nine-member bench—Justice Anthony Kennedy—expressed strong skepticism about the right of the federal government to mandate citizens to purchase insurance coverage.

Kennedy said that allowing the federal government to order citizens to purchase health coverage "changes the relationship of the federal government to the individual in the very fundamental way."

One question from Kennedy echoed complaints by opponents of ACA: "Can you create commerce in order to regulate it?" asked Kennedy at the start of Tuesday's session. U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli, arguing in defense of the ACA, said the law is not "creating commerce" but rather regulating an already existing commerce—that of financing the use of the health care system by people who don't purchase insurance.

Free choice

"So you're not — it's not your free choice just to do something for yourself," interjected Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. "What you do is going to affect others, affect them in a major way." In other words, by choosing not to buy health insurance, a person is causing others to pay more for their health services so that health care outlets can provide free services to the person who has no insurance.

Still, said Kennedy, the ACA "requires the individual to do an affirmative act."

If there is a market

That's when Chief Justice John Roberts added the interesting argument in support of Kennedy's point: Roberts said the theory used to justify the ACA "is that there is a market in which everyone participates because everybody might need a certain range of health care services, and yet you're requiring people who are not — never going to need pediatric or maternity services to

participate in that market."

That has been an argument used by many in the gay community for years—that LGBT citizens are required to pay local taxes to support schools even though many do not have children. The response offered by some in the past has been that gays benefit indirectly by ensuring that all children are well-educated and cared for.

Verrilli responded that, "there is not a market in which you can say that there is a immutable class of healthy people who are being forced to subsidize the unhealthy."

The HIV patients, organizations "brief in"

The legal issues before the Supreme Court in regards to the ACA are not explicitly, directly LGBT-related, but the law is of tremendous interest to people with HIV specifically and of considerable benefit to LGBT people generally.

The brief filed by Lambda Legal, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the National Center for Transgender Equality and others in support of the ACA says the law ensures there is health coverage for people with HIV and that that benefits society generally. By doing so, said the brief, the law helps stem the spread of the virus to others and to keep a lid on the enormous burden that HIV infection puts on the health care system.

Before the ACA was enacted, notes the brief, 30 percent of people with HIV had no insurance—public or private.

Among other things, the ACA prohibits insurance companies from putting limits on how much coverage a person—with HIV, breast cancer, or any other disease—can have during his or her lifetime or from dropping him or her from

coverage once a person becomes ill. It prevents companies from excluding certain conditions for coverage or refusing coverage to people for certain conditions.

What about health insurance?

The arguments in the high court this week included whether federal law can require that all people buy health insurance coverage and whether states can be required to cover the expanded number of people qualifying for Medicaid under the ACA. They also included questions about whether the whole law must be struck down if the ACA's requirement that all individuals obtain coverage is declared unconstitutional. And they included an argument over whether the penalty imposed upon those who won't buy coverage constitutes a "tax" and, if so, whether a rather obscure federal law might require that constitutional challenges to that "tax" wait until it kicks in, in 2014. On this latter point, most media observers believe the court will rule on the law's constitutionality.

The focus of most media reports—and of the Lambda brief—concerned the mandate that everyone purchase health coverage. The Lambda brief refers to this as the "minimum coverage requirement" or MCR, while most media reports dubbed it simply the "individual mandate." With some exceptions (including religious-based objections and poverty), everyone must obtain health coverage starting in 2014 or pay one percent of their income annually as a penalty. Over the years, the penalty rises, but there are limits to how high it can go.

Read the rest of this story online at TRT's website at: <http://bit.ly/GYrucP>



Fantasy Vs. Reality Weekend

Confessions of a Homo Thug Porn Star

Starring: Jonathan Cedano

* Written and directed by James Earl Hardy, author of B-Boy Blues Series.

Friday, April 20
7:30 - 9:30pm
\$20 in advance
\$25 at the door

\$15 advance weekend pass @ hbgc-boston.org

Hibernian Hall, 184 Dudley Street. Roxbury, MA.



THE RAW REALITY

Pornography & Gay Black and Latino Representation

Saturday, April 21
5:00 - 7:00pm
\$10 in advance
\$15 at the door

\$15 advance weekend pass @ hbgc-boston.org

Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave. Boston, MA.

SPONSORS



FEATURED PANELISTS

Tiger Tyson
June Quinones
Hot Rod
Blake Rowley
Dr. Joshua Rosenberger

The first New England production of the play based on the life of Blatino Porn Star-- Tiger Tyson

¡Apoyemos a los nuestros en recuperación!

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa*/Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Hay muchos/as que están en recuperación de drogadicción y alcoholismo y no lo sabemos ... ¿por qué? Muchos/as no se sienten que

pueden compartirlo ya que en nuestra comunidad LGBT la mayoría de las veces la confraternización se basa en tomar alcohol o en fumar. Estos hábitos se convierten en adicción cuando comienzan a influir en nuestras vidas de una manera

dañina, afectando nuestra salud mental y salud física. Muchos/as en la comunidad GLBT tienen este problema pero lo superan.

Durante este tiempo lleno de noticias sobre corte de fondos para programas de servicios sociales es importante abogar por espacios y programas libres de drogas y alcoholismo ya que la comunidad Latina y GLBT son las dos comunidades más afectadas por el problema de alcoholismo y drogadicción.

Trabajo para una organización que ayuda a la comunidad con este problema. A través de mi labor en esta organización he

aprendido datos interesantes sobre esta enfermedad/problema que tenemos que reconocer y confrontar, ya que es uno de gravedad entre la comunidad Latina GLBT. Tenemos que educarnos, y aceptar dicho problema. ¿Sabía usted que en la comunidad GLBT hay una prevalencia de 30 por ciento de abuso de drogas a diferencia del 10 por ciento en la comunidad heterosexual que sufre de esta enfermedad (estadística tomada de la División de Salud Mental, Droga Adicción y Servicios Forenses de EU.)? ¿Sabía usted que las lesbianas son 3.2 más propensas al alcoholismo que las mujeres heterosexuales (Cochran y Mays, 2000)? Estos son sólo unos ejemplos del grave problema que existe hoy día.



unir en casas, pero estos no son espacios públicos para "janglear" y conocer a otros/as libre del uso de alcohol y drogas y poder hablar abiertamente sobre recuperación. Uno de estos espacios es manejado por la organización en la cual trabajo, CASPAR (www.casparinc.org). Hay otros lugares como CASPAR en su comunidad pero no hay muchos y están al borde de perder los fondos ya que no son tan usados por las personas que lo necesitan, aunque el problema existe.

Cuando uno "sale del clóset" primordialmente uno aprende que los patrones de socialización entre la comunidad GLBT son en barras o saunas ya que en éstos uno puede conocer a otros/as personas del "ambiente". No estoy culpando solamente a estos sitios por el

problema grave que hay hoy día con el alcoholismo o la drogadicción, pero como son uno de los recursos primordiales de socialización en nuestra comunidad son, por consiguiente, parte del problema. En el área de Massachusetts uno percibe estos lugares como los únicos lugares públicos (y seguros) donde conocer a otros/as personas de la comunidad latina GLBT. No hay muchas actividades sociales que no tengan de enfoque el alcohol o las drogas. Por supuesto que hay actividades y or-

ganizaciones educativas, de salud y/o religiosas, pero no hay tantos lugares donde uno pueda ir que no tengan que ver con cuestiones de salud, como el VIH/SIDA o la religión. Necesitamos apoyar a estos espacio(s) que existen pero que son "pre-históricos" en los ojos de los/as que hacen decisiones sobre fondos.

Quizás al tener un espacio Latino GLBT o GLBT podamos comenzar a lidiar con este grave problema de drogadicción y alcoholismo y trabajar en nuestra recuperación, a cualquier nivel necesario. Quizás si tuviéramos más espacios seguros para congregarnos consistentemente como comunidad latina GLBT nos pudiéramos unir y fortalecer más como comunidad y movimiento. Abogemos por espacios comunitarios Latinos GLBT. ¡Ya es hora! Y apoyemos a nuestros/as hermanos/as en recuperación ya que necesitan de nuestro apoyo incondicional y libres de tentación!

Si usted sufre de alcoholismo o de drogadicción, hay recursos para usted en su comunidad. Para más información llame o visite la página cibernética, de agencias como CASPAR Inc., Tapestry Health, Spectrum, entre otras. También visite una reunión de AA/NA (para conocer la localidad de una reunión, www.aa.org o www.na.org) en español o inglés en su comunidad. ¡Admite que tienes un problema y confrontalo! ¡Educate y háblale de esta enfermedad a otros/as! Esto es un problema de todos/as.

*Escrito por Wilfred Labiosa, Director Ejecutivo de CASPAR y organizador comunitario en la comunidad Latina GLBT. Visita www.bphc.org, www.aa.org, www.na.org o www.CASPARINC.org para más información.



Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: Ley de Protección del Paciente y de Cuidado Médico Asequible y el VIH

Por: Scott Schoettes/Director del Proyecto VIH de Lambda Legal



P: Recientemente me hice la prueba del VIH y salí positivo. Un amigo me dijo que si cambio de trabajo puede que sea difícil mantener el seguro médico. ¿Qué tipo de seguro hay para mí?

R: Hoy en día, un resultado positivo de la prueba del VIH significa un nuevo régimen de salud: citas médicas con regularidad, mejor nutrición y medicamentos a diario. Y con estas nuevas costumbres hay que hacer ajustes económicos. Para muchas personas que viven con el VIH, es un tema de gran preocupación el poder conseguir cuidado médico de buena calidad y que no cueste demasiado.

En marzo de 2010, se promulgó la Ley de Protección del Paciente y de Cuidado Médico Asequible (ACA, por sus siglas en inglés). Es una reforma de la industria privada de seguros médicos que extiende el acceso al seguro

Dicha reforma, entre el 2005 y el 2008, mostró que la tasa de infección de VIH bajó un 37 por ciento en Massachusetts, mientras que en el resto del país, aumentó un 8 por ciento.

médico para millones de norteamericanos. Incluye cobertura más amplia de Medicaid, elimina las exclusiones por condiciones médicas pre-existentes, y exige cierto tipo de cobertura como requisito mínimo. Estas reformas son esenciales para la prevención del VIH y el cuidado médico de personas con VIH/SIDA.

En junio se espera que la Corte Suprema de EE.UU. decida la constitucionalidad del ACA. Lambda Legal reunió a varias organizaciones para apoyar un escrito "amicus curiae" en el caso *Dept. of HHS contra Florida*. (Más información en inglés sobre este caso: <http://bit.ly/HL6eaY>).

Cuando se promulgó el ACA, sólo un 17 por ciento de norteamericanos con el VIH contaban con seguro médico privado. En el mercado de seguro individual, a las personas con el VIH se les considera "no asegurables". Si solicitan seguro médico, a menudo los rechazan por tener una condición pre-existente. Aún si consiguen seguro

Lambda Legal
abogando por la igualdad

médico, las compañías de seguros pueden cobrarles primas carísimas, ya que en la mayoría de los estados no existe un límite máximo.

Actualmente Medicaid provee seguro médico para los pobres y las personas con incapacidades, pero en la mayoría de los estados, se requiere un diagnóstico de sida para cualificar como incapacitado. Esto crea un dilema: sólo si la infección del VIH se convierte en SIDA, uno cualifica para recibir los medicamentos que hubieran evitado el SIDA. El gobierno federal provee fondos para algunos servicios relacionados al VIH a través del programa Ryan White, pero dicho programa está tan sobrecargado que apenas puede proveer el cuidado necesario a personas que viven con el VIH.

El ACA fue diseñado para abordar este problema, ya que elimina las exclusiones por condiciones médicas pre-existentes y exige que toda persona tenga

seguro médico. Ya hemos visto como este requisito mínimo beneficia a las personas que viven con el VIH. En el 2006, Massachusetts reformó su sistema de salud a través de leyes similares al ACA. Dicha reforma, entre el 2005 y el 2008, mostró que la tasa de infección de VIH bajó un 37 por ciento en Massachusetts, mientras que en el resto del país, aumentó un 8 por ciento.

A todos nos preocupa el acceso al cuidado médico. Todos lo necesitamos, especialmente los que tienen condiciones pre-existentes y que quedan al margen del sistema de salud actual, tales como las personas que viven con el VIH. Por eso hay tanta atención a la Corte Suprema mientras revisa esta ley histórica.

Si usted tiene el VIH y busca recursos en su estado, por favor llame a nuestra Línea de Ayuda al 1-866-542-8336 o visite su portal cibernético en: www.lambdalegal.org/es/linea-de-ayuda.

Place Your 2012 Boston Pride Guide Ad with TRT!

TRT is the Official Mediof Boston Pride, again in 2012.

617-444-9618

Read This Article in English at: <http://bit.ly/H71Bbl>

Out From Under: 'Bully' director & lesbian teen talk controversial documentary

Por: Chris Azzopardi*/Special for TRT

Lee Hirsch will never forget the brutality of his middle-school years, when he was the victim of what, in recent years, has become a tragic epidemic – bullying. The punches, taunts and name-calling were all wielded his way. And the bullshit justification for all the above: that it's just part of being a kid.

But, as Hirsch's controversial documentary *Bully* argues, it shouldn't be.

"The driving force behind the film was to give a voice to that experience for myself and for others," says the Long Island-raised writer/director, who sensitively spotlights the national issue in the film. "I made it for all of us ex-bullied and once-bullied – the coalition."

And he did it by putting a face on the ever-growing problem. Five faces, in fact. Harrowing and heartbreaking, the docu follows the teens – one of which is then-16-year-old lesbian Kelby Johnson, living in Tuttle, Okla. – as they're victimized within their own schools, often brushing it off as just a part of growing up.

"I was looking for a way to change something," Kelby says, "and Lee gave me that opportunity, and I was excited to take that and run with it."

To many gay teens, Kelby's story of being ostracized is devastatingly familiar: She's the reject of her small-town community, which doesn't accept that she's a lesbian – or that she has a girlfriend. Tuttle turns against not only Kelby but also her family.

"Kelby and I didn't bond over a conversation about sexuality," says Hirsch, who didn't want to discuss his own orientation with us. "We

bonded over the experience of being bullied, and that was really the same as it was with all the kids. I feel like our relationship began with a real conversation about what I experienced, what I wanted to set out to achieve with this film, why her story mattered and why what was happening wasn't OK."

They met via *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, after Kelby's mom, desperate to help her daughter, reached out to the outspoken talk-show host through a message board because she was afraid her daughter would succumb to the same fate of the many gay teens who've killed themselves in the last few years.

Kelby Johnson Kelby not only didn't, but she's now helping others get through those hard years.

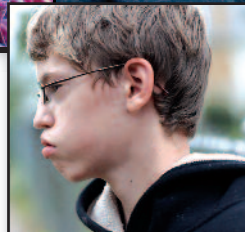
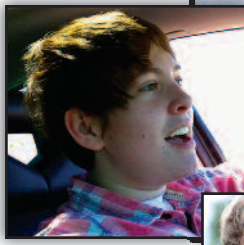
"I know that being gay, you can feel very alone," she says, "and I hope that when they watch the movie, that goes away and they realize there is someone standing with them who has gone through that. The world is going to change and people are going to get more accustomed to (LGBT people), and they should be here to see it."

Hirsch began filming in 2009, before the rush of LGBT-related suicides was met with national attention: Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi, who jumped off the George Washington Bridge; 13-year-old Seth Walsh, who hanged himself; and Asher Brown, who shot himself after being bullied for coming out.

"They didn't inspire the film, but it informed the early stages," Hirsch says of the suicides.



Lee Hirsch, Director, *Bully*



Alex Libby

people everywhere were really struggling with this issue."

Youth selected for the film were all, coincidentally, from rural communities and not vast urban cities. "It wasn't intentional. It was the way it fell together, and the stories we found were most compelling there. A lot of it had to do with getting that access in Sioux City (the home of then-12-year-old lead, Alex Libby) which kind of landed us in the Midwest to begin with."

Some footage was filmed in New York and Minneapolis, but none as powerful as what made the final cut, Hirsch says. "There was something about the landscape of small-town America, the quiet and incredible heroism of the families that I was really drawn to. There are so few outlets there; in big cities, there's more for kids who don't fit in or are different, so I think bullying in a small town can be more acute. It can be a harder world."

Once he had his subjects, shooting was another challenge. Kelby's school, unlike that of Alex, denied them access to film inside the premises. And the scenes involving bird's-eye-views of bus rides and principal office sit-downs were "incredibly difficult" to capture.

One scene, on the bus, involves coarse language that the MPAA deemed too obscene for anything less than a hard R rating. Disappointed that the film's message wouldn't reach those it intended to, the studio fought the decision – with Michigan teen Katy Butler leading a movement that rallied nearly a half-million supporters, including – no kidding – Meryl Streep and Johnny Depp. Just days before its release date, Weinstein Co. decided to go the unrated route, snubbing the MPAA and leaving the decision to screen the film up to individual theaters.

"We were just shocked," Hirsch says of the MPAA's decision. "I guess I wasn't as shocked at the initial R, because technically we knew that that might happen, but the appeal was really devastating because we had such a strong, compelling argument and other films had been overturned and had much worse profanity. ...

See *Bully* on page 23

**WOW!
WOW!
WOW!**

DO WE HAVE A SEASON FOR YOU @ THE FAC!

The UMASS Fine Arts Center
BRINGING WORLD ARTISTS TO THE VALLEY FOR 36 YEARS!

**WOW!
WOW!
WOW!**



Joy of Sax Film Series
JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S DAY (1959)
Monday, April 9, 7pm, Amherst Cinema, \$
Live music and commentary by WFCR Jazz à la Mode host Tom Reney. Tickets are available online www.amherstcinema.org or at the Amherst Cinema box office
Presented in collaboration with New England Public Radio and Amherst Cinema.



The Joy of Sax
RAVI COLTRANE QUARTET
Friday, April 13, 8pm, Bowker Auditorium
Critically acclaimed and Grammy®-nominated saxophonist Ravi Coltrane is one of today's most unique and original voices whose sound has been described as "amazing, deep, soulful, masterful" (Jazz Police) and is complete with "elusive beauty" (Downbeat Magazine). The second son of the legendary saxophonist John Coltrane and pianist Alice Coltrane, Coltrane has performed with many of the world's greatest jazz and pop luminaries. Reserved Seating: \$30, \$15; FC, GCC, STCC and 17 & under \$10.

PRE-PERFORMANCE TALK:
To take place at 7:15 p.m. by WFCR Jazz à la Mode host Tom Reney

SPONSORED BY: United Wealth Management Group, Baystate Health, the UMass Hotel and Conference Center, New England Public Radio and the Amherst Cinema.



FIRESIDE CHAT: Pre-performance talk by WFCR Classical Music Host Walter Carroll at the University Club, 6:30pm. Park in Lot 62 for easy access to Club and Concert Hall.

THE KNIGHTS
Thursday, April 19, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Based in New York City, The Knights expand the orchestral concert experience providing a unique atmosphere of camaraderie that creates the intimacy and immediacy of chamber music. Program will feature Center will feature works by Erik Satie, Franz Schubert, Philip Glass, and a new arrangement of a traditional Persian work by founder Colin Jacobsen. Reserved Seating: \$30, 25, 15; FC, GCC, STCC and 17 & under \$10
SPONSORED BY: Applewood, a Member of the Loomis Communities and The Recorder.

• TICKETS? CALL 413-545-2511 OR VISIT FINEARTSCENTER.COM •

Film & Forum in Northampton: Gay Athletes in Schools

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — A film that looks at the lives of openly gay high school athletes will make its Western Massachusetts debut on Tuesday April 10 at 7 p.m. at Northampton High School, 380 Elm Street, in Northampton.

Out for the Long Run is an inspirational documentary that demonstrates that even in the world of high school athletics, there's a place for LGBT youth. The film follows four athletes over their senior year as they navigate the uncertain waters of high school life, while still holding true to their passion for sports and remaining honest about who they are as individuals.

"Talking about gay athletes is still taboo in our world," said Suzanne Seymour, Executive Director of the LGBT Coalition of Western MA. "It's one of the places in our culture where people are still uncomfortable, especially men, in coming out. We hope the film helps people to understand that LGBT people are no different, and we need the support of our allies to truly make a difference in how this subject is regarded."

A panel discussion featuring LGBT high school athletes and advocates will follow the screening. The participants will include Pat Griffin, an educator, coach, and former athlete, who is shown in the film; Liz Gallinano, a four-year UConn women's scholarship hockey star and president of WMASS Suburban Softball League; Jon Sass, Gay-Straight Alliance advisor at Northampton High School; and openly gay students.

"This is a very important film for what it can teach us about the negative climate for LGB people in high schools and what LGB people themselves are doing to rise above it," said Genny Beemyn, Director of the UMass Stonewall Center



"What's it like to be openly gay in the macho world of high school sports?"

and a sponsor of the screening. "While anti-LGBT school bullying and harassment have received growing attention in the last couple years, much more needs to be done so that the out individuals profiled in the film are not the exceptions in being successful."

Free and open to the public. This event is sponsored by the LGBT Coalition of Western MA, the UMass Stonewall Center, and Northampton High School's Gay-Straight Alliance. For more information: (413) 588-1018 or via the Coalition's site: www.lgbtcoalitionwma.org

Bully from page 21

We really thought they'd understand and recognize the value and the merit and the hope that this film offers to so many."

One of them being Kelby, who's now 19, just got her GED and is living in Oklahoma City — somewhat less close-minded, she mentions — with her girlfriend. Her plan now involves becoming a gay activist and working with LGBT groups, like Do Something, to continue blasting the bullying issue.

"There's always going to be something, but (the bullying) has calmed down a little bit for me after the film," she says, "and there are a lot of things I can brush off now. The film has helped me grow stronger and be more aware of others around me. It's definitely been a positive experience, and I will carry it with me for the rest of my life."

* Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him at: www.chris-azzopardi.com.

Food insecurity in the land of plenty

Food and politics and the 2012 elections

By: John Verlinden/Special for TRT



"Food insecurity." Sounds like that anxious moment you feel when deciding what wine to order with dinner. Unfortunately, it's much more serious. "Food insecurity" is how the government defines a condition where

many Americans find themselves: not knowing where they'll find their next meal.

I wonder if we chose this squishy label because we just can't bear the thought that, in our rich country, people are hungry. It is disturbing that hunger persists side by side with a food supply so abundant that we throw tons away every day just because we can't eat it fast enough.

In 2010 the USDA reported that 48.8 million people lived in food-insecure households, or about one in every six Americans. For children the rate is higher, at 22 percent of all kids.

Historically, we've dealt with hunger issues reasonably effectively through a combination of government and nonprofit programs. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps), Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and School Lunch Programs are the big public programs, while food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters fill in gaps and shore up weak spots in our food safety net.

But how to address hunger issues in the future

will certainly be an election-year issue. What do you think government's role should be? Some people believe that as a society we're obliged to provide, and that every individual in the U.S. should have access to an adequate supply of food. Others feel that government is already doing too much, needs to cut back and tighten up eligibility standards. Some believe that the government should continue food programs, but should impose restrictions on what can and cannot be purchased with public dollars (e.g. no soda, no high-calorie snacks, no sugary cereals). And still others believe that government should get out of this business altogether and leave caring for the poor to churches and private charities.

Where do you stand on these and other hunger issues? And what do you want from the candidates you will support?

Next month we'll take a look at obesity and actions we might take to reduce it. Share your thoughts, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article and/or contact me via email at:

j o h n @ m u -
chogusto.com
or visit my site:
w w w . m u -
chogusto.com
and join our
food forum.
Until next time
— ¡Mucho
Gusto! ,
¡Muchas
Gracias! y ¡Buen
Provecho!



PINK PAGES



Your local Gay Yellow Pages

Accommodations • Adoption • Auto Body • Bars • Bookstores • Catering • Cleaners • Contractors • Counselors • Dentists • Doctors • Entertainment • Escorts • Financial • Furniture • Grocers • Home Improvement • Insurance • Jewelry • Legal • Movers • Pets • Real Estate • And more...

The complete Pink Pages is on www.PinkPagesUSA.com

Do You Have Savoir Flair?

Savoir Flair, New England's GLBT magazine.

Featuring current events, entertainment, dining, travel, and more. www.savoirflairmagazine.com.



visit our website:

www.linkpink.com

FREE personals, roommate ads, & referrals to community-friendly businesses

To list with us, call (866) 943-PINK (7465)

The Rainbow Times

The Freshest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Newspaper in New England



GO, GO, GO ... TRT ON THE GO!

facebook



tumblr

twitter



You Tube



**World class care
in action.**

Baystate Medical Center has a national reputation for quality care. We are a Magnet® Hospital for nursing excellence and we've helped Baystate Health become one of the Top 15 Health Systems in the United States (Thomson Reuters).

Just a few years ago, we envisioned a world class facility that would help us make the best care even better. Now open, our expansion, featuring the Davis Family Heart & Vascular Center, is a symbol of what's possible when a community comes together.

Our magnificent hospital expansion brings you privacy, comfort, and the latest technology configured in a way that breaks new ground for heart and vascular care. Patients benefit from special surgical suites where caregivers deliver a full range of therapies—from imaging to surgery—in one place, saving precious time.

This is just a part of the world class medicine available today at Baystate Medical Center, where the best care keeps getting better.

*Take a virtual tour of the new Baystate Medical Center at
baystatehealth.org/expansion.*



**Davis Family
Heart & Vascular Center**
at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA

DIVERSITYSM
Includes Everyone

Ask your physician for a referral to a Baystate cardiovascular specialist.