

The Rainbow Times

• Your LGBTQ News in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut & Vermont •

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Plays Gay Again

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We need to foster our communication and cooperation to achieve progress

By: Gricel M. Ocasio*/TRT Publisher

For the past month, I have heard from various community members about our unity or lack thereof. Such comments have made me ponder about our relationships with each other. I have always thought that we should remain a cohesive entity, and focus on the struggles that affect us all and how to cooperatively overcome them. No matter what segment of the LGBTQ community we belong to, we are always affected by our brothers and sister's afflictions. We are all in the same boat—struggling for rights and fairness under the laws of this, our country. Some people in our community feel they have more rights than others, and that's fine. But, let's not forget that others may not

feel that way yet. Let's try to give our LGBTQ family the same respect, opportunities and time that we like to receive. Most importantly, let's not take advantage of those without a voice because that is tragic to our cause and detrimental to all of us in the end. With the LGBTQ population being just a small segment of society, do we really want to isolate ourselves further?

Gricel Martinez Ocasio

**Gricel M. Ocasio is the co-founder, co-owner and Publisher of The Rainbow Times. She is a graduate of Temple University and has been in the journalism and publishing field for almost 20 years. You can reach her at: publisher@therainbowtimesnews.com.*

It takes time before you can state the obvious



By: Susan Ryan-Vollmar*/TRT Columnist

- People of different races should be allowed to marry.
- Women should be allowed to vote.
- Children should not work in factories.

Susan Ryan-Vollmar

Few would disagree with these statements. They are unremarkable descriptions of our social mores. They are obvious.

But that wasn't always the case. In 1959, Virginia trial Judge Leon M. Bazile sentenced Richard and Mildred Loving to one year in prison for violating state law banning interracial marriages. In delivering the sentence, which he suspended for 25 years provided the couple left the state of Virginia, Bazile proclaimed: "Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay, and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but

for the interference with his arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix."

Read today, Bazile's words are repugnant. But another eight years would pass before the United States Supreme Court looked at the same issue and—finally—stated the obvious in 1967's landmark *Loving v. Virginia*: "Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival. To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications embodied in these statutes, classifications so directly subversive of the principle of equality at the heart of the Fourteenth Amendment, is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law. The Fourteenth Amendment requires that the freedom of choice to marry not be restricted by invidious racial discriminations. Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual and cannot be infringed by the State."

See Obvious on page 8

Supporting the non-profits that make our community go round

By: Jenn Tracz*/CABO's Executive Director

Last edition I encouraged readers to take their first steps towards action within the community and invited everyone to join CABO at Mohegan Sun Arena for a special event. A special thank you goes out to all of you who joined us for a wonderful evening. But did you know there are many other different ways you can take action today?

No matter what your interest there is a non-profit, business or related cause that could use your help.

CABO has 18 non-profits located throughout the state of Connecticut, all with varying interests. Whether you have an interest in HIV/AIDS work or in LGBT foster parenting, we have a non-profit to suit your needs. Non-profit organizations are what makes the LGBT community go round, so always give back to them when you can.

A few of our non-profits are, *OUT Film CT*, the *Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective*, the *TransAdvocacy Collation*, the *Imperial Sovereign Court of all CT*, *St. Phillip House* and *Lambda Legal*. Take action now by contacting one of these great organizations and ask how you can help. Don't forget to tell them that I sent you!

Not only are our great non-profit members looking for volunteers, but CABO is too. As we move and expand throughout the state we are always looking for excited, enthusiastic and



Jenn Tracz

motivated people to join us on our journey. We're looking for volunteers in a variety of areas, such as event planning, marketing and building membership. CABO is in the business of building member businesses and creating a more inclusive and vibrant economy for the community at large.

CABO holds regular monthly evening events in North Haven on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and regular monthly morning events in West Hartford on the 1st Thursday of the month. For more details on CABO events in your area, visit www.TheCABO.org. If you have any particular questions or comments, I am always available via e-mail and would be happy to talk with you. Send me an e-mail today at jtracz@TheCABO.org.

**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 is a small business owner specializing in marketing and design services.*

Our liberation is tied to everyone's liberation: The U.S. Military's actions continue to restrict our liberation

By: Jason Lydon/TRT Opinion Writer

Army Pfc. (Private First Class) Bradley Manning is currently sitting in solitary confinement at a military prison in Virginia. *The New York Times*, *Wired Magazine*, *CNN*, and countless Internet sources are writing and reporting about this man. Manning is currently being charged with 2 counts of violating the Uniform Code of Military Justice, including eight criminal offenses and four non-criminal violations of Army regulations. These charges are coming after Manning, allegedly, leaked classified information to Wikileaks and other Internet sources. The most well-known of the alleged leaks is the video of U.S. soldiers murdering over a dozen people in New Baghdad. The video (viewer discretion is advised) is available at www.colateralmurder.com. Two Reuter's employees were among those individuals murdered. Manning also, allegedly, released over 90,000 Afghanistan war reports. Because Manning is gay his actions are bringing into question the current campaigns to repeal *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*. While the conversation is being focused on his sexual orientation and his challenging experiences coming out many are missing the bravery of his actions. Daniel Ellsberg, the man responsible for leaking the Penta-

gon Papers, has called Manning a "hero." The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are destroying those countries and anyone who attempts to drop a wrench in the war machine is taking action to bring us back to our collective humanity.

I have taken the time to read a number of stories and pages written about Manning, but I do not claim to understand the reasoning behind his choice to join the military. However, *The New York Times* reports that Manning is a humanist with progressive politics who has long been opinionated and passionate about the world being different. I can only imagine what it must have been like for him, as a computer "wiz," to have access to such a vast amount of information that he believed could possibly lead to greater outrage by the American people. In the transcripts of his chats with people he hoped would share the information with others, he stated that, "Everywhere there's a U.S. post, there's a diplomatic scandal



Jason Lydon

"But the question must be asked, what is so bad about being a traitor when your military is committing war crimes in its ever expanding imperialist agenda? ..."

See Liberation on page 6

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have learned that things are NOT always as they seem regarding a local trans event in New England. Someone needed to "grow a pair" and say what so many of us are thinking! And here I am. These are, however, only my opinions and I can only speak for myself.

It is my opinion that some things ought to be left alone to run their own natural course of life and death; meaning let this event, that appears so pretty and sparkly on the outside, come to an end so that a constructive and truly empowering FAIR, EQUAL, and DEMOCRATIC event might rise from the ashes of what seems to me to be becoming a huge fiasco!

We need something run by an Organization with a real Board of Directors! We need something that showcases the talent of the amazing TransMen as well as the incredible TransWomen in New England or the North East! I'm all for a "contest" of some sort that celebrates the talent, intelligence, and diversity of ALL of the Transgender community but does not objectify women - which is repulsive to me (a Strong, Lesbian, Feminist Ally) on many levels.

There are many things that confuse me about this "event" as well:

Why is there no true Board of Directors (even though the web site lists a "Board of Directors" page with only one person on it) to which anyone can appeal to in a cases of blatant wrong doing; such as individuals being removed from the event for having a personal disagreement with the CEO?

How can the organization have the CEO be its SOLE owner and ONLY "Board Member," mind you?

The list goes on and on.

See Letters on page 3

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Northampton's Michael Kuch featured in NY Exhibit: "Naked Bodies, Naked Souls"

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND

NARROWSBURG, NY—An international array of artists is showing original paintings, sculptures, photographs, and limited edition hand-pulled prints for the first time in the Upper Delaware Valley as part of "Naked Bodies, Naked Souls," a group exhibit curated by Jan K. Kapera of JKK Fine Arts (www.jkkfinearts.com/). The exhibit opens at the Loft Gallery at the Delaware Arts Center in Narrowsburg, NY on Friday, August 13, with a reception from 7-9 p.m. The show will be on view through September 4.

"The realm of 'Naked Bodies, Naked Souls' is a very private, personal world; a world of artists' secrets, dreams, feelings, and deepest emotions," says curator Kapera. "They have expressed the unexpressed—they have found the way to show spiritual and mystical states of soul in dream-like, symbolic images."

This exhibit features the work of 16 international artists: Daniel Barkley (Canadian), Luigi Casalino (Italian), Joanna Chrobak (Polish), John Dugdale (American, NYC), Barbara



Michael Kuch, "St Sebastian Pierced by Shafts of Light," 2008, watercolor, washed ink on paper, 22 1/2" x 15"

Falender (Polish), Michel Henricot (French), Michael Kuch (American, MA), Tom Misztal (American, OR), Aleksandra Nowak (American, NJ), Darek Nowakowski (American, NYC), Egidijus Rudinskas (Lithuanian), Krzysztof Skorzewski (Polish), Lubomir Tomaszewski (American, CT), David Vance (American, FL), Damian Wojtowicz (Polish), and Piotr Woroniec (Polish). "Naked Bodies, Naked Souls" is not about eroticism, it is about the beauty of the body and the soul," says Kapera. "It is about human emotions - loves, sorrows, desires, and quests, happiness and despair."

Free and open to the public, the exhibit is sponsored by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, the Arts Council for Sullivan County, NY, and is made possible in part with public funds from the Visual Arts Program of the New York State Council on the Arts.

Loft Gallery is located at the Delaware Arts Center at 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg, NY. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the exhibit contact: Rocky Pinciotti, Gallery Director, rocky@artsalliancesite.org or visit www.ArtsAllianceSite.org.

Letters from page 2

It is, also, my opinion that one person should not be in charge of any Pride/LGBT event for that matter. It is, as we can clearly see, too much for one person to handle. We've seen it in the past and we are seeing it here again!

It breeds Napoleon type attitudes and behaviors. In this instance it shuts out Media from the event, which should be covered openly and honestly in print and in photographs. In the end, all of this hurts the Transgender (and by proxy the whole LGBT) community that it seeks to serve more than it helps it.

—Ericka Soto, Greenfield, MA



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Faith, family, and God: Faith is separate from organized religion

In the Name of God

By: Paul P. Jesep*/TRT Columnist

“Nobody can hurt me without my permission,” Mahatma Gandhi taught. Yet members of the LGBT and Searching Community sometimes permit it. Intellectually, many put organized religion in perspective. Others, however, still allow it to provide a spiritual, emotional, and destructive sting.

Despite all the sanctimonious babble, the Bible does not condemn the LGBT and Searching Community to hell. I’ve written about this topic on several occasions over a number of years in different publications, but it merits repeating. There are numerous books, articles, and commentaries dispelling this widely held view.

There are two parts to the Bible: Hebrew Scriptures (wrongly referred to as the Old Testament) and the New Testament, in which Jesus brings a new covenant, or contract, to God’s children. Jesus Christ said that of all the things he taught the most important to remember was to love the Creator and to love one another as he unconditionally loved them.

Gandhi said, “I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” Amen.

Nowhere in the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament is there a condemnation of “homosexuals.” The word, by the way, isn’t used until the 19 Century. No references exist in the

Bible that prohibits committed same-sex relationships. In a handful of cases, there are citations to violence and promiscuous same-sex, usually in the context of paganism.

Jesus never mentions same-sex relations. His message is simple. Love. Love your neighbor. Love your enemy. Love the poor. Love the outcasts. Read the Ten Commandments. Same-sex relationships are not a top ten priority for the Creator.

The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18-19) is often cited as condemnation

“Nowhere in the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament is there a condemnation of ‘homosexuals.’ The word, by the way, isn’t used until the 19 Century. No references exist in the Bible that prohibits committed same-sex relationships.”

of God’s children made differently. It’s a gross distortion. The lesson is not about being gay, lesbian, transgender, transsexual, or searching. It’s about the ancient hospitality custom that was not honored.

Three angels fly down from heaven to visit Lot. He invites them in as an unruly group of guys gather outside. The gents want Lot to throw out the angels so they can be raped. Lot refuses. He offers up his daughters instead.

In addition, it was routine in early history for men to rape men. Male rape, not unlike the violence against women, was about power, control, and humiliation. It had nothing to do with a loving, monogamous relationship.

Christianity, despite the call by Jesus to love unconditionally, has many variations evidenced by religions claiming to be the so-called true faith like Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Southern Baptist. They are influenced by ethnicity, culture, custom, and their own unique limitations. Although they are quick to judge and condemn those made differently, no organized religion can speak with the full authority of God. They speak with the hubris, bravado, and pomposity of men sometimes without the benefit of science, intellectual honesty, and the spiritual maturity to move beyond comfort zones.

Faith and organized religion are different things. Faith is a direct relationship with the Almighty. Religion, in theory, is supposed to foster community and enhance an individual’s journey toward Supreme Truth. It often doesn’t.

Every man and woman answers to three things – God, personal conscience, and the spouse with whom a family is formed. Don’t allow spiritual and religious ignorance to push you away from faith or the Creator.

The Holy One loves you unconditionally. You are part of Creation. The LGBT and Searching Community have stood up politically. Now it must stand up for itself spiritually and as men and women of faith whether Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, or other.

**Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. His new book Credit Card Usury and the Christian Failure to Stop It, was released in June. He may be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.*

Human Rights Campaign president issues response to Target CEO’s apology

WASHINGTON, DC—Late last week, HRC President Joe Solmonese issued the following statement:

“Target has been a champion for workplace equality for many years. That’s why their recent donation to MN Forward was so at odds with their sterling reputation as a great employer for LGBT people. The fact that their political contribution was used to advance an anti-equality candidate was extremely hurtful to all fair-minded Americans.

We appreciate Mr. Steinhafel’s statement to company employees this afternoon but it doesn’t go quite far enough. Target’s apology is welcomed but without tangible action behind it, the LGBT community and our allies will continue to question the company’s commitment to equality.

The promise to evaluate political contributions in the future, while a step in the right direction, is provided without details and does not mitigate their \$150,000 supporting an outspoken opponent of equality for LGBT people. Target can still make it right by making equivalent contributions to equality-minded organizations and by making clear the procedure by which they will evaluate potential contributions in the future to include issues of LGBT-equality.”

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

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Perks: walking distance to Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, bike path that connects to Northampton, Hadley and Amherst and 3 miles from downtown Northampton. Easthampton is an up and coming "Noho", but will never be as gentrified - there are a lot of artists with little money and an arts council that does great events. Interested? Call: 413-527-8711.



Six Flag's upcoming *Out In The Park* entertainment lineup sure to please all

AGAWAM, MA—Out In The Park presents a sparkling roster of comics and entertainers on Sept. 19 at Six Flags New England.

Jessica Kirson leads the lineup. Her unique style and captivating stage presence captures the attention of audiences everywhere she performs. Her wide variety of characters brings a diverse energy to her routine.

Jessica appeared in her own LOGO special, *My Cookie's Gone* and LOGO's *New Now Next Best of 2009*. In late 2009, Jessica



starred in a television pilot, a talk show called *The Jessy K Show* executive produced by Zach Braff of *Scrubs* fame.

She has been featured on various television shows including, Comedy Central's *Premium Blend* and *Fresh Faces*; Nickelodeon's *Sixth in the Suburbs*; Noggin's *LOL*; VH1's *Awesomely Bad*; Showtime's *White Boyz in the Hood*; Oxygen's game show *Can You Tell?* and Bravo's *The Great Things About Being*, among other programs and networks.

Also in the lineup is gay pop superstar, TV

personality, and nightlife legend, "Gay Pimp" Jonny McGovern, currently a cast member of *The Big Gay Sketch Show* produced by Rosie O'Donnell for the LOGO television network.

Others scheduled to entertain are Boston's own Jujubee, competitor on LOGO television network reality show *RuPaul's Drag Races*, Khris F, Miss Kitty Litter, the self proclaimed "First Lady of Providence," and Sabrina Blaze, one of the most beloved girls of Providence as your Mistresses of Ceremony.

Out in the Park takes place at Six Flags New England in Agawam each September. It is billed as the "Ultimate GLBT Party." Held each year in September, Out In The Park is a

family friendly event for the GLBT community as well as family, friends, and supporters.

For more information and/or to buy tickets, visit: <http://outinthepark.info/>.

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Lambda Legal disappointed in imposed brief hold on Prop 8 ruling

LOS ANGELES, CA—Jennifer C. Pizer, National Marriage Project Director for Lambda Legal, issued the following statement in reaction to last week's decision from U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker to deny the stay of his historic ruling in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, but to pause the effect of his ruling until next Wednesday, August 18, at 5 p.m.:



"Although we're disappointed that Judge Walker elected today to give the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals a chance to consider the issue of the stay, we are gratified that he has denied the request to put his historic ruling on hold during any appeals. He has applied the standard legal tests in the standard way and reached the only logical conclusions given the overwhelming evidence produced at trial: Nobody is harmed—especially not the back-

ers of Prop 8—by restoring equality in marriage to California's same-sex couples. Nobody suffers when everyone is treated equally.

There's enough equality to go around.

"To maintain the stay, the Ninth Circuit will have to find that Prop 8's proponents are likely to win on appeal or will suffer irreparable harm if same-sex couples again are allowed to marry. But at this point, the truth is crystal clear, as last week's decision explains: the only people suffering harm are lesbian and gay couples whose constitutional rights are violated every day that Prop 8 remains in force, and who simply seek the same rights everyone else already enjoys."

For more information on this legislation, please visit: www.lambdalegal.org

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DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD: Timberlake plays gay again and Rosie and Oprah's alliance comes to fruition in 2011

ENTERTAINMENT

By: Romeo San Vicente*

Rosie's TV alliance with Oprah

Keep your friends close and your enemies closer. OK, maybe that's not what Oprah Winfrey's upstart cable network, OWN, has in mind by teaming with Rosie O'Donnell and picking up her new talk show for syndication. But it makes a lot of sense anyway. Back in the 1990s Rosie was Oprah's main competition for daytime ratings, so if she wants to come back to TV after leaving *The View* why not form an alliance where Oprah still gets to be the queen bee? Word is that the new show is all about being uplifting and that the angry political Rosie people have come to know and love/hate might take a backseat to her former "Queen of Nice" reputation. Can she go back? Do we want her to? Can't we have both at once, like the way you get with actual non-TV personality human beings? Find out when the show debuts in 2011.

It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia's "attacks" marriage equality

It was time for the funny, under-appreciated and politically incorrect sitcom *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* to attack the subject of marriage equality, so it's going to chew on both sides of the issue in its upcoming season's first two episodes. Rob McElhenney's character, in love with a transgender woman named



Romeo San Vicente

Carmen's "gay" marriage out of sheer jealousy. Meanwhile, straight characters marry on a whim and chaos ensues. And McElhenney personally knows the score on marriage equality: his own lesbian mother and her partner helped raise him. See the comedic skewering of this culture war when the new season premieres next month.

Justin Timberlake to play gay – and booger.

Does anyone have fond memories of the flop Lance Bass romantic-comedy *On the Line*? Does anyone even remember it? Well, if you do, you might also remember his fellow boy-band pal Justin Timberlake's cameo as a "flamboyant" makeup artist. It was a mercifully brief appearance and goes down the very road you think it does. Well, now Timberlake has a chance to play another gay character (and hit other notes besides the most generic sassy ones) on *The Cleveland Show*. He'll lend his

voice to the animated series as the boyfriend of Jason Sudeikis's (*30 Rock*) character Terry. In the same episode, Timberlake will also play a singing booger belonging to Cleveland's stepson. As there is no precedent for the nasal mucus role, Romeo is sure that whatever approach the pop star takes will be just fine. The episode is scheduled for February 2011.

Jane Wiedlin, Daniela Sea join cast of *Casserole Club*

Filmmaker Steve Balderson isn't playing it traditional in casting his upcoming feature *The Casserole Club*. Instead, for his period 1960s suburban dramedy about "desolation, unspoken desires" and the hosting of elaborate dinner parties, he's bringing together a group of actors that includes Jane Wiedlin of the Go-Go's and former *L Word* co-star Daniela Sea. Wiedlin's been exuberantly entertaining in a few films, like *Clue* and *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure* but has usually chosen to focus more on being the rock star she is. Sea has been in several bands, but is known for playing male on *L Word*. Wouldn't it be cool if they played a hetero couple here and Sea was the girly-girl and the pixie-ish, bisexual Wiedlin had five o'clock shadow? It would, but that's probably not how it's going to work out. In fact, there's no word at all on who their characters are, but shooting is scheduled to begin this fall. All will become clear soon enough. The film's website has some great cocktail and casserole recipes to distract you in the meantime.



PHOTO: UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Justin Timberlake

*Romeo San Vicente is hungry for turkey tetrazini. That's not a euphemism for anything either. He's really hungry for turkey tetrazini. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@gsyndicate.com.

Liberation from page 6

that will be revealed." Do his actions make him a traitor? Possibly. But the question must be asked, what is so bad about being a traitor when your military is committing war crimes in its ever expanding imperialist agenda?

How are we, LGBTQ people, supposed to react to this situation? Those struggling to repeal DADT are desperately trying to explain away Manning's sexual orientation as part of why he would have taken these actions. There are those on the "right" who are angry at Manning for his actions and use his sexual orientation as their ammunition to justify the continuation of DADT. I think it is possible that Manning's experience of oppression as a queer person made him more compassionate and aware of what injustice looks like. It is possible that because of his queerness Manning knew

that the injustice of the U.S. military needed to be exposed, regardless of the consequences he would experience. The military hides the truth over and over again. As Manning was opening up more about who he was it is possible that he found it necessary to open the military's closet doors as well, exposing the truth of who they are. I cannot speak for Manning, though I do plan on writing to him and hopefully learning more about who he is, but I can speak for myself and I believe his actions were incredibly brave. As a queer person I know that my liberation is tied to the liberation of all people and as long as the U.S. military is occupying the world and hiding their vile actions, I am not truly free. I applaud Manning in his actions to help make us all more free by exposing us to more of the truth.



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Modern Man: Jesse Tyler Ferguson on hit's sophomore season, the controversial kiss and Nathan Lane's kooky cameo

By: Chris Azzopardi/TRT Special

First kisses are always a big deal, and clearly that's been true for two *Modern Family* fathers. The ABC sitcom hit a home run during its debut season last year, garnering critical kudos, healthy ratings and Emmy love for its funny family romp. But the gay parents, Cameron and Mitchell (played respectively by Eric Stonestreet and Jesse Tyler Ferguson), have yet to reach first base.

The lack of lip action prompted frustrated fans to launch a kiss-pushing Facebook campaign, but Ferguson, who plays the series' uptight lawyer, assures us it's finally happening this season, premiering Sept. 22. Ferguson, on the way to the *Modern Family* set in L.A., also chatted about risking his career for this role, Nathan Lane's crazy-and-queer parties, whether there will be a Cam-Mitchell marriage and how the sitcom changed his life.

CA: What's it like to be back on the *Modern Family* set?

JTF: You know, honestly, there hasn't been a job that I've enjoyed more than this. It really does feel like a family reunion every time we get back together.

CA: How has the show changed your life?

JTF: I have no anonymity anymore. It's funny, because when I did *The Class*, (director)

James Burrows said to the cast, "You have to say goodbye to your anonymity. It's going to be different. I saw this happen with *Will & Grace* and *Friends*." We were kind of terrified, actually. And then the show got canceled, and my anonymity stayed fairly intact. So I'm now experiencing that.

CA: You're single – has it helped in the dating department?

JTF: (Laughs) It's actually been harder! I have a lot of people who I think are hitting on me, but then it ends up that they just want to be friends. It's just hard to tell people's intentions.

CA: Who'd be your type: Cam or Mitchell?

JTF: Oh gosh! It seems wrong to say Mitchell, but I definitely like Cam. He'd be a lot of fun to date, actually. If I could find an Eric Stonestreet-type who wants to date me, that could be great.

CA: *Modern Family* has become a monster hit among gay audiences, even picking up GLSEN and GLAAD honors. How do you feel that the show has been a positive influence for gay and lesbian people, especially parents?

JTF: Gosh, I mean it's really hit very close to home because I have parents who also found it challenging at times. I have a gay sibling as well, and it's been hard for my parents, so I think it's been really helpful for them to see

their son, not just on TV in a gay relationship, but able to be more open and out in the community in real life as well.

There are a lot of great TV shows that are just sort of putting it out there. They're not "gay" characters; they're just great characters who happen to be gay, just operating among society like they do in real life. It's really great for families who maybe have a challenging time with that. I wish there was a reference point like *Modern Family* or *Glee* to show my parents when I was a kid – and to reassure me as well.

CA: Your parents, particularly your father, had a hard time with your sexuality, as you noted in *Out Magazine*. What was it like for them – and him, especially – to see you on the cover of *Out*?

JTF: It was challenging for him, but also really exciting. He was sort of confused because I made reference to the Jonas Brothers and having crushes on all of them. It means what it says! They're handsome men!

He's a funny little guy. He hasn't grown up in the entertainment industry, so with my Emmy Award nomination (for Outstanding Supporting Role in a Comedy Series), he asked, "How does that come to be?" It needs to be broken down for him, and that's OK. I'm willing to take those steps with him.

CA: The Cam-Mitchell kiss is a hot topic lately. When will it happen? And is there really a wedding in the works?

JTF: First of all, with the kiss thing, it's been built up to a kissing episode – and I have to say, it's not going to be an episode about kissing. (*Glee* creator) Ryan Murphy criticized us, saying that it shouldn't be this big thing, and he sort of didn't have his facts right because it's



PHOTO: ABC TELEVISION

Eric Stonestreet and Jesse Tyler Ferguson play gay parents on ABC's *Modern Family*.

not going to be this big thing. The Facebook campaign and all these people rabidly excited about the kiss are what's made it a big thing. There's a big PDA episode that deals with public displays of affection in general, but the kiss might not even be a part of that episode. We're trying to integrate it in a way that's just very natural.

And with the gay marriage, we were just so excited about Proposition 8, but we certainly don't have a wedding episode planned. We hope to be on the air for a very long time, so we don't want to put all the eggs in Season 2's basket and then not have any stories to tell.

See Ferguson on page 8



PHOTO: ABC TELEVISION

The cast of *Modern Family*



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Obvious from page 2

When Bazile issued his 1959 ruling, however, he was stating what was obvious for millions of Americans at the time: People should marry within their own race. Indeed, a 1958 Gallup poll found that 94 percent of Americans disapproved of interracial marriage. In 1968, one year after the Supreme Court banned anti-miscegenation laws, a Gallup poll found that 72 percent of Americans opposed interracial marriage. The first poll finding a majority of Americans approving of such marriages (48 to 42 percent) wasn't recorded until 1991.

Last week, U.S. District Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker issued a ruling finding that same-sex couples should be permitted to marry. While there have been three state high court rulings in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Iowa finding that lesbian and gay couples have the right to wed, none did so by stating the obvious the way Walker did.

Here are four of my favorite examples from Walker's ruling in which he directly answers some of the more absurd claims made by opponents of marriage equality over the years, but which have largely gone unanswered in court:

Claim: Lesbian and gay people already have the right to marry.

Walker's answer: "Marrying a person of the opposite sex is an unrealistic option for gay and lesbian individuals."

Claim: Lesbian and gay couples want special rights that do not currently exist.

Walker's answer: "Plaintiffs do not seek recognition of a new right. To characterize plaintiffs' objective as 'the right to same-sex marriage' would suggest that plaintiffs seek

something different from what opposite-sex couples across the state enjoy – namely, marriage. Rather, plaintiffs ask California to recognize their relationships for what they are: marriages."

Claim: We have nothing against lesbian and gay couples. We are not targeting them.

Walker's answer: "Proponents argue that Proposition 8 does not target gays and lesbians because its language does not refer to them. In so arguing, proponents seek to mask their own initiative. Those who choose to marry someone of the opposite sex – heterosexuals – do not have their choice of marital partner restricted by Proposition 8. Those who would choose to marry someone of the same sex – homosexuals – have had their right to marry eliminated by an amendment to the state constitution."

Claim: Allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry will destabilize the institution.

Walker's answer: "To the extent proponents seek to encourage a norm that sexual activity occur within marriage to ensure that reproduction occur within stable households, Proposition 8 discourages that norm because it requires some sexual activity and child-bearing and child-rearing to occur outside marriage."

Walker's ruling will likely be appealed and may ultimately end up before the U.S. Supreme Court. That will take years. In the meantime, though, the fact that the obvious has been articulated in a federal court ruling marks a tipping point in favor of equality. There is no going back.

**Susan Ryan-Vollmar is a media relations and communications consultant. She lives in Arlington with her family.*

Ferguson from page 7

CA: While we're on the topic of eggs, is there another baby on the way?

JTF: I would be thrilled with a second kid in the future, but I don't think it will happen this season. Honestly, as an actor, I don't know if I can handle another kid right now (laughs). It's enough when we have the twins (who both play their daughter, Lily) on the set. I play with both of them and look at their parents and I'm like, "How do you do this all the time?"

CA: How will Nathan Lane play into Cam and Mitchell's lives in Season 2?

JTF: He's our older, gay and flamboyant friend who throws these very eccentric themed parties, such as the "Studio Fifty-Fourth of July Party." In this episode he's throwing his "Oscar Wilde and Crazy Brunch Party" and we have to all dress up in Oscar Wilde gear, and we're trying to get out of going to these parties but he's very sensitive about people who cancel on him. It's a really funny episode, and he's perfect for this part.

CA: Have you given Eric tips on playing gay? I know he's got the "z-snap" down.

JTF: That's never happened again – which is good. But Eric is doing such a fantastic job, and he understands the workings of Cameron so well that I would never even attempt to offer any advice. All of his instincts are always spot on.



PHOTO: ABC TELEVISION

CA: You recently were in some Central Park productions, *The Merchant of Venice* with Al Pacino and *The Winter's Tale*. What's it like moving between theater and TV?

JTF: My roots are in the theater, so it was harder going from theater to my first sitcom. I love the immediate response from the (theater) audience. But on a show, you don't know if something's funny because no one's allowed to laugh and you're working very closely and very quietly and very intimately with the other actors.

CA: After playing gay on Fox's short-lived 2008 show *Do Not Disturb* and again now on *Modern Family*, do you fear being typecast?

JTF: Honestly, no. I would never have given up the opportunity to play Mitchell because of that fear. It's been interesting, because *Do Not Disturb* was not successful at all. It's interesting to see how playing gay on one sitcom just did not work and here it's working brilliantly. I'm happy to have the opportunity to play gay on a sitcom that is working so well, and I just can't worry about being typecast.

CA: Even gayer than either rendition of Lady Gaga's "Alejandro" on YouTube. Are you inspired to take that further?

JTF: I'm trying to put together a show. It's probably going to be a pretty gay show, actually. Gaga musical theater, that's what you can expect.

Lezlee Anne performs at Oasis Coffee House

Story & Photos By: Glenn Koetzner*/
TRT Contributor

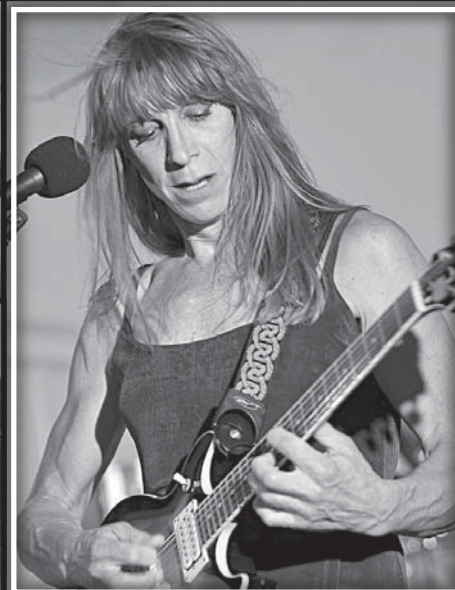
Vickie Boisseau told Lezlee Anne Rios over a year ago that she was going to put together an all trans show, and two Friday's ago she made that show a reality at the Oasis Coffee House and Gallery in Waltham, and all of her work paid off. The Oasis is housed in the First Presbyterian Church of Waltham, and it is a warm, intimate and comfortable venue with plenty of seating and performance space. Lezlee Anne was the headliner and as the consummate perfectionist, she spent well over an hour before the show working with Vickie on the sound-

boards to get just the levels she wanted.

For Vickie, being the host, technical advisor and promoter for the event wasn't the end of it. She started off the night with a poem-in-progress on living as a proud intersexed person. It was a great lead-in to the night, especially with two spoken word artists, Lorelei Erisis and Tammy Twotone, scheduled to perform. Lorelei opened with a seven-minute version of her improv piece "My Entire Life and Transition in under Five Minutes." Right after it, Lezlee Anne and her band (Brent Nielsen on bass and Penelope Larson on drums) took the stage and performed a great set including

covers and original music from Lezlee Anne's *Queen of the World* CD. They were sounded great in the intimate room. Tammy Twotone broke from her stand-up routine and totally improvised a sing-along, bringing Lorelei and Lezlee Anne up on stage to help out. Lezlee Anne finished out the evening with more original music and great solos from Brent and Penny. The diverse crowd, with people coming from New Hampshire to Connecticut, obviously enjoyed the evening, waiting around afterward for autographs and signed CD's.

**Glenn Koetzner is a freelance photographer/writer working from the foothills of the Berkshires in Sharon CT.*



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Because watching Empowers: VMF offers clarity and transformation

By: Christine Nico/TRT Feature Reporter

Video Mirror Feedback® (VMF), a phrase and approach coined by local communication coach, Carlyn Saltman, was established to help people understand themselves in a holistic manner and learn to communicate more effectively. Such an approach leads to self-empowerment and healthy relationships in virtually any setting.

"VMF is a unique blend of mindfulness-based coaching and the constructive use of short-video clips to make it comfortable for people to more objectively see their strengths and skills, as well as the patterns holding them back from relating more effectively with others," said Saltman, Communication Coach and Founder, Video Mirror Feedback.

According to Saltman, there are numerous reasons to participate in VMF. Through video viewing, she explained, clients are able to witness their desirable qualities, see and hear differences with what is communicated verbally and through body language, and recognize old thought patterns that block trust, empathy, connection, motivation, and confidence. Examining oneself practicing new techniques and how they affect perception helps to transform trapped energy into empowerment.

"Most people don't know how they come across in personal and professional situations," she said. "Think about how often we have misunderstandings. That is, at least partly, because we don't know how we're perceived by others. Seeing yourself in short video clips with professional support can accelerate our ability to bridge the gap between what we *think* we're conveying and what the person listening actually *understands*."

Video playback, the generic terminology for Saltman's approach, has been used since the early 1960's in many professional settings, including psychotherapy and sales.

"It was fascinating to find out that dozens of researchers before me, many of them doctors and PhD's at prestigious institutions, had studied the impact of video playback and gotten results that demonstrated how effective it can be when used by a skilled practitioner," she said.

As an experienced documentary filmmaker with training in Psychosynthesis Counseling, Mindfulness, Conscious Communication, and Non-Violent Communication, Saltman attributes her VMF success to her collaborative 30-year education and the way it combines visual and energetic sensitivity.

Clients reflect on their VMF experience via

"I saw myself in an entirely new light; articulate, effortful, engaged among other qualities I value ... Although gender is still a quagmire for me as a woman who grew up tomboy and lesbian ... I came away with both sadness and clarity around my gender identity."

— Bett Farber, Northampton

Saltman's website. One anonymous testimonial describes how video feedback transformed her life.

"It helped me accept my situation ... It reminded me that it just *is*, without judgment and that I am able to 'hold' the mirror of what I saw during my Video Mirror session ... the beauty, the struggle, the pain, the intelligence ... with compassion and equanimity as a grounded 'reality,' not just a fleeting possibility."

"VMF can benefit anyone who is struggling to be and love themselves," Saltman said.

In addition to several testimonials noted on Saltman's website, she has also experienced positive change by participating in VMF.

"Five years ago, my husband and I filmed ourselves in a couple's session," she said. "The instant, vivid feedback that was mirrored back motivated us to communicate differently with each other. Within days, we were enjoying each other's company more and finding that it wasn't as difficult as we thought it would be. That feedback continues to affect our choices to this day. Anyone who wants to have less stressful relationships at home and work needs to know their inner truth and how to express it clearly – both verbally AND non-verbally."

In addition to personal relationships, business professionals are discovering the benefits of VMF.

"Better communication means shorter meetings, fewer misunderstandings, and higher



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARLYN SALTMAN

Saltman reviews a recorded session with family physician and BU School of Medicine professor to determine how VMF can be used to train medical students to be more present and compassionate healers.

productivity. I am currently working with an HR director of a large firm in Boston where VMF sessions will be offered to directors and senior directors over the course of a year as part of each executive's individual development plan," Saltman said.

Recently, Saltman has been working with another large-scale company that must remain anonymous due to confidentiality issues. By utilizing VMF for one of their Human Resource managers, positive transformation resulted, she explained.

"The manager identified a specific challenge to work on and we had a very productive private session focused on helping her speak more confidently and concisely in meetings

See VMF on page 17

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Book Marks: Historical account of black lesbians and feminists, *Where My Girls At?*

By: Richard Labonte*

"Where My Girls At?" Women in Blacklight 1979-1985, edited by Sidney Brinkley. Blacklight, 116 pages, \$18.95 paper.

Brinkley, who edited the D.C.-based magazine *Blacklight* from 1979 to 1986, culled his archives for this evocative history of Black lesbians and feminists. It's an eclectic collection: fiction and poetry by filmmaker Michelle Parkerson, poetry and a coming-out account by Chiquita "Joe" Bass, essays by S. Diane Bogus (on Black lesbian invisibility) and Rev. Renee McCoy (on the failure of the Black church), and two interviews by Joseph Beam, editor of the groundbreaking Black gay anthology *In the Life*. The first is a "conversation" with musician Linda Tillery, who shared stages with the likes of Buddy Miles, Iron Butterfly and Janis Joplin before launching her Olivia Records career; the second – the only piece that didn't originally appear in the magazine, though Brinkley notes he has no idea why it wasn't published – records an insightful encounter with poet and essayist Audre Lorde. Reports on Black lesbian conferences in 1980 and 1981 are potent reminders that the queer community gains of recent years are the direct result of the early cultural and political activism showcased here.

The Bucolic Plague: How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers, by Josh Kilmer-Purcell. HarperCollins, 320 pages, \$24.99 hardcover.

One of the Manhattanites of the title is a retired drag queen with a flourishing career in advertising, and the other is a physician in the employ of Martha Stewart. Which is why this rollicking memoir opens with a belly-laugh description of poo-covered baby goats making an appearance on Stewart's TV show – it's all about marketing the men's goat-milk soap. And it all started when Kilmer-Purcell and his partner Brent Ridge, on the spur of the moment, bought a centuries-old mansion in rustic upstate New York. The mansion and its acres came

with a caretaker, and the caretaker raised goats, and goats produce milk – and a business was born. Kilmer-Purcell's account of city boys settling into a rural setting – quite a gay-friendly one, however – has no end of hilarious high points. But there's a serious side to the story, too; the stress of holding down day jobs during the week while handling farm chores on weekends while launching an online business takes a toll on their relationship, a reality the author never shies away from.



PHOTO: HARPER BOOKS

The Bucolic Plague

Inseparable: Desire Between Women in Literature, by Emma Donoghue. Alfred A. Knopf, 271 pages, \$27.95 hardcover.

There's more to lesbian lit than Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* or Patricia Highsmith's *The Price of Salt* – and novelist Donoghue (*Slammerkin* and the forthcoming *Room*) has done the research to prove it. With completely accessible (and often witty) prose married to rigorous academic research, this is a treasure trove focused on writing about girl-girl relationships from the medieval to the modern. Donoghue's reach is broad, encompassing everything from Agatha Christie to the Marquis de Sade, H. Rider Haggard to

Henry James, and Ovid to Ann Bannon, invoking the faintest of crushes as much as the most intense of lesbian gazes. Somewhat fancifully – though it does provide colorful structure – the book breaks lavender-hued prose into what the author calls "perennially popular" plots, including Travesties (cross-dressing that leads to accidental same-sex desire) and Monsters (wicked women). A chronological listing of book titles is useful for readers who want to graze the centuries of prose that Donoghue has uncovered, writing that ranges from the heights of Shakespeare and Jane Eyre to some truly horrific potboilers.

*Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-'70s. He can be reached in care of this publication or at BookMarks@qsyndicate.com.

Varrrooom! Biker Chicz television series roars to a start next month

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

The first episode of *Biker Chicz* will be aired at Kowloons Saugus - Comedy Connection on September 26.

The docu-reality television series features the colorful, entertaining and engaging women who are members of an all-female Boston-based motorcycle club known as the *East Coast Biker Chicks* (ECBC).

Portions of the show were shot at Laconia Bike Week in Laconia, New Hampshire, and throughout eastern Massachusetts. The women will be filming scenes at the Women's Fusion Pool Party at Randolph Country Club later this month.

Lucky Belcamino, president of *East Coast Biker Chicks*, notes that bikers have been portrayed in an unflattering light in films and on television. *Biker Chicz* is aiming to change people's perceptions of bikers.

"We're trying to represent bikers, male and female, in a positive way," said Belcamino. "We're all sisters, we're all family members, we all own businesses or own all our own homes, taxpayers, neighbors, and we do a lot for charity."

The group, which was formed in 2003, has members living in southern Maine, Rhode Island, southern New Hampshire, eastern Massachusetts, eastern Connecticut, southern Vermont and Pennsylvania.

The show is being produced

by Edward Winterhalder, a biker personality and author who has been riding Harleys since 1974. One of the world's leading authorities on bikers, motorcycle clubs and the Harley-Davidson biker lifestyle, his books about the biker lifestyle are published in multiple languages and sold all over the world.

"Because I have lived the biker lifestyle myself for more than thirty-five years, I feel confident that I can accurately capture for TV what really goes on in the life of a biker on a day-to-day basis," he said.

Belcamino said three networks have expressed interest in airing the show, and is hopeful one of them will pick up *Biker Chicz* for broadcast soon.

For more information, visit *East Coast Biker Chicks* on Facebook at: bikerchicz or email the club at ecbc13@gmail.com.

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Bullseye: Human Rights Campaign is perfect target, not the best buy

By: **Mikey Rox***/Opinion Columnist

Somebody call Tom Cruise. The Human Rights Campaign is on a Mission: Impossible.

Its goal? To convince two of the world's largest corporations, Target and Best Buy, to donate a combined quarter-million dollars to pro-equality candidates in Minnesota after the retail behemoths contributed an equal

amount to MN Forward, a right-wing political action committee that backs anti-equality gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer.

In the past week, pressure has mounted against the consumer juggernauts as the HRC continues to lead a charge intended to shame both outlets into giving funds to politicians who work on behalf of equal rights. As if that's supposed to "right" the "wrong."

Of course, I'm not surprised that the HRC would suggest a dollar-for-dollar approach to call off the queer uprising. Especially since the HRC's own agenda is fueled by greed and crispy greenbacks. Yep, you read it right. HRC president Joe Solmonese and his holier-than-thou "activists" are as shady as those at whom they shake their fingers. And they should be ashamed of themselves.

While HRC proper is a 501(c)(4) group – a distinction that allows it to lobby on Capitol Hill but keep the identities of its donors private – the HRC Foundation, the "charitable" arm of the HRC isn't exactly a model of efficiency or full disclosure.

Consider, for instance, that the Foundation

spends nearly 30% of its net income on administrative and fundraising expenses combined, according to Charity Navigator, the most-utilized and trusted evaluator of charities. What does that mean? For starters, it means that \$1.3 million dollars is spent to pay inflated salaries, while another \$1.3 million is spent on the junk mail that carries your "free" sticker.

Let us not overlook either that both companies were featured in the HRC's Best Places to Work 2010, listed among the "top businesses that support equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees."

What's even more suspect is that there's no reported compensation for Betsy Pursell, HRC vice president of public education and outreach, on CharityNavigator.com, whereas like-

minded equal-rights organizations, such as the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), dutifully disclose how much they pay their head honchos.

Where the HRC gets off scolding Best Buy and Target is beyond me. As a business, the HRC makes business decisions too, like choosing not to compensate its hardworking volunteers – the men and women who canvass the streets in extreme heat and cold to spread the pro-equality message. I dare anyone to ask how much Solmonese gets paid to sit in his cushy office while his underpaid and, in some cases, unpaid minions do the grunt work. In fact, I double dare you. And I want to be there when you fall out of your chair in disbelief.

It goes without saying that I'm siding with Best Buy and Target on this one. But not just because I think the HRC is a crock.

I'm Team Target because the numbers don't

lie. Target is one of the most philanthropic companies in the nation, and it gives more than \$3 million each week – each week! – to the communities in which it operates. And I'm Team Best Buy because the consumer electronics retailer donates up to 1.5 percent of pretax earnings to support national organizations like the United Way and American Red Cross, as well as funding scholarship and other community initiatives throughout the country.

Let us not overlook either that both companies were featured in the HRC's Best Places to Work 2010, listed among the "top businesses that support equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees."

None of that matters to the HRC, though. Still, despite the HRC's smear campaign, Target and Best Buy are sticking to their positions of support for MN Forward and Emmer, because at the end of the day both corporations have to protect their bottom lines – two of which include providing top-quality merchandise to Americans at affordable prices and providing jobs. Lots of jobs. Target defended itself best in response to a letter from an outraged customer – both of which were posted on Queerty.com – when it said, "Our support of causes and candidates is based strictly on issues that affect our retail and business objectives" and "MN Forward's objective is to elect candidates from both parties who will make job creation and economic growth a top priority."

Right on. Jeremy Bentham would agree.

He's the dead English philosopher who advocated and made popular an idea called utilitarianism – that is, choosing an action based on the greatest good for the greatest number of people. I believe that's what's happening here.

Target and Best Buy aren't stupid; they don't take their political decisions lightly. One must assume that they knew what they were getting into. One must also trust that theirs was a strategic decision that in the long run will benefit more people than it will put off.

By now, however, you've probably made up your mind to boycott both establishments because the venerable HRC told you to. But I hope you'll permit these three words: Beware the propaganda.

The HRC has an agenda, too – and as much as you think it's advocating for equal rights, it's equally intent on raising a ton of cash. Because Solmonese doesn't get paid in rainbows and unicorns. If you think that statement's false, take a good

long look at the bold blue "Donate Today" button on the bottom of your HRC e-mails.

Why is it there? Because money – not idealism – makes the world go 'round.

At least Target and Best Buy admit it.

**Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer and journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriting and creative consulting company in New York City. He can be reached at mikey@paperroxscissors.com.*



NEW ENGLAND TRANS UNITED

with Grand Marshall
Monica Roberts

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newenglandtransunited2010.org

This is my life, these are my circumstances, this is who I am!

Trans Opinions & More

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw* /TRT Columnist
I was checking out Facebook the other night and I came across a girl who was confused about whether to transition to living full time as a woman or not. This situation comes up as the person is really starting to think about who they really are. They might have always loved cross-dressing and going out and having fun expressing but now it seems different.

Sure there were laughs and smiles and fun and such but now that suddenly seems rather thin. Oh, it's still fun and such but it no longer carries the shine that it had before as "in the old days." Now things seem a bit murkier. The luster has somewhat gone but now something different remains. Something not so spectacular but something very basic, very close to the heart. They have moved from being a wild, fun loving carefree cross dresser into thinking seriously about transitioning to living full time as the other gender! We are talking about a major change in one's life!

Naturally questions arise. "Do I really need to transition?" "If I do, can I handle it?" "What will my family say?" "What will my friends say?" "What will my coworkers and boss say?" There are questions like these and many more. There are so many things to think about if you are considering such a change.

I will share what I found with the good and the bad of transitioning.

It feels great finally being who you are but



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

seeing some people out of your past can sometimes be very difficult. Chances are very good that they've heard about your change. They might have questions of their own. "What do you mean he's a woman now? What do you mean he's always been a woman? His name is Deja now? He has breasts now? ..."

Yes, it's now time to re-meet the people in your life! Now say 'Hi Dad, hi Mom, hi Uncle Bill, hi Aunt Mary, hello my former Little League baseball coach, hi former high school teacher, hi former classmates, hello old friends' and if your grandparents are still around don't forget to say hi to them! Oh and if you have children don't forget to say hi to your son and your daughter! Wait! How about your childhood friends? How about your best man or maid of honor? The list goes on and on. They are looking at you and instead of wearing a suit and tie you now have a skirt on with a pretty top and you are wearing makeup. Hi everyone!...Oh Lord! This gender change stuff isn't for the weak!

Lots of folks will say that they are happy for you but most of these folks would rather that you stayed as you were. A few may sort of understand you. Most really don't.

While I'm on the uncomfortable aspects of transitioning to one's true gender one cannot rule out the snickers and occasional side com-

ments you encounter from others as you go about your daily life. It's very hard to present as female when you've had many decades of testosterone constantly running through your body. Transsexual hormone therapy does feminize one's appearance but can only do so much. Many of us transwomen are tall, have big shoulders, big hands, large feet and small derrieres. It's very hard not to stick out sometimes.

Even if you have your female appearance covered pretty well there is always the many computer databases that have so much information on all of us. Your work history, your school history, your credit history, etc., all will have traces of your former life in the other gender.

You can move a thousand miles away but when you apply for an auto or home loan your past shows up. There is absolutely nothing that you can do about that.

Another obstacle one must get used to is still being referred to as sir or he or even by your old name. This is particularly unsettling as you are embarking on your new life. You want to move on but sometimes the pronouns just bother you like continual, pesky insects. The pronouns may diminish a bit as time goes on but you talking on the phone will pretty much keep the "sirs" coming. It's very hard to find your "female voice" so many of us just simply use our natural voice and over the phone and the

average person cannot detect that the person is a transwoman. To them we sound like men and we are addressed as such. Here we are trying to forge ahead with our female identities and the dreadful pronoun bullets still keep coming. Lord, it does wear away at you at times!

Those are the basic obstacles that one must constantly deal with while living the transsexual life, especially the transwomen. It can be very tough on you but you have to find ways to deal with it or it will drive you crazy, believe me!

All these new things to deal with are definitely a lot to deal with especially on top of all the other "regular" things that you and everyone else have to deal with in life. It's

not easy when one changes genders!

One might think that why anyone would put themselves through these added situations but the payoff in changing to your true gender is powerful. Once you change you have this incredible peace that was always lacking in your life. Oh, we may have seemed happy living in our birth genders but if you could add up all the time that we were secretly thinking about living as the other gender it would be mind boggling. I would estimate that half of my life I was constantly thinking about it. It consumed me and until I made the move to live in my true gender it constantly gnawed away at me, depressed

See Who I Am on page 14

Ask a Transwoman: Perils of online dating make finding a real date a trying experience

By: Lorelei Erisis* /TRT Columnist

Dear Lorelei,

I need some tranny dating advice for a friend of mine and I thought that you would be just the girl to help me. My friend D----- is a lovely trans girl who recently went on to fairlyheteronormativedatingsite.com (Original site name redacted in a rare attempt by the columnist to be journalistically responsible. -LE) and posted her page and then they removed it. She was very upset about it. Their site didn't say transgendered people were not welcome. Is there an official LGBT type of page for her out there to meet a nice guy who won't judge her? She felt like she was being punished for being honest. Where do all the cute tranny girls go to get a date?

—Pam from California

Well my querying friend, I would love to come out all serious and scholarly on this one, but I'm afraid that's just not how a discussion of dating is going to go. Even as I type this, sitting in The Haymarket Café in downtown Northampton, I have become deliciously distracted by a beautiful, tall, kinda James Dean looking boy leaning against the counter waiting for a drink (I hope the barista takes their time...).

Even with all my experience and in-depth knowledge of gender issues and practical sexuality I still become a flirty 16-year-old girl when I see a cute guy. My hair comes down out of the "hard at work" ponytail and all I can do is smile shyly.

And there we have the problem. Dating is not strictly a logical, by the numbers kind of thing.

We want there to be an effective formula or some hard set of rules. But anytime the heart and the hormones get involved, even the best and the brightest of us sometimes make strange

choices.

One of those strange choices being Internet dating itself! On the surface of it, it flies in the face of all logic. Or rather, it tries to use logic where body language, personal connections and pheromones usually rule. That said, lots of people do it and I'm told a great many of them are even successful!

Now for full disclosure, I'd love to say that I've dived into the world of Internet dating simply in the service of my lovely readership, to bring you, "Just the facts Ma'am." But, that would be an outright lie. I've set up profiles on a number of sites over the years. From perverted to Pollyanna, pretty much across the spectrum. Because, like many of you, I like to have a little romance in my life as well as a good sexy time every so often!

I'm sorry to hear about your friend and though I chose to leave out the name of the site she was rejected from, simply because I don't have original source confirmation, it doesn't surprise me to hear of her trouble. Transgender dating is a strange frontier that represents a tremendous amount of grey areas and misconceptions. One of which is that if we are being "Out" about our trans-status, then we are quite possibly a sex worker. Which is a painful, offensive and far too common misperception.

I cannot say for sure that this is what happened to your friend, but it wouldn't surprise me either. In my own experience, on every single website I have ever joined as an out transwoman, I have received messages from men who, no matter how clear I am about who I am and what I'm looking for in my profile description, still assume I must be looking for a "pro-

fessional" good time. To these men (and it has been 100 percent exclusively men) the fact that I'm not ashamed to be a transwoman means I must be a sex worker.

Now, people who know me well know that I have absolutely nothing against sex workers. I have many friends and acquaintances that choose this work and know many more that have had no other option to support themselves. I support rights for sex workers and tolerance of that choice.

However, I could write a dating profile that reads simply: "Attractive, fun and intelligent transgender woman looking for PG-Rated companionship. Likes movies, ice cream sodas and a kiss goodnight on the front porch. I am not a sex worker of any kind." And I would still get an email like this actual verbatim email from my OKCupid profile:

"hey doll how much for a date I'm willing to pay for clean companionship." Just that. Not even the courtesy of capitalization or a question mark at the end! Needless to say, my reply was unprintable. Similarly, I won't even attempt to print any of the replies I received to an attempt at a fairly tame and straightforward Craigslist dating post. And I could make a flip book from all the unsolicited pictures of men's genitalia to be found in my inboxes.

The only thing I can say for these responses is that at least they're easy to weed out. They aren't going to get me all excited and aflutter at the prospect of a

fun date. The ones I really can't stand, are the guys who sound super nice and well-adjusted and then when I say, "OK, let's get together!" They completely chicken out and disappear completely. They are too afraid of their own desires to follow through.

And speaking of being afraid ... I myself fear the wrath of my editor, so here ends part 1 of my column/rant on transgender dating! See you all in just a couple weeks with the exciting and informative conclusion!

Until then, keep those questions coming and be good to each other.

Slainte!

*Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009. She can be contacted at: loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.



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Hartford mayor's rise to power came from community core

By: Natalia Muñoz*/TRT Asst. Editor & Reporter
HARTFORD, CT—In retrospect, it seems inevitable that Pedro Segarra would become mayor of a major city.

But not because he went after all the right jobs and rubbed elbows with all moneyed people, which is a common career track for politicians. But because as a lawyer he did a lot of pro bono work and as a man he did a lot of community service in Hartford. Organizations such as the drug rehabilitation programs "Hogar Crea" and the Connecticut Latina/os Achieving Rights & Opportunities (Claro), a nonprofit that advocates equality for LGBT community are just two institutions that Segarra has supported.

Previously, Segarra was Hartford City Council president, until by city charter he inherited the seat vacated in June by the conviction of then-Mayor Eddie Pérez on several corruption charges. Segarra will serve through November 2011, at which time there will be an election held.

But he is not talking about whether he will run or not. There are no campaigns underway or fund-raisers. In fact, in another interview he even encouraged others to think about entering the political arena in 2011.

Coming from a culture in which religion and its attending anti-gay doctrines often frames how gays are mistreated, Segarra points to a loving family, from his grandparents to niece and nephews.

Instead, he and his team – "I have good people on the staff" – are focused on pulling Hartford residents and businesses out of the "critical situation" the city faces as a result of the worst national economic crisis since the 1930s Great Depression.

The second Puerto Rican mayor of Hartford is also the first openly gay mayor. Coming from a culture in which religion and its attending anti-gay doctrines often frames how gays are mistreated, Segarra points to a loving family, from his grandparents to niece and nephews.

He came out in his 20s by informing his family that there are two kinds of men: those who love women and want to be with them and those who just love women.

It is that genuine easy-going touch that is part of why he is a respected mayor in a state that has seen some of its top elected officials fall on their misdeeds (i.e., Pérez, disgraced former Gov. John G. Rowland, who resigned in 2004 and served 10 months in federal prison after admitting he traded political access for vacations and repairs to his lakeside cottage).

Additionally, the fact that he is gay has

served as a teachable moment to people who otherwise would have kept their minds closed.

"I have been in situations in political life that haven't been all fluffy, nice and sweet," he said. But, after seeing him in action at already countless community events and watching him work long hours to strengthen the city, "A lot of people have changed their viewpoint."

He credits the generation of young people with helping to set a new tone regarding civil rights. At the same time, the Latino and LGBT communities are forging stronger ties.

As a native of Puerto Rico, Segarra's ties to the island are strong.

One of a only handful of people born in Maricao, Segarra is immensely proud of his birthplace. Back in the day, most babies were born in the hospital in the nearby city of Mayaguez because Maricao, with a small population – even today, it counts

just over 6,000 residents – did not have natal facilities. His family is there, his stories are nestled in the mountains of the southwestern town.

"I'm in that soil," he said.

He visits Maricao at least once a year to keep up with the large family; he is one of 42 grandchildren.

His character comes firmly from his family, whose elders are proud and loving. He mentions his grandparents, don Arciclo Romero

and doña Ursula Mejías and his mother – who defied the convention that doctors are gods and cannot be talked back to – and slapped the physician who insulted her when she was giving birth to Segarra by ordering her to keep quiet.

Now 51, Segarra continues to live as he was taught, by giving back to the community and encouraging others to do the same.

"I'm trying to bring balance to the city. In this critical economic times it's going to take partnerships and civic engagement," he said.



PHOTO: HARTFORD CITY HALL
Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra

Who I Am from page 13

me and left me wondering if I could go on living and never dealing with my gender issues. Could I go to my grave without ever exploring my inner self?

But when I made my change suddenly this inner peace came over me and I could feel a sense of contentment. It's like living your life in a box then suddenly you burst out and are living out in the open! You finally broke free! All the inner torment, confusion, pain, denial, shame and suffering is gone. Now you are ready to go out and live like you never could before. It's an incredible personal development. I wish everyone could find this level of joy and inner peace in their lives.

So I briefly ran through the good and bad of transition as I see it and feel it. No, it's not easy and no, things are not always great and wonderful but that is the tradeoff for finally being who I am. This is my life, these are my circumstances, and this is who I am. I look at it all with one of my favorite sayings about life, "It is what it is." and I wouldn't trade it for the world.

**Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has 3 grown children and works at a local Fortune 500 company. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.*

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The Queer Carnevale Guide 2010 is produced by The Rainbow Times for the LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts, a 501(c)(3) pending organization established to improve and preserve the well-being of LGBT and Queer-identified people through education, advocacy, and outreach programs. This semi-glossy magazine-like guide will be distributed in The Rainbow Times' Sept. 16, 2010 edition and will also be available at Queer Carnevale on Sept. 25th. The Rainbow Times has a readership of approximately 65,000 throughout MA, CT, VT, RI & other parts of New England.

Fenway Institute receives \$2.2 million, 5-year CDC grant to support HIV prevention for gay and bisexual men

EASTERN MA

BOSTON, MA—The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have awarded *The Fenway Institute* a \$2.2 million 5-year grant to support HIV prevention programming for gay and bisexual men. The award will allow *The Fenway Institute* and its partner on the project, the Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MAC), to dramatically enhance existing prevention services.

Dubbed *Boston Respect*, the new initiative will consist of a series of bundled interventions designed to help gay and bisexual men respect themselves and each other by promoting good sexual health. Gay and bisexual men are the only population in the United States with rising numbers of new HIV infections and Boston Respect hopes to address that by promoting HIV and STD testing and encouraging people to know their HIV status and build skills to keep themselves and their partners safe.

Central to *Boston Respect* is a two-session individual level intervention for at-risk gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM). This CDC-endorsed intervention is designed to reduce risk-taking behaviors for both HIV-negative and HIV-positive people by making use of a “teachable moment” and providing them with the tools and support they need to stay healthy. Boston Respect is the latest in a long series of collaborations between Fenway and the MAC designed to reach diverse communities of high risk gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men.

“Boston Respect as adapted by Fenway and MAC with community input is something we have a lot of faith in, but it is only as strong as the support programming around it,” says Jon Vincent, Program Director for Prevention and Education at The Fenway Institute. “By coupling it with a revised HIV counseling and testing model, access to STD services, and linking it with our state- and city-funded services, we are looking to create a holistic prevention, education and screening program.”

Early formative work on smaller projects was critical in developing the new plan. In 2007, the Boston Public Health Commission funded Fenway and MAC to conduct targeted Health Navigation for special populations—Black MSM, transgender individuals and MSM struggling with substance abuse. These models will inform the scaled up program aimed at addressing the needs of the entire gay, bisexual and other MSM community in greater Boston.

Respect will benefit from internal linkages at Fenway and MAC, providing a multi-layered support system for program participants through the use of Health Navigators to assist them in everything from health insurance enrollment, keeping their medical appointments and even basic life coaching. The goal is to offer participants one-stop shopping for HIV testing, STD screening, hepatitis screening and vaccinations, insurance enrollment, access to a specialized medical provider, access to an array of support groups and one-on-one mental

health counseling.

“In the past, we haven’t always had the resources to create comprehensive prevention programming for MSM, especially gay and bisexual men of color. This federal support will allow us to bridge some of the existing gaps and take a holistic approach to individual and community health,” says Gary Daffin,

Executive Director of the Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MAC).

“The timing is excellent,” says Rodney VanDerwarker, Administrative Director of The Fenway Institute and the Project Director for Boston Respect. “By providing a continuum of behavioral interventions in connection with HIV and STD testing services and a strong connection to care, we will be able to provide at-risk men with the information and resources they need to make healthier decisions for themselves and their partners. And, *The Fenway Institute’s* role in biomedical prevention research like pre-exposure prophylaxis and microbicides allows us to keep on top of potentially emerging new prevention tools.”

Beyond counseling, testing, and access

“In the past, we haven’t always had the resources to create comprehensive prevention programming for MSM, especially gay and bisexual men of color. This federal support will allow us to bridge some of the existing gaps and take a holistic approach to individual and community health,” ...

For nearly forty years, Fenway Health has been working to make life healthier for the people in our neighborhood, the LGBT community, people living with HIV/AIDS and the broader population. The Fenway Institute at Fenway Health is an interdisciplinary center for research, training, education and policy development focusing on national and international health issues. The Fenway Institute is the home of the Center for Population Research in LGBT Health, the first federally-funded research center to focus specifically on sexual and gender minority population research. More online at www.thefenwayinstitute.org.

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Lisa, una de nuestras organizadoras en la Comunidad Latina GLBT

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa*/Columnista de TRT

Visión Latina



Wilfred Labiosa

Y Lisa Mercedes Harrison es una activista lesbiana latina de Massachusetts, oriunda de Colombia. Se unió al movimiento Latino LGBT desde que entró a uno de los eventos sociales de la Coalición de Somos Latin@s LGBT. Desde entonces, ha sido solidaria con la comunidad y la organización, hasta hacerse líder en nuestra comunidad Latina y movimiento GLBT.

Nació en Bogotá en un orfanato llamado FANA. Cuando tenía 8 semanas, su madre y padre, de Massachusetts, la adoptaron. Tiene un hermano adoptado de Colombia.

Desde temprana edad, su madre y padre le explicaron que fueron adoptados y que deben sentir orgullo de su ascendencia colombiana.

“Ser latino/a siempre ha sido una parte importante de nuestro crecimiento e identidad,” explicó.

Se crió en Gloucester, lugar en el cual le fue difícil ya que era la única latina en su escuela. Pero su madre y padre le enseñaban todo lo que tenía que ver sobre Colombia a través de libros, programas y celebraciones locales culturales.

Desde los 15 años ha ido varias veces a Colombia, e incluso asistió la celebración del vigésimo aniversario de FANA, en la cual conoció a otras personas quienes también fueron adoptados/as y a familias en el proceso de adoptar a un niño/a. También tuvo la oportunidad de conocer a la directora y fundadora del FANA, Mercedes Piñeda. Su sobrenombre es en honor a la fundadora.

Lisa ha viajado por muchos pueblos de Colombia: desde Calí a Medellín, desde Cartagena a Pereira, y Manizales. Todas las rutas de su vida la han llevado a quién es hoy.

Lleva mucho tiempo viviendo en Jamaica Plain por la alta población de latinos tanto como la comunidad GLBT.

La primera vez que supo de la coalición de Somos Latin@s LGBT (Somos) fue en el 2002. En aquel entonces era el único grupo latino/LGBT en el este de Massachusetts.

Se sintió que al fin había encontrado un grupo con quien podía crear enlaces fuertes.

La organización Somos Latin@s ha sido una parte integral de su vida por ser la única orga-

nización que la representa completamente.

En nuestra entrevista, habló que nota que en los restaurantes exclusivos, a menudo es la única latina aparte del personal, y cuando está en un restaurante latino es la única persona LGBT.

Cada trabajo que ha tenido, su supervisor le ha dicho que “es bueno que ella es latina y también lesbiana.” Y como ella misma dice, “Tengo mi MBA y nueve años de experiencia en gerencia, le deben interesar más esto en el tipo de trabajo que mi sexualidad y etnicidad.”

No quiere ser un símbolo, y no quiere ser la única lesbiana o latina en un lugar – o ambas identidades. En Somos Latin@s, puede expresarse totalmente como es; no tiene que dejar su identidad GLBT ni su herencia latina en segundo plano.

También está envuelta con el grupo de trabajo para “Theater Offensive” y el nuevo programa comunitario que están llevando a cabo. El programa está diseñado para construir enlaces entre los artistas y miembros de la comunidad en general para crear teatro en las vecindades del área de Boston.

También apoya el trabajo y proporciona tiempo a La Red/The Network, gran aliado a Somos y a la comunidad latina en general.

Por otra parte, está trabajando en la planificación de la séptima Celebración Anual de Orgullo Latino GLBT (del 30 de septiembre al 3 de octubre), con un grupo fantástico de organizadores de la comunidad. A la vez que crece la población de latinos en los Estados Unidos también crece la población latina LGBT. El programa de este año será emocionante, nuevo e innovador.

La celebración también es importante ya que ella dejará el puesto de directora de Somos a otro/as organizadores de la comunidad para que la nueva generación y energía fluya.

Quiere estar más tiempo con su compañera y enfocar su trabajo en cómo empresas pueden mejorar el respeto a la diversidad. Esto es crítico para las organizaciones, pues la mano de obra se hace cada vez más diversa. Y como si no fuera poco, también tiene en su lista pon-



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Rep Elizabeth Malia (D), and Lisa M. Harrison at Somos Latin@s Event.

erse en buena forma física para resumir su carrera de tenista profesional y poder competir.

¡Esperamos verla en las competencias representando a EEUU o Colombia! Lisa, ¡orgullo Latino GLBT!

**Escrito por Wilfred Labiosa, en ambos idiomas, Director de Unid@s: La Organización Nacional LGBT Latina, wlabiosa@hotmail.com. Para más información sobre la Celebración de Orgullo Latino GLBT: www.somoslatinoslgbt.org.*

To read this story in English, please visit: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionAugust19

VMF from page 10

without repetition,” said Saltman. “I’m very excited about bringing my approach to using video and coaching into the world of business.”

Although some people may be intimidated at first by the thought of being captured on video, Saltman notes that most forget about the tiny camera due to engaging interactions. As they become used to observing themselves they realize how much they are learning about themselves, she said.

“I currently see private clients in downtown Amherst and downtown Greenfield, MA and I travel throughout New England when there is a cluster of clients in one location, especially Boston,” said Saltman. “I’m also developing the option of offering VMF on the Web. Of course, I’d always rather see people in person, if possible.”

“It’s my calling,” Saltman said. “It’s the way I make a difference in people’s lives.”

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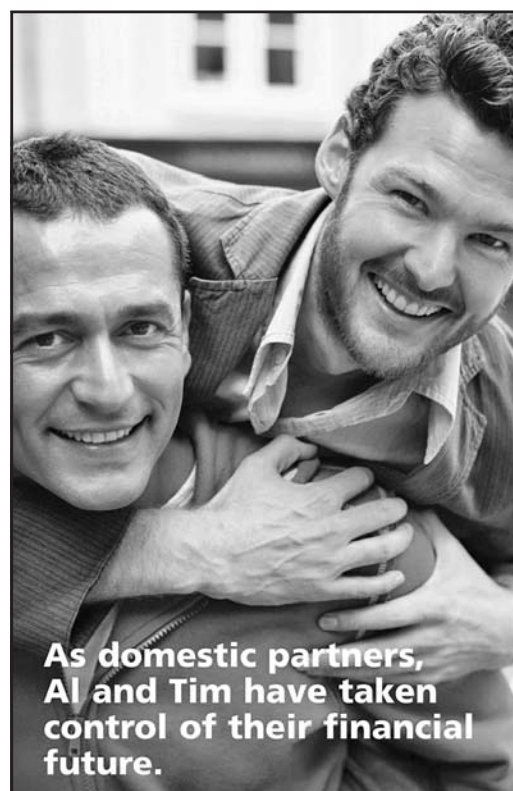
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Segal runs for Congress in bid to represent RI's First District

Rhode Island News

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

David Segal is one of the candidates vying for the chance to represent Rhode Island's First Congressional District. The seat is being vacated by Incumbent Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D), who is retiring after 15 years in the position.

Segal, 30, is running in the September 14 Democratic Party against openly gay Providence Mayor David Cicilline, businessman Anthony Gemma, and former Democratic party chairman William Lynch. The winner will face Republican John Loughlin, a State Rep. from Little Compton, in the November election.

Segal wants to shake up a system which he believes is failing the American people, and takes pride in his own record of battling powerful interests.

"I want to live in a society that is more just," said Segal. "I think we're at a very critical moment in American history where corporate power and power by the extraordinarily wealthy is really on the verge of overwhelming our democracy. If we don't start doing something to fight back, we're going to lose our democracy."

"I think we're at a very critical moment in American history where corporate power and power by the extraordinarily wealthy is really on the verge of overwhelming our democracy. If we don't start doing something to fight back, we're going to lose our democracy."

If he is elected, Segal intends to focus on reforming health care and the banking industry, as well as the economy and the environment. As a legislator, Segal has promoted the use of wind turbines and solar energy, in addition to working to restore full funding for the state's renewable energy fund.

Segal attended Columbia University, where he received his B.A. in mathematics. He was an instructor, teaching-assistant, and tutor at the Wheeler School before being elected to the Providence City Council in 2002.

In 2006, Segal was elected as State Representative. His career has been spent fighting for social justice and he has been applauded by progressive organizations for his efforts.

The Rhode Island Progressive Democrats of America endorsed Segal on July 21, noting he has a "profound and thoughtful understanding of progressive issues."

Segal has mixed feelings about President Barack Obama, who has continued the failed wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, much to the dismay of progressives. Segal supports an immediate troop withdrawal from both countries.

"On the stimulus, on the health care issue, on the banking reform issue, (Obama) could have pushed a lot harder," Segal said.

Segal supports a repeal of the military's anti-gay "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, as well as a repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

Segal admits to having a contentious relationship with Cicilline, who he feels hasn't been willing to fight against entrenched power the way he has.

"We've had our ups and downs over the years," Segal said of Cicilline. "When I was on (the City Council), I was usually trying



PHOTO: COURTESY SEGAL CAMPAIGN

David Segal

to nudge him to the left to do right by my constituents."

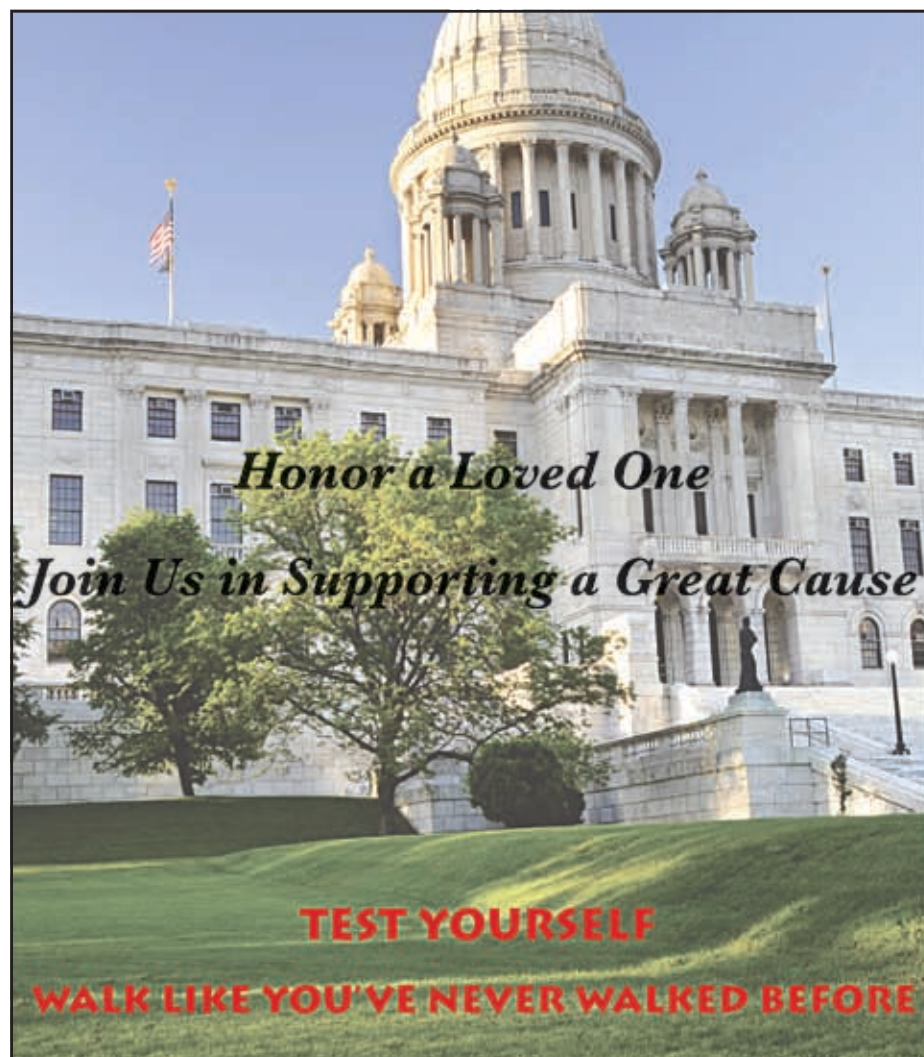
Segal also feels he has been a stronger advocate for LGBT issues than Cicilline.

During his time in the General Assembly, Segal has been a co-sponsor of marriage equality legislation and was a lead sponsor of a bill which provided death benefits for domestic partners. That bill was vetoed by Governor Don Carcieri last year. The General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto last January.

Segal brands himself as the real outsider in the Congressional race. He doesn't believe the voters of the state will elect a Republican in November.

"I find that highly unlikely and I think that's all the more reason to support somebody who's more in my vein. (Cicilline and Lynch) can't run as outsiders and they can't run as people who push back against the insiders. I think I can tap into that anti-incumbent sentiment and into that anti-corporate powers that be sentiment in a way that they can't," Segal added.

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Chafee running on platform of inclusivity for Rhode Island

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Gubernatorial candidate Lincoln Chafee has been a part of Rhode Island politics for the past several years. Chafee, 57, served as mayor of Warwick and later was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1999 following the death of his father, Sen. John Chafee. Chafee was elected in 2000 and served until 2006, when he was defeated by former state Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse of the Democratic Party.

Disgusted by what he viewed as the GOP's rightward drift, Chafee left the party and became an Independent.

Rhode Island currently has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country and a massive budget deficit. Chafee feels he is the right man to turn the state around.

"I know we can do better," Chafee said. "We have one of the ten worst budget deficits per capita. It ties into economic growth to have a balanced budget and a revenue stream that matches our expenditures. (With my experience as mayor) I know that I can do the job. It's an enormous challenge but I like a challenge."

Getting the state's financial house in order is a top priority for Chafee, who has attracted some criticism for one of his economic ideas.

"My proposal is to have a two-tier sales tax," Chafee said, noting the state's 7 percent sales tax would remain, and a one percent sales tax

would be imposed on 80 previously tax exempt items, including over the counter medications, clothing, and food.

Chafee believes there will be enough revenue generated to help close the state's enormous budget deficit.

Chafee took aim at Gov. Don Carcieri of the Republican Party, whose term expires next January, for not working well with the state's General Assembly. Carcieri has also been a vehement opponent of same-sex marriage and has incurred the wrath of the LGBT community for his stance on that issue.

"(Carcieri) has thrived on tactics that have divided our state on some social issues," said Chafee. "So there is healing to be done in getting people back working better together."

Chafee has never been afraid to stand up

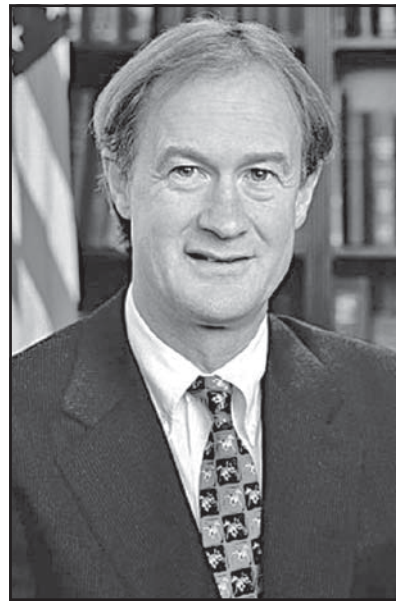


PHOTO: CHAFEE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
Lincoln Chafee

for what he believes in, however unpopular it made him among his colleagues.

In the Senate, Chafee bucked his party leaders on several major votes. He opposed tax cuts for the wealthy and voted against the resolution which gave President George W. Bush the authority to declare war on Iraq.

"I was a lonely opposing vote on all the big initiatives," Chafee said. "Yet, I was still able to deliver for Rhode Island."

In addition, Chafee has been an ardent supporter of LGBT rights. Earlier this year he signed a pledge, along with gubernatorial rivals Frank Caprio and Ken Block, to sign a same-sex marriage bill into law if elected governor.

Chafee notes that Rhode Island has a history of providing religious freedom, beginning

with Roger Williams, who founded the state. It doesn't make sense to Chafee that Rhode Island will be the last of the New England states to extend marriage rights to same-sex couples.

"I believe we had the First Baptist Church, the first synagogue, so it's wrong that we have closed the doors on our history of tolerance," Chafee said. "As we look at our economic challenges, I think it would be a great thing for our economy if we spread the word far and wide that everybody is welcome and same-sex marriage certainly sends that message."

Chafee is unfazed by former President Bill Clinton's recent endorsement of Caprio.

"This is just the way politics works," said Chafee. "Frank Caprio supported (Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign) so this was a bit of a payoff. The real endorsements are Rhode Island endorsements."

Chafee is optimistic that the state's many problems can and will be solved, if he is elected as governor in November: "I came in as mayor of Warwick when unemployment was very high and we had a credit union crisis and times were tough and we were able to turn it around. Better days are ahead."

For more information about Chafee, visit: www.chafeeforgovernor.com/.

Maine's Gay Marriage Ban stands – for now

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Same-sex marriage activists across the country were jubilant following the August 4th ruling, which struck down California's Proposition 8 as unconstitutional.

Voters approved the ban on same-sex marriage in that state in 2008. Last year, voters in Maine rejected a state law allowing same-sex couples to wed. The repeal came six months after the measure was passed by the state legislature and signed by the Democratic Governor John Baldacci.

"This is a tremendous victory in the movement for justice and equality," said Mass Equality Interim Executive Director Paula Herrington. "When the claims of those who oppose our right to marry are examined judiciously, they quickly fall apart. This case featured the collaboration of two legal superstars from opposite ends of our cultural divide: Democrat David Boies who represented Al Gore before the Supreme Court after the 2000 presidential election and Republican Ted Olson who represented George Bush. In this case, they shared one thing in common: a willingness to look beyond bumper sticker slogans to show what really happens when families are denied legal connection and protection."

Opponents of same-sex marriage in Maine are not worried by the landmark ruling.

Bob Emrich of Stand for Marriage Maine, the group which led the fight against gay marriage in the state, says the California judge's decision will be a rallying cry, and is "only going to be a temporary ruling."

Betsy Smith, the Executive Director of Equality Maine, said the overturning of Proposition 8 would have "no legal impact" on Maine's same-sex marriage ban.

"We're thrilled by the ruling," Smith said, noting that it validates the organization's belief that denying marriage rights to same-sex couples is unconstitutional.

Smith noted that Equality Maine will continue to educate voters about the importance of marriage equality.

A lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Maine's same-sex marriage ban is not forthcoming, according to Smith:

"We have not talked about it. It is not part of the equation. We will stick to our own strategy because it is very important to change the hearts and minds (of voters). That is the work we're doing here and that is the work we will continue to do."

The California ruling comes on the heels of a new report about why people in Maine may have voted on the issue the way they did. The report, written by the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Mentoring Project, concluded that voters were influenced by what it calls anti-gay commercials that claimed that gay marriage would be taught in schools.

Same-sex marriage advocates denied these claims and said there was no plan at the state level to change school curriculums.

The same-sex marriage law was repealed in Maine with 53 percent of the voters opting to keep marriage between a man and a woman.

Creep of the Week: Let's talk Gary Cass

By: D'Anne Witkowski*/TRT Special

With Prop. 8 being overturned in California, some folks are a little pissed. And the fact that Vaughn R. Walker, the judge who ruled that it's not cool to deny gay and lesbian folks the right to marry, is, in fact, a homo himself hasn't been lost on the anti-gay right.

In an Aug. 5 diatribe on the Christian Anti-Defamation Commission website, Gary Cass explains that the only reason the Prop. 8 case went in favor of homos is because Walker is a big ol' fag.

"Let's not be shocked that Judge Walker cannot comprehend the self-evident rational basis for prohibiting homosexual marriage, after all, he is a practicing homosexual," writes Cass. "The Bible plainly tells us that once a person has seared his conscience to such an extent that he can exchange his natural sexual relationship with the opposite sex for homosexuality, his ability to reason becomes utterly compromised."

So because Walker is gay, his mind is essentially diseased. He's a mental cripple, if you will. Not to mention a total perv-o with no conscience. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if the reason he couldn't "comprehend the self-evident rational basis" against "homosexual marriage" was because he was watching Barbara Streisand movies on his iPhone throughout the trial.

To Cass, Walker is the ultimate example of an "activist judge."

"Openly rebellious sinners who live in hostility to the laws of nature and nature's God will attempt to impose their tyrannical, arbitrary standards on us," Cass writes.

Got that? If you are in favor of letting same-sex couples get married then you're a "rebellious sinner" with "tyrannical, arbitrary standards." Never mind that Walker's decision is based firmly in the rule of law and that one of the lawyers arguing the case against Prop. 8 was Ted Olson, George W. Bush's Solicitor General for goodness sake. Oh, and that homo Walker? Also a Bush appointee.

Of course, logic and reason go out the window when you believe that same-sex couples

getting married is a harbinger of complete and total godless sexual mayhem.

"Scripture and history tells what's next," Cass writes. "Sexual anarchists have already announced what's next; polygamy, group marriage, incest and intergenerational sex (or statutory rape as we now define it). They won't rest until, like in Sodom, they can surround your house and demand you offer up your children to be abused."

Wait, what?! Gays are supposed to form mobs, roaming neighborhoods and nabbing children to have sex with? Um, I'd like to speak to the head of the Gay Agenda Committee because when I look at my summer to-do list I see, "Power wash deck, clean out garage, organize basement." I don't have time for any Sodom and Gomorrah shit.

Of course, there is no Gay Agenda Committee because the Gay Agenda, as folks like Cass know it, doesn't really exist. What does exist is "The Homosexual Manifesto," published in a gay newsletter in 1987 as satire, albeit poorly written, that is now held up as a blueprint for the gay and lesbian rights movement by those opposed to equality. It begins, "We shall sodomize your sons, emblems of your feeble masculinity..." Oh, please.

But to Cass, "The Homosexual Manifesto" is practically gospel, since it upholds everything he hates about homos.

"This example of the twisted mind of a homosexual activist will break your heart," Cass writes. "Though written satirically, it reveals the dark soul of a person whose conscience is corrupted by a voracious hatred and consumed with an insatiable lust."

Call me crazy, but claiming that the overturning of Prop. 8 will lead to the forced homosexual gang-banging of children – that sounds like the work of a "conscience ... corrupted by a voracious hatred and consumed with an insatiable lust."

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



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State Rep. Ferri calls on LGBT community to stay politically active

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Rhode Island State Rep. Frank Ferri, D-Warwick, recently returned from a three-week stint at Harvard University, where he took a course called *Senior Executives in State and Local Government*.

The program, conducted at the school's John F. Kennedy School of Government, provides experiences for participants both inside and outside the classroom to ensure that public officials are prepared to manage and lead results-driven government agencies and non-profit organizations.

Ferri, 56, was awarded a fellowship through the Victory Fund, which assists gay and lesbian political leaders and candidates from around the country.

Ferri first learned about the course during a Gay and Lesbian Leadership Institute Conference he had attended.

In addition to state representatives such as Ferri, a Fire Chief from San Francisco, Town Administrators from Arizona, and even a few Judges also attended the course.

"It is a diverse class of representatives," Ferri said, noting the students were motivated to learn how to develop relationships with others.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF FRANK FERRI
Frank Ferri

Ferri had never undergone an experience like it before. The time spent at Harvard was "intense," he said.

"Not only did (the class) have to do required readings, there were 3 one and a half hour classes a day, but we were encouraged and it was designed that we would interact with each other," Ferri said.

The class even took an Outward Bound trip, where a series of team-building exercises was conducted.

"It was a great experience," Ferri said. "For the most part it was flying by the seat of my pants, picking up on the nuances and intricacies of government."

Ferri was elected state representative in a special election in 2007 and was re-elected in 2008. This November, he will face Jason Oliver, an Independent, for the seat.

Anger toward political incumbents is widespread but Ferri is not worried about being defeated at the polls. He believes his hard work during the past two years will be rewarded with another term. Ferri serves on the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and on the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee.

"As long as (my constituents) think I'm representing them well, I hope I have their support," Ferri said. "That's how I approach it. It's

not about the other candidate."

The prospect of a same-sex marriage bill being passed in 2011 is something Ferri continues to be hopeful about. Gov. Don Carcieri, a vocal opponent of same-sex marriage, is not eligible to run for re-election. Several candidates for governor, including former U.S. Sen. Lincoln Chafee and State Treasurer Frank Caprio, have pledged to sign a marriage equality bill if elected.

Ferri has been a longtime LGBT rights activist, having served as co-chair of Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI). Ferri and his

husband Tony Caparco were married in Vancouver, Canada in 2006. They have been together for 30 years.

"I think we have a good chance of having a supportive Governor," Ferri noted. "I'm pretty confident we'll get (a marriage bill) to the floor and have the opportunity to debate it."

Ferri believes the LGBT community needs to stay active and involved more than ever.

"This election is pretty important. There are a lot of seats which are (being contested). We need to support (politicians) who are going to support our equal rights," Ferri added.

"I think we have a good chance of having a supportive Governor," Ferri noted. "I'm pretty confident we'll get (a marriage bill) to the floor and have the opportunity to debate it."

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TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS Courtesy: wolfevideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. We Have to Stop Now - Season 1
2. Hannah Free
3. Mädchen in Uniform
4. And Then Came Lola
5. 8: The Mormon Proposition
6. The Runaways
7. The L Word Final Season
8. The Baby Formula
9. The World Unseen
10. Loving Annabelle

GAY TOP 10

1. Pornography: A Thriller
2. Boy
3. 8: The Mormon Proposition
4. La Mission
5. Shut Up and Kiss Me
6. BOYCRAZY
7. Mr. Right
8. The Butch Factor
9. A Single Man
10. Plan B

CALENDAR OF LGBT EVENTS

ONGOING:

(WMA) **NEW! Sept. 19; The Ultimate GLBT private party! Out In The Park** is a family friendly event for the GLBT community as well as family, friends, and supporters at Six Flags New England. Out In The Park is a day of Thrills, Music, Entertainment and Friends! Don't miss Jessica Kirson, Jonny McGovern, and more performing live! More entertainment to be added soon. FMI or event tickets: outinthepark.info

(WMA) **NEW! The East Coast FTM Group** meets in Northampton, MA every second Sunday of the month from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Topic discussions, peer support. Info: betpower@yahoo.com, 413-584-7616

(WMA - Springfield) **NEW! in Looking to start a lesbian book club in Springfield**, to read lesbian and non-lesbian titles, to meet once a month. If you are interested please email me at sballcoach@aol.com with "book-club" in the title.

(WMA) **Basketball League?** Play basketball at on Thursday nights from 6-8pm the gym is located in Springfield MA. This is a pick up league for both men and women of all levels. FMI: mmarcinkewich@yahoo.com

(WMA) Every Wednesday; **Pioneer Valley Lesbians** over 40; 6:15 - 8:00 pm; Topic-driven discussion group for thoughtful lesbians over 40. Meets at UMass Stonewall Center. FMI: gottivons@aol.com

(WMA) Every first Wednesday of the month for a **Potluck Dinner Social**. We meet at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 175 Wendell Avenue in Pittsfield at 7:00 PM. FMI: at the INFOline 413-822-7268.

(WMA) **Williamstown-LGBT Nite**; LGBT night, THURSDAY at 9pm, at Mezze in Williamstown. Weekly indefinitely. FMI: justin.adkins@williams.edu.

(WMA) **South Congregational Church UCC**; 45 Maple St., Springfield, MA. This service takes place the last Saturday of each month in South Congregational Church in Springfield, MA. 2pm with food and fellowship to follow at 3:30pm.

(WMA) **Gay Men Social Hour**; 3rd Friday of the month; 6:00 - 8:30 pm; Hotel Northampton; 36 King Street, Northampton, MA. No cover, cash bar. FMI: Doug Fountain, 413-535-1890.

(WMA) **Springfield Martini Nights**; 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, except holidays. 6-8pm; various Springfield bars and restaurants, somewhere different each time. FMI: bobmccarroll@juno.com

(WMA) **Gay Men's Chorus**; every Wednesday, except holidays; 7:00 - 9:00 pm; St. John's Episcopal Church, 48 Elm St, Northampton. Free. FMI: Henry; 413-441-2160

(WMA) **TREE (Trans Education and Empowerment)** has a social/support group for trans-identified and gender non-conforming youth. The groups meet in Greenfield: Tuesdays 4-5pm and in Northampton: Wednesdays 4:30-5:30. FMI: 413-475-1798

(WMA) **NEW! July 22 & Ongoing; PFLAG**

Franklin-Hampshire Chapter (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) offers welcoming support, education and advocacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, their families, friends and allies. We meet the 4th Thursday of each month (7/22) at the First Congregational Church, Main St, Ashfield Mass. at 7:00-9:00pm. Helpline - 413 625-6636 e-mail janenrosie48@yahoo.com

(CT) **Living Soulfully: A Monthly Men's Gathering**; Meets on 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:30-9:00pm at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective. FMI: HGLHC at 860-2787-4163.

(CT) **RainbowRoom** is open every Sunday from 3-6pm and is located at 1841 Broad St., Hartford. RainbowRoom is an affirming and safe place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning teens and young adults 13 to 21. RainbowRoom is a drop-in center located in an intimate, informal space with room for a variety of activities.

(VT) **CORE GROUP**; 6pm Potluck; 6:30pm Group Discussion, at the Menspace. Help guide the Men's Program. Join us for a great potluck and then conversation about the program. We always welcome new members. Please come for the discussion even if you don't come for the potluck!

(VT) **BOOK CLUB**; 7pm; 139 Main Street, Ste #606B. FMI: Curtis, 802-254-2400. Core Group is meeting on Thursday at the Menspace.

(VT) **Transgender Support Group Meeting** in Brattleboro, VT the fourth Sunday of every month. Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary, including transpeople of all genders and sexual orientations: transgender, transsexual, FTM, MTF, non-op, pre-op, post-op, cross-dresser, bi-gendered, genderqueer, genderfluid, questioning ... Confidentiality guaranteed. FMI: Oshee: oshee@gdss.net

(VT) Wednesdays in May; **DROP-IN EVENINGS**: 6-9pm; Menspace; 67 Main Street, 4th Floor. From 6 to 9pm on Wednesdays the Menspace will be open with no 'planned event.' Pop in to see who's around, play a game of cards, listen to music, hang out and chat. Men's Program Event. 802-254-4444

RADIO: Gay hosts. Gay guests. Gay topics. Gay music. Rinse and repeat. Tune in to "This Show is So Gay;" the hit Vermont rainbow radio experience and see what all the talk is about. FMI: www.ThisShowIsSoGay.com.

WESTERN MASS:

Ongoing: **NEW! PFLAG Franklin-Hampshire Chapter** (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) offers welcoming support, education and advocacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, their families, friends and allies. We meet the 4th Thursday of each month (7/22) at the First Congregational Church, Main St, Ashfield Mass. at 7:00-9:00pm. Helpline - 413 625-6636 e-mail janenrosie48@yahoo.com

Sept. 4: **Miss Trans New England Pageant**; FMI: www.misstransnewengland.com/

Sept. 11: **AIDS Walk of Western Mass and 5K Run**; Forest Park, Springfield, MA. Reg-

istration: 10am; Walk/Run, 11am; Festival immediately following the walk. FMI: www.aidsfoundationwm.org

Sept. 11; **New England Trans United Pride**; 11am-5pm; Downtown Northampton. Come out and celebrate the strength, talent, intellect, and diversity of our community. March and rally to advance the civil rights of transgender people. Bring a friend, make new friends. FMI: www.newenglandtransunited2010.org/

Sept. 12; **Studio Artisan Workshop "Photographing Fine Arts & Craft"**; 1-5pm; Orange Innovation Center, 131 West Main St. Orange, MA. FMI: The League of Massachusetts Artisans & Artists/Sue McFarland, 413-369-4631 or handwork@crocker.com

Sept. 19: **The Ultimate GLBT private party! Out In The Park** is a family friendly event for the GLBT community as well as family, friends, and supporters at Six Flags New England. Out In The Park is a day of Thrills, Music, Entertainment and Friends! Don't miss Jessica Kirson, Jonny McGovern, and more performing live! More entertainment to be added soon. FMI: www.outinthepark.info/event_schedule.html

Sept. 25; **Queer Carnevale: "Mardi Gras in New England!"** 11:00am - 6:00pm; Northampton 3-County Fairgrounds, Fair St., Northampton, MA. FMI: www.lgbtcoalition-wma.org

Fall 2010: **"LGBT Life Over the Past 25 Years"**; A One-Credit Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Course for Fall 2010. This coming Fall is the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Center. To mark the occasion, we are offering a one-credit course through WGSS called "LGBT Life Over the Past 25 Years." The course will consist of presentations each week by leading LGBT scholars, artists, and activists from throughout the U.S. Topics to be covered include politics, law, history, religion, sports, film and television, literature, music, bisexual rights, transgender rights, and AIDS. The course will meet Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m. Registration will be in the Fall. To be notified when the course opens, please contact the Stonewall Center: 545-4826 or stonewall@stuaf.umass.edu. Individuals not taking the course for credit are also welcomed to attend.

CENTRAL MASS:

(Ongoing) **Compassionate ears in live meetings of bi/gay married men** take place in Worcester Ma. Twice a month. You Are Not the Only one. FMI: bmmg.org

(Ongoing) **Sisters of Worcester**; every Wednesday from 8:30-11 pm; a social support group for trans women and men who wish to gather in a warm and supportive social environment. The group meets each Wednesday at Club Blu at 105 Water St. in Worcester. All are welcome to attend.

Sept. 18; **NEW DATE! Worcester Pride**; FMI: www.worcesterpride.com

Sept. 19: **The Ultimate GLBT private party! Out In The Park** is a family friendly event for the GLBT community as well as family, friends, and supporters at Six Flags New England. Out In The Park is a day of Thrills, Mu-

sic, Entertainment and Friends! Don't miss Jessica Kirson, Jonny McGovern, and more performing live! More entertainment to be added soon. For more information or event tickets, please visit outinthepark.info

BOSTON:

Ongoing; **Free, Walk-in services at Fenway Health**; Every Wednesday, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Rooms 201 A & B, Fenway Health, 1340 Boylston Street, Boston. Our goal is to provide everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or financial status with innovative treatments and compassionate care. Talk to a qualified professional about getting the quality care you need -whether you require a session with one of our supportive and knowledgeable HIV counselors or need some sensitive questions answered by one of our nurses. Free, walk-in services include: Hep A&B vaccinations; HIV testing and counseling; Hep B & C screening; STD education and verbal screening; Linkage to medical care, treatment options, financial advisors and acupuncture detoxification services* *Sliding fee scales apply for these services. No one turned away because of his or her inability to pay. Wheelchair accessible. FMI: 617.267.0159.

40 & Forward: A group for gay and bi men 40 and over; Share food and dialog with guys in the prime of their lives. Do you find it hard to connect with people? Not having as much fun as you used to? Getting older often means changing the way we interact socially with others. Everything from meeting new people to negotiating sexual safety can seem different and more difficult than when we were younger. Would you like to learn new skills to help with these concerns? If so, then come join our 6-week men's dinner group where you'll learn tools & skills for connecting with others. Dinner will be provided each time. The group will meet once a week for 6 weeks, for 2 hours at a time, plus once afterwards for a special event social. If you're interested, please call Chuck at 617.488.9720 or email 40andforward@fenwayhealth.org.

Out to Brunch; first Saturday of each month (next meetings: 4/3, 5/1, 6/5, etc.) Monthly brunch for older LBT women, for women 60+ the suggested donation is \$1.75, under 60 suggested donation is \$5. FMI: gloriatower@hotmail.com

NEW! LGBT Bereavement Groups; Free Six Week Bereavement Groups for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender people of all ages. Three (3) New Groups Forming in May 2010: North of Boston, (Burlington); South of Boston, (Braintree/Quincy); and in the Cape Cod Area, (Yarmouth). FMI: Bob Linscott at (617) 522-1292 or www.lgbtagingproject.org/

NEW! BAGLY Transgender/Gender Queer Identity Meeting; youth only; Wednesdays at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St, 2nd floor, Boston, MA; from 7 - 8p, youth led. FMI: www.bagly.org The Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Youth provides weekly and monthly social activities and special events for people ages 22 and under. These activities provide an opportunity for youth to socialize, have fun and develop a sense of personal and community identity. Free and anonymous HIV testing is offered every Wednesday, 6-9pm.

CALENDAR OF LGBT EVENTS

LGBT Caregiver Support Group; First Monday of the month; 6pm – 7:30 pm in Jamaica Plain, MA. This is a free monthly group that welcomes new members to talk about the impact of providing care for a partner, parent, sibling, spouse or friend. Come for stress relief, resources and understanding. Contact group facilitator Joanne Peskowitz at 617.271.4182 for details. Sponsored by the LGBT Aging Project and the Caregiver Alliance of Suffolk County.

LGBT Bereavement Group; Meets Thursday Evenings 6:30 to 8:00 pm in Brookline, MA. Starting September 24th. Contact Beth Prulage, LICSW, (413) 695-2236. Pre-registration is required, space is limited. To learn about upcoming LGBT Bereavement Groups in your area: contact Bob Linscott at (617) 522-1292.

Aug. 21; **Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition;** Against the Tide ... Please join us for the 12th annual Against The Tide, one-mile competitive or recreational swim, two-mile kayak, and three-mile fitness walk to benefit the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition. FMI: www.mbccc.org/swim or againstthetide1@mbcc.org.

Sept. 19; **The Ultimate GLBT private party! Out In The Park** is a family friendly event for the GLBT community as well as family, friends, and supporters at Six Flags New England. Out In The Park is a day of Thrills, Music, Entertainment and Friends! Don't miss Jessica Kirson, Jonny McGovern, and more performing live! More entertainment to be added soon. For more information or event tickets, please visit outinthepark.info

Sept 30-Oct. 3; **7th Annual Latino Pride of Massachusetts;** to be held in and around Boston. Details of all the events will be post it soon! FMI: www.somoslatinoslgbt.org

Sept. 30; **Alternative Insemination Orientation;** 6-8:30pm; Fenway Health, 1340 Boylston Street, Boston. This is an introduction to Alternative Insemination (AI) in general and to Fenway's AI Program in particular. Cost is \$50 per couple and pre-registration at lcoolidge@fenwayhealth.org or 617.927.6243 is required. After you have registered, the AI program will contact you to arrange payment and answer any questions.

Sept. 30; MassEquality, the premier LGBT grass roots advocacy organization in Massachusetts, is overjoyed to announce **Macy Gray – The Sellout – For MassEquality** - in concert at 8 p.m. Boston's Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116. Tickets at \$175.00 [VIP], \$90.00 and \$70.00 are on sale now at all Ticket master outlets, at the Wilbur Theatre Box Office, on line at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling: 800-745-3000. FMI: www.thewilburtheatre.com.

P-TOWN:

August 15th-21st; **Provincetown Carnival 2010 "Jungle Fantasy";** theme promises a wild week of fun! Join us for parties, a boat cruise, a parade and more. This is the hottest party of the summer! Sponsored by the Provincetown Business Guild. VIP passes & sched-

ule: www.ptown.org/Carnival.asp.

Aug. 19; **Fantasy Island Dance Party;** Club Purgatory; 10:30pm; 9-11 Carver Street. Remember this jungle paradise? "Ze Plane! Ze Plane!" Disembark into Club Purgatory after the Parade and see what fantasies Mr. Rourke and Tattoo can grant you. Cover charge benefits the PBG. Tickets: \$5 (included with VIP Pass). FMI: www.ptown.org/Carnival.asp

Aug. 20; **Monkey Business Closing Party;** 9pm to 1am; Crown & Anchor, 247 Commercial St. You've "Run Through the Jungle," heard the "Call of the Wild," put the "Lime in the Coconut" and still don't want it to end. Join us for the final "campfire" of Carnival Week. NEW TO THE CLOSING PARTY - The Awards Ceremony for Parade Winners has been moved to the closing party. Find out if your favorite Parade entry won an Award. Then dance into the sunset with DJ Tony Moran in Paramount, or enjoy a visual feast in Wave Bar with VJ Tom Yaz. Tickets: \$15. www.ptown.org/Carnival.asp

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Oct. 17-Oct. 24; **Fantasia Fair 36;** Commercial Street, in Provincetown, MA; Fantasia Fair is a week-long transgender event held every October in the LGBT resort town of Provincetown, Massachusetts. Part conference, part social gathering, the Fair is a "full immersion" experience, meaning that attendees can and usually do spend an entire week 24/7 presenting their gender as they wish. Fantasia Fair is unique amongst transgender events as it takes place in beautiful Provincetown - a wonderfully accepting community where anyone can mingle in the streets in friendship, safety, and acceptance. Yes, you really are welcome and free in all of Provincetown, and, yes, you will make friends at Fantasia Fair that you will keep forever. FMI: www.fantasiafair.org

RHODE ISLAND:

Ongoing; **The Greater Providence Chapter of PFLAG** meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm at their regular meeting place: The Met School Justice Building 325 Public Street Providence, RI 02905. FMI, please call (401) 751-7571, or email: pflagprovidence@verizon.net.

Ongoing; **ACOS Gay Bingo;** Gay Bingo is held on the third Thursday of every month from September through May. The doors open at 6 pm, and the game starts promptly at 7 pm. For more information visit www.aidscares.org

Aug. 29; **Lady for All Seasons 2010 Pageant;** 6 p.m.; Club Gallery, 150 Point St. - Providence RI. Presented by Galane/Latin Monarchy of NE. \$10 cover.

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Sept. 19; **Got Harvey Milk? Drag Brunch;** 11:00am - 3:00pm; Downcity, 50 Weybosset St., Providence, RI. As a start up not-for-profit organization, the Harvey Milk Foundation's program goals are to empower local, regional, national and global organizations so that they may fully realize the power of Harvey Milk's story, style, and collaborative relationship building - are large and bold as Harvey taught us! The Foundation, through Harvey's dream for a just tomorrow, envisions governments that celebrate the rich and universally empowering diversity of humanity, where all individuals - gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, the young, the disabled - all who had been excluded can fully participate in all societal rights without exception. FMI: 401-331-9217

CONNECTICUT:

Ongoing; **Latin Night;** The Chez Est; every first and third Saturday; 458 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT; FMI: www.chezest.com

Ongoing; **Club Lucy;** The Chez Est; every second Saturday; 458 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT; FMI: www.chezest.com

Sept. 10; **Paula Poundstone** will be the main attraction for the **Third Annual Stand Up for Homes with Hope** at Westport, Connecticut's Levitt Pavilion. All proceeds from the evening will support Homes with Hope, the Westport based social services agency which serves our homeless neighbors and those at-risk of homelessness. FMI: kallen@homeswithhope.org

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Oct. 9; **The Art of Coming Out;** 6:00pm - 11:00pm; 390 Grumman Avenue, Norwalk, CT. Our event will be held on October 9, 2010 beginning at 6pm at The Carriage House Arts Center. Contact Tina at tccentertina@gmail.com with any questions about this venue.

Nov. 14; **One Big Event;** Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective; FMI: 860-278-4163.

VERMONT:

Aug. 20; **6th ANNUAL VERMONT BEAR FILM FEST;** This year's theme: TOOL BELTS... construction trade. This year the Bear Film

Fest will start on Friday evening, it ends at midnight, and start back up again 11am to midnight on Saturday, August 21st. A Men's Community Event. FMI: www.vtbearfilm.com

Aug. 25; **BISEXUAL CHAT;** 7pm at the Menspace, 15 Grove St., Brattleboro. This event welcomes women and individuals who fall elsewhere on the gender and orientation spectrum. We would love to see folks who don't necessarily identify as bi attend as well. We may watch a movie, or chat about the latest news! Bring a snack to share if you'd like. FMI: eflash@sover.net. Men's Program Event

Aug. 27; **GAYME NIGHT;** 7pm at Howie's in Chesterfield. Come on over and join the fun! If you'd like, bring a favorite board game, snack or beverage. For directions, email men@sover.net or call 802-254-4444. Men's Program Event.

Aug. 28; **GREEN RIVER POTLUCK;** 6pm, Craig's in Green River. 1919 Green River Road, Guilford, VT. Come celebrate the late summer season with friends in the beautiful village of Green River, Vermont. Stroll through the village, explore surrounding roads by bike, or take a swim at the dam and covered bridge before dinner. Please bring something to grill, an entrée/side dish, or dessert to share. Bring your own beer/wine. RSVP to kregwells@gmail.com. Info: www.aidsprojectsouthernvermont.org/calendar/76/498-POTLUCK-AT-Craig-s---RSVP-

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NEW YORK:

August 19-Sept. 14; **"Naked Bodies, Naked Souls";** Michaela Kuch's work; in Narrowsburg, NY. Curated by Jan K. Kapera of JKK Fine Arts. Opening reception from 7-9 p.m. on Friday, August 13, 2010. FMI: www.jkkfinearts.com/events/index.html.

MAINE:

August 28; **The First Ever All Men's Pool Party;** The Country View Motel/Guesthouse; Pool Party Tea Dance at The Country View; followed by Gay Days Tea at MaineStreet. Benefitting FRANNIE PEABODY CENTER. Starting on August 28th from 12 till 4 (Free Trolley service to be announced); \$25.00 ticket donation includes, Pool Party admission, D.J. Ken Day, BBQ, door prizes, and discounts. Free Trolley service from Mainstreet at noon to The Country View Motel and back to Mainstreet for Gay Days Tea Dance at 4 p.m. and much more. The Country View is offering discounted weekend packages, for the Mens Event, including free admission and all ticket privilege's to The Pool Party and Maine Street. FMI: www.countryviewmotel.com/

The OutField: Closeted jock, Hoosiers reveal their colors



Dan Woog

By: Dan Woog*

Former Indiana University football player Alex Perry is a confident young man.

This past June he stepped out of his comfort zone. One of four people – all straight – representing his school's athletic department at Indianapolis's Circle City Pride festival, at first he felt uncomfortable

when gay men in flamboyant costumes asked to have their pictures with him.

His apprehension was short-lived. By mid-morning Perry grinned broadly when a drag queen sauntered over for a photo.

That was just one of many snapshots – literal and figurative – from an empowering day. IU Athletics learned a lot – and so did the LGBT festival-goers who visited their booth.

Once, that outcome might have surprised Jon Kitto. But over the past year the secretary of IU's 1,200-member GLBT Alumni Association has come to appreciate the athletic department's outreach to the gay community. At the same time, IU Athletics has enjoyed the fruits of the blossoming relationship – and added hundreds of new fans.

Kitto's passion for Indiana University began as a student in the 1970s. He was a Hoosier football booster too – rare in the LGBT community – so last year when a new athletic facility was dedicated near the stadium, he and his partner attended.

New athletic director Fred Glass spoke. He described his goal of reaching out to “new communities” – ones his department had previously ignored. Afterward, Kitto – who admits the GLBT Alumni Association (GLBTAA) had not reached out to athletics, either – decided to see if Glass meant what he said.

“I was ready for a brush-off,” Kitto recalls. “But he said, ‘Let’s get it on the calendar.’” Last December, the GLBTAA executive board and Glass held a relaxed, friendly hour-long meeting.

Near the end, Kitto asked the department to donate a few items for GLBTAA's annual silent auction. Sure, Glass said. Well, what about a private tour of the new facility? No problem, Glass replied. Both were enormous successes.

Kitto then asked if IU Athletics would staff a booth at Circle City Pride. Again, he expected to be brushed off. Again, he was surprised by the department's eagerness to help.

The booth featured a mannequin dressed in an IU basketball jersey. The department handed out coasters, pompons, refrigerator magnets and Hoosier schedules.

“It was one of the most moving days of my life,” Kitto says. Two staff members and two interns – including Perry, the former football

player now earning his masters in sports management – staffed the booths.

“All day long they took everything in. They loved being there,” Kitto reports.

The four straight IU Athletics volunteers were impressed with the huge turnout – and noted with surprise, “They’re people we see every day.”

Thousands of festival-goers picked up athletic department giveaways – and thanked the representatives for being there. That made an impression on the quartet.

So did comments like “I went to Michigan, but you’re my second favorite team now,” and “I’m from Purdue. I’m supposed to hate you – but I don’t.”

It was all part of Pat Kraft's plan. The assistant athletic director in charge of marketing, he realized that Circle City Pride was a perfect opportunity to introduce IU Athletics to a new, lucrative and potentially very enthusiastic audience.

“As markets mature, it’s difficult to mine new customers,” Kitto says. “The GLBT market is huge, and unmined.”

Gays and lesbians are a natural target for Kraft – a concept that initially surprised Kitto. “I’m 52 years old,” he says. “I didn’t expect the greeting we got at Pride. Pat’s around 30. My surprise was surprising to him. He just saw it as a great business opportunity.”

But IU Athletics’ outreach meant more than marketing. During the day, four Indiana athletes came to the booth and said they were gay or lesbian.

“Having the department there was so important,” Kitto says. “They realized, ‘I’m comfortable with my school, with my athletic department, and I want you to know how much that means to me.’”

It meant a lot to the straight men at the booth, too. The day after Pride, Perry thanked Kitto for allowing him to participate.

“His goal is to be a high school athletic director,” Kitto says of the grad student. “Just imagine the effect something like this will have on the kids at his school years from now.”

IU Athletics had such a good time, they plan to return next year – with a float and varsity athletes.

So were there any negative encounters at all? Kitto laughs. “Yeah. One guy ran by screaming ‘Boiler Up!’” – the popular Purdue cheer.

“But that happens anywhere there are Purdue fans,” he continues. “It had nothing to do with being gay. I thought to myself, Here we are at a gay event, and the traditional IU-Purdue rivalry is so strong.”

“What was so remarkable to me about that was its utter unremarkableness.”

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

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*benefiting the AIDS Foundation
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