

The Rainbow Times

Your LGBT News in Massachusetts, Northcentral CT, New York areas & Southern VT

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FREE!

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Photo by: Korby Banner

Opinions

New things to come for TRT

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

As the lazy summer winds down, an exciting fall begins for *The Rainbow Times*. In this issue, you will notice an addition to our staff, Ms. Lorelei Erisis. Because of the many questions that several readers have submitted to *The Rainbow Times* inquiring about trans issues, both the positive and misunderstood aspects of the trans community, Lorelei will answer all of your queries through her column, Ask a TransWoman. Don't be shy, no holds bar since the intent of this column is to offer the LGBT community a platform to talk about issues that are otherwise not discussed. Let's begin that open dialogue.

Also, *The Rainbow Times* will be launching a new radio program. The wide range of topics covered on this program will include information about area events, high-profile interviews, guests such as doctors and lawyers to discuss important issues of relevance specifically for the LGBT community and of course, politics! We will be taking calls from our listeners and look forward to answering your questions and hearing your opinions! Please stay tuned to TRT's website,

www.TheRainbowTimesNews.com for specific updates regarding our program. It is expected to launch later this month.

Finally, those rumors you've heard are becoming a reality. TRT is moving east. Beginning this fall, *The Rainbow Times* will also be distributing to our family out east. With this expansion also comes exciting new content! TRT will remain being your quality publication of choice, with special sections of the newspaper devoted to our loyal readers in each area of distribution, and will also incorporate a new nightlife section. I hope you enjoy these exciting new features!

Thank you for your continued support and loyalty.

Best in Pride,

Nicole Lashomb

*To send your Letter to the Editor, email editor@TheRainbowTimesNews.com or visit: www.TheRainbowTimesNews.com.

C'mon Out – Just Ask! Advice column

By: Tetty Gorfine*

Dear Ms. Gorfine:

My friends are telling me that I do not show my emotions much. They say I should learn to feel more. But frankly, I don't see why. If I feel things then there will just be disappointment and there's usually nothing I can do about the way things are anyway. I think being rational and logical makes more sense and I really don't understand why this would be so important anyway. I've been reading your column and you make sense about some things. I am hoping you can shed some light on this for me. Thank you. Jody

Hi Jody:

I am sure all of us wonder about this at some point. Feelings can be great...especially when they are good ones, and...feelings can feel awful. When we feel badly about something, often our first reaction can be to contract and resist the negative feeling. The impulse to retreat from that pain is understandable, for who wants to hurt? Retreat however may not always be the best response. Let me explain.

If you think about it, all the gifts we have been given as human beings serve an important function. Our ability to see, hear, think and breathe, just to name a few, are things we can not do without. They are essential to our lives. So why would we be given something that we do not need? Feelings are given to us because they are essential to help guide us through life. Our feelings tell us our preferences, assist in helping determine what is good or not good for us, guide us towards our dreams and inspire us to meet our full potential. They also help us create meaning in life.

Jody, when you do not allow yourself to feel one thing, it automatically shuts down your ability to



TETTY GORFINE

feel other things. If you shut down a computer program, you no longer have access to the tools of that program. The same is true with emotions. If you do not feel certain things other emotions will not be available to you either. Shutting down emotions can create

depression.

Additionally, if we do not feel the full range of emotions for which we humans have the capacity, we limit our ability to be there for others. Our ability for warmth and compassion likewise is greatly reduced. Perhaps our capacity to work through differences in our relationships, and for that matter to save and heal this planet, may in part be in our ability to stay open and feel compassion, love and understanding for ourselves and others.

The problem comes in because feelings can be messy. Sometimes feelings seem really big and we do not know what to do with them. If we rely only on them, they can get us in trouble. If I'm angry with my boss and yell, I might get fired. Additionally, there are times we do not understand our feelings. They can confuse us and they can even seem to come out of nowhere. These issues are complex, a topic is far greater than I can address in this column. But I will say that our feelings always give us information, telling us something about ourselves and/or about a situation we are in. When we feel, we then have the difficult task of understanding what the feeling means. Our feelings are always valid, but the problem arises in determining whether the feeling is about a present situation or whether it is about some old unresolved hurt that has been emotionally triggered by the present situation.

See C'mon Out on Page 4

The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something

By: Suzan Ambrose/TRT Columnist



Lesbianism is good for your health. Well, at least mine. But there are some in the Christian Wrong/Right that are claiming that homosexuality is worse for your health than smoking cigarettes. Really? Non-caloric, sugar-free lesbian sex always seemed the better alternative to sucking on the small, white sticks (no, I'm not referring to teeny weenies.) Apparently my mother was right: what I put in my mouth can hurt me.

According to Americans For Truth about Homosexuality (AFTAH), there are so many health risks in being gay (including early death), our government ought to help restrict it.

Peter LaBarbera, president of AFTAH, called for a government study on the health risks of homosexual behavior and wrote this on their website:

Men who have had sex with men... have an HIV prevalence 60 times higher than the general population and 800 times higher than first time blood donors, the FDA reports. When it comes to combating cigarettes, the government not only restricts taxes and bans smoking; it also funds and encourages anti-smoking messages and advertisements. Given the immense health risks of male homosexual sex, shouldn't the federal government... study

the matter, tax sodomitic establishments, and educate the public and especially young people about the dangers of "gay" sex?

Are these Sodomitic establishments? Is that Christian code for places that serve up back door pleasure on a plate?

Of course, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) disputes these "findings," but that doesn't mean squat to the people who enjoy spewing their hatred. "[This] methodology is simply bad science, said Ronald Valdiserri, deputy director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention.

"[The CDC] does not collect statistics on the lifespan of gay men," Valdiserri said. "While gay men continue to be severely impacted by HIV and AIDS, AIDS-related death data cannot be used to indicate that homosexual men live shorter lives than heterosexual men overall." And, because there is no national database that gives a count of all gay men in the U.S., "making assumptions about the group as a whole is difficult," Valdiserri states.

But this isn't all the Christian Right wants from our government. *The New York Christian Coalition* used this rhetoric to suggest gays should wear warning labels. (A real clash with designer labels; what's a homo to do?).

See Couch on Page 8

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I thought this newspaper was run by lesbians, but I keep seeing gay guys on the cover. What's with that?

—Marianne H., Northampton, MA

Dear Marianne,

Thank you for your feedback. We greatly appreciate it. TRT is an inclusive LGBT newspaper. Just because we are lesbian-owned, does not mean that we will not cover other issues and articles of interest to the rest of the GBT community. Thank you, The Editor

Dear Editor,

Rev. Irene Monroe's article on the President's Score Card was right on. People cannot say that we, African American members of the LGBT community are not objective.

—Lakeisha R., Easthampton, MA

Dear Editor,

Your last edition seemed to be an anti-Obama edition. That was something unexpected. Are you not a liberal newspaper?

—Carmen S., Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,

We love your coverage of our trans issues. I have never seen such a Trans-friendly newspaper. I think that you're great TRT. I can't wait to pick up the next edition.

—Marla J., Hartford, CT

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"October 11: March on Washington for LGBT Equality"

By: Gary Lapon/TRT Special

October 11: Many LGBT people and their allies recognize it as National Coming Out Day-- a day to raise awareness and pride over ignorance and fear. The day was first observed in 1988, to commemorate the second "National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights."

In 1987, half a million people marched on Washington, DC to demand civil rights for LGBT people, and to pressure President Ronald Reagan, who remained silent while thousands died of AIDS, to take action.

We've come a long way since then in terms of support for LGBT equality, but this seismic shift in visibility and thinking is out of sync with the law: It's still legal in most states to discriminate against employees on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation, same-sex marriage is still illegal in most states, and many still hold bigoted views that have violent and often deadly results.

Even in Massachusetts, transgender people are not yet explicitly protected from discrimination. And, just a few months ago, the suicide of 11-year old Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, a Springfield boy who faced incessant anti-gay bullying at school, was a tragic reminder of the deadly consequences of

hatred and inequality.

There is still a ways to go to reach true equality, but we can get there if we stand up together. I'd like to invite everyone to take the next step this October 11, 2009, by joining thousands of LGBT people and allies to march on Washington, DC as part of the National Equality March demanding "full equality for all LGBT people in all matters governed by civil law in all 50 states. Now."

This past November, when California's Proposition 8 banned gay marriage, tens of thousands took to the streets in California and across the country. This setback became a step forward: the launch of a new grassroots movement for LGBT equality.

It was these protests, many of them called by regular people who'd never organized before but felt compelled by their outrage to take action, that inspired Cleve Jones to call a

march on Washington. Jones, who got his start working with Harvey Milk and was the historical adviser for the recent film, had this to say in an interview with the Windy City Times: "A door has opened to us and if we push really hard we can win full, real equality. Not just marriage equality or visitation rights. Actual equality."

It's important to remember that equality has never been handed down from above, but won from below when regular people stand up and refuse to take "no" for an answer. Millions of people are on our side, and millions more will question their homophobia and transphobia if we build a movement to challenge them, just as the civil rights movement changed millions of minds about racism.

Now is the time for us to make history by making LGBT inequality history.

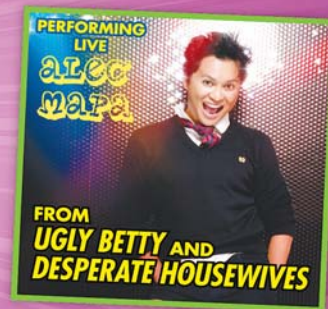
Activists from western Massachusetts have already begun organizing to bring busloads of people down to the National Equality March on October 11, 2009. To get a spot on the bus or to get involved in organizing, or to donate to ensure that low-income LGBT people and allies can attend, contact Gary Lapon at glapon@gmail.com or 617-851-5354. For more information about the march, visit www.equalityacrossamerica.org.



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SixFlags
NEW ENGLAND

In 'The Name of God'

Faith, Family, and God: Broadway & faith

By Paul P. Jesepe*

In July, Angela Lansbury, the four-time Tony Award winner, ended a run on Broadway in a revival of Noel Coward's 1941 play *Blithe Spirit*. The play may have been better named "Blithe Soul." "Blithe" is carefree.

I saw one of the theater's greatest stars perform as the colorful, endearing, and very eccentric Madame Arcati in June. What does this Broadway experience have to do with faith, family, and God? Surprisingly, more than you think.

Let me summarize the delightful play. Charles, a novelist with writers block and his wife Ruth hold a dinner party that includes the medium Madame Arcati. After dinner a séance is conducted. Several peculiar occurrences take place. Madame Arcati is like Aunt Clara in *Bewitched*, but with more focus and drama. She's also bedazzled with clunky jewelry that

Liberace and Sammy Davis would envy. During the séance she ends up bringing back the spirit of the novelist's sharp-tongued, devilishly playful first wife, Elvira.

Elvira is not pleased to find that Ruth has replaced her. Thus begins days of mischief at the expense of Charles, Ruth, and their household. Elvira wants Charles back - for eternity. She tampers with the breaks on his car. To her dismay, however, Ruth drives the car before Charles and ends up dead and sharing the afterlife with Elvira.

Contrary to the play's title the two spirits are not "blithe" or carefree. They're more like two nagging yentas that can't let go and move on. Charles is the one who is carefree. After the loss of his second wife he decides to move on. Life is for the living.

Charles sits in the "living room" and tells his two deceased wives whose spirits are in the house that he's moving on. After he leaves

all hell breaks loose. Elvira and Ruth make books fly, tables fall, and the porcelain on the mantle crash.

What's the lesson? We should all be Blithe Souls. I don't mean carefree in abstaining from duty to family and friends or responsibility to colleagues. Instead, I define blithe in the context of "letting go," "moving on," or "living for today, not looking back, and planning for tomorrow."

Blithe Soul is not holding a grudge. The more energy you spend harboring animosity toward someone for a perceived or a legitimate wrong the less energy there is to be whole. "Getting even" is a short-term satisfaction with long-term spiritual destruction. Pay-back always compromises the soul.

I'm still learning this lesson. I know that letting go and moving on is healthy, but there's the emotional anchor that can hold you back. Negative emotion can hinder the real-

ization of self. To love someone completely no matter their cold feet, blanket stealing, or snoring at night is good emotion. Angry emotion about an actual or perceived injustice is spiritual harm, especially when the individual doesn't let go. It's time wasted.

There are times in which emotion must be separated from logic. It's easier said than done. Been there, tried, and failed. A "Blithe Soul" is empowered and free from the pettiness, challenges, and temporal frustrations of this world toward the realization of self and being a comfortable part of the Universe. Life is too short. We all need to be a "Blithe Soul" everyday.

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

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C'mon Out from Page 2

Distinguishing the two is important and can be difficult. If you've ever seen yourself or another person over react to a situation, likely it is because of an old unresolved hurt.

And yes Jody, feeling does not mean we can change something. But then again we do not ask our other senses not to do their job just because we do not like what we see or hear. More importantly, when we do not feel our reactions to things, that situation, whatever it may be remains set in stone. When we put it aside, we closet it and there is no possibility for a different perspective or resolution. Being unable to change something does not mean however, that you can not change your relationship to it over time. Allowing yourself to feel, working with the feelings, talking about them, asking for help with them, when necessary, always offers the potential to see things differently and find resolution, even if that resolution is only within you. It is equally true Jody, that when we know what we are feeling and can express it appropriately, that something may change! If we all can take personal responsibility to work with our feelings so that we can "accept the things we cannot change; courage to change the things we can; and wisdom to know the difference," I think we would all live in greater peace.

Feeling emotion is no guarantee that we will always like what we feel. But emotion adds so much depth to life especially when we learn to work with our feelings and not push them aside or medicate them. Perhaps you can just consider some of the things I have suggested here, and just see how it feels!

I hope this has helped.
Best, Tetty

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

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

QScopes* **ARIES** (March 20-April 19): Let your mouth loose among your friends, and

you will be deliciously scandalous. Lack of verbal restraint at work will just be scandalous. Focus your mind on safety. Write down and analyze your ideas before tossing them at colleagues.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Tension between home and work can provoke impulsive shopping you'd regret later. Instead, focus on a priority list, but do budget some mad money for those impulses. A person needs some fun! (But save the receipts!)

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep your mind focused on ideas, not the personalities expressing them. Your eagerness to express your own perspective can come off sounding a bit aggressive. Try to be open to challenging notions. Political ideas do need to stay up to date!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You are a sexual healer, but be a little selfish and heal yourself. Arguments reflect some of your unmet needs. When you get testy, take time out for meditation: be clear about what you're not getting, and go get it!

LEO (July 23-August 22): Your birthday wishes stand a better chance of coming true if you keep your friends clear on what those are. You may need to wish a little more economically. Real expressions of the heart are much less expensive, yet infinitely more precious.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22): The secret to success is to distinguish between your ego and your instincts. Meditation can help clear any confusion there; consulting with colleagues is also helpful. Trust those instincts, and take good care of yourself. (Remember to breathe!)

LIBRA (September 23-October 22): Take your baby out to party! Or go get very social and meet somebody wonder-

ful. Worries and doubts could help weed out the many potential flops, but don't be too negative! Advice from older friends should help.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21): Count on your own charisma and skill to get ahead. Some politicking will be necessary. Know which of your colleagues you can depend on. Ambitious youngsters are set to trip you up. Older friends who've been there are more trustworthy.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 20): Not everything needs to be said. Heed the law of supply and demand, and people will be more eager to hear your rarer, sparer and more apparently brilliant words. Anything you say about authorities will get back to them!

CAPRICORN (December 21-January 19): When you strut your stuff, what are you really putting out there? What's most attractive about you is not the "only skin deep" stuff, but your values and your skills. Your ideals may seem an obstacle to romance, but actually they're a protective filter.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18): Sexual frustration could just be a sign that your standards are still stronger than your desire. You could sublimate that energy into terrific creativity. Don't be afraid of arguments or getting your hands dirty!

PISCES (February 19-March 19): Worries about your health are exaggerated, but not entirely wrong. Get a check-up! Domestic issues need discussion, and that chat will go so much better if you can stick to the topic and not get snappy.

* Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his Web site at www.starjak.com and by e-mail at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.

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Trans Opinions & More

Transactivism: Return means she would probably think of suicide

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw/TRT Columnist

Have you ever wished that people "get" you? By that I mean understand and accept you.

I'm sure that just about everyone in the LGBT umbrella has wished that.

First, you are part of the family, or in a group of really good friends then you announce that you are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender. Almost immediately a space may appear between you and them. This may lead to eventually being excluded from them. This deeply hurts the LGBT person.

I cannot really speak for Gays, Lesbians, or Bisexuals, but I can very well speak for Transgenders, especially Transwomen, because I am one and I have experienced these things.

Why does this happen? How does it happen? How can you go from being a loved one to being a banished one? I'll try to explain it as best I can from the eyes of a Transwoman.

Let's face it, we live in a fairly macho world where men are men and they are definitely not women. Somehow society thinks that there is a huge difference between being a man and being a woman. Bill Parcells, a very successful pro football coach used to call his male players "ladies" so that they would be inspired to "toughen up." Questioning a man's manliness is not taken well by most males. Phrases such as "What

are you, a woman?" are heard by a macho man threatening another man. Sometimes this man is even his friend! I've always taken issue with this behavior. It's like saying that being a woman is a very derogatory, disgusting thing to be! This mentality pervades our society today. This mentality hurts the Transwoman who is trying to live her life as who she is. Why is it wrong for a "man" to become a woman? Maybe the real underlying question is "What is wrong with being a woman?"

To further explore the obstacles a Transwoman faces let's run through some scenarios... Scenario One: Children don't "get" you. I'll admit that this is a tough one, especially for sons. Your dad is really a woman. This may not be the average father figure, but the hard fact is that a lot of Transwomen really are fathers. The difference from other fathers is that these fathers are not really men. You can explain all you want about how a father should be, but I'm sorry, this is exactly what it is. And another thing, I really don't see anything wrong with a woman being a dad or a dad being a woman, especially in this



DEJA NICOLE GREENLAW

era of same-sex marriages and families. Maybe it's time that others realize and accept this fact.

Scenario Two: Family members don't "get" you. You might hear phrases such as "Get out of here! There's no such thing as Transgender! Why can't you just be a man? Don't you ever show up at my house in a dress!" These are statements that I have experienced. Some family members just cannot seem to grasp the fact that we are not really men. Invitations to family events are decimated if the Transwoman get any at all. All of a sudden she is "out of the family."

Other statements heard are "Stop being so selfish! You have children and a wife and you're throwing it all away! Are you crazy? How selfish of you! It's all about you! Why can't you consider the ones that you love? Why can't you see what you are doing to everybody? Stop this selfish, all about you behavior!"

Wait a minute! Who is really being selfish on this issue? They want the Transwoman to change back into being a man to make them feel better? Them? But, isn't this the Transwoman's life? Shouldn't this precious gift of life that is given to her be hers to live and to be who she is? What makes them think that she should live it for them?

They want her to go back and be a man again and go back into her awful closet which she finally escaped from just a few years ago? She

won't be able to be who she really is. They want her to be doing this for them so that they can feel better about her? After all, it's all about them not her, even though it's her life? How selfish is that of others wanting her to live to their expectations? And they called her selfish?

And did they ever think what it would be like for her to go back into that closet and be a man again, just like they prefer? Do they know that she is finally at peace with herself now? If she went back to being a man she would not be at peace with herself. She would not even like herself. She would probably think of suicide. Yes, it hurts that bad! Yes, she is who she is. She's a woman. If she had to go back to being a man, that would be a death sentence for her. Wouldn't they rather that she be alive and enjoying life?

Sadly, too many of them do not understand, will not understand and won't even try to understand. This makes it virtually impossible to regain these folks who have in effect, turned their back on the Transwoman. It's a big price to pay to lose family members and friends but really, why should there be a price to pay at all?

I really don't know how to make people "get" me, but I do know who I am, I am a Transwoman. I know it, I live it. My wish is that someday people will finally somehow "get" me.

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

Hi Lorelei, My name is not really Andrea (to protect my identity against what could be the wrath of the trans community), but I am quite concerned about certain things that I see happening in our community. I have to be brutally honest here and I was told that this is the forum to do so. Here are my questions:

1. What is happening in our LGBT community with the confusion over who is trans and how trans has really become the new "queer." With that I mean, how can a trans man or trans woman turn around and say that they are gay? To put it frankly, I thought that a trans person suffered from gender dysphoria and that once they transitioned they would be engaging themselves in relationships with members of the opposite sex. But, what I see is that trans women are with women, and trans men are with men. Wouldn't it have been easier (since

you're going to end up loving the opposite sex that you were originally born in) to simply have stayed biologically male or female and then be with someone of the opposite sex? Why make it so complicated and difficult to understand for all of us and especially the mainstream closed-minded society that surrounds us.

Why are trans men with trans men? Why are trans men with gay men? Why are pre-op trans gay men and gay men engaging themselves in heterosexual sex? Isn't this just way too complicated? I'm afraid that we will never really get the rights that we have fought to attain with such difficulty if people are now going to be "gender fluid," whatever that means. I don't believe in the male/female thing only, but must it be so complicated? Where are the boundaries? And, if a pre-op trans man really feels like a man and a gay man really is gay, then



Lorelei Erisis

how can they be having sex with one another? Doesn't that defy and hurt our cause? I mean, all I can think about is a pre-op trans man (with all "his" female parts), having sex with a gay man (who usually enjoys the male phallic anatomy), now having "intercourse" with a woman who wishes to call himself a "trans man." Please, I know I'm not the only one with all of these questions, concerns, doubts and honestly, I am not happy with all of this confusion and where it takes us--backwards. Thank you for your insight. Confused Dyke, Northampton, MA

of them recommended that I keep it simple and not try to give you the complicated answer that this truly requires. But I believe in you CD! And I believe in the innate intelligence of you all, my dear readers! So Gods help me, here I go.

Firstly, Gender and Sexuality are two entirely separate things. That's the simple answer and if that were all, I'd be done with this column. But I'm not.

So here's the complicated answer. Because that's just how life is.

A transperson changes their gender presentation, whether full-on surgically or through less dramatic means, so as to more accurately match the gender that they feel they are or should have been.

This has very little to do with who they are attracted to.

We are attracted to the people we are attracted to based not on how well, or not, our genitalia fit together, but for a whole host of other reasons that I think most Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual people are fairly familiar with. There are whole fields of research dedicated to this. In short it's usually some combination of inherited disposition, environmental development, hormone wackiness or sometimes because you

See Ask a TransWoman on Page 10

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Dear Confused Dyke,
Hoo boi (or grrrrr, or whatever!), that sure is a Thanksgiving Meal of a question! There's a lot to answer there my dear Confused Dyke, but if anyone can do it I can. I've spoken about your question with a number of my friends in and around the trans community and almost all

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A fine Bromance? Not so fast

By: Kate Clinton

Bruno did not open as well at the box office as Borat. Despite a studio publicity blitz, including a faux fight with Eminem at the Grammys and his own best worst efforts, Sacha Barren Cohen did not take into account that real life pesky thing called homophobia. It can really hurt ticket sales. Call a real gay person; we'll tell you all about it.

Blame at least one lost ticket sale on me. I did not see Bruno. I did not go to see Borat either. I think I had a sweater soaking. My non-attendance did not harm Borat's success. I did eventually Netflix the DVD and mutely fast-forwarded my way through it for about five minutes. I should just have settled for my friend's tears-streaming-down-their-faces re-enactments of the hilarious, to them, hijinx of Borat with the hooker, Borat with the clueless Romanians, Borat nude wrestling his fat manager. With any luck I will not have to sit through my friend's re-enactments of Bruno's anal bleaching scene.

Usually summer is one big blockbuster "Woman as Afterthought Film Festival". Studio execs in their big plush chairs watch a first cut and realize there is not a woman in the film. They find some starlet on the cheap, shoot a few love interest plot point scenes and throw them into the plot stew. This year they



KATE CLINTON

Photo by: David Rodgers

are not even pretending. With I Love You Man, The Hangover and Hump Day, each exploring non-sexual friendships among white men, this is the summer of the "A Fine Bromance Film Festival." Of course

there are some hilarious close gay calls, not that there's anything wrong with that. The bromances are tame tea parties compared with Cohen's in your face homo tea-bagging.

Maybe I should just try to "get ueber it" but I am not comfortable with the masochistic Jack Ass meets Candid Camera, you've been punk'd genre that is post-race, post-gay and post-p.c. and demonstrates that posture by being both racist and homophobic. It is so hard to compete with reality TV. GLAAD gave Bruno a less than ringing "it's not that bad for gays until it is" endorsement. For some of my friends Bruno is hilarious. What do I know? It wouldn't surprise me if Sacha Cohen is an invited keynote speaker at the March on Washington. Especially if he appears in gay-face wearing his tulip-yellow lederhosen.

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Queertations & the Creep of the Week Winner

Queertations: Say what?!

By: Rex Wockner

"(Gay equality is) my generation's civil rights movement."

—Meghan McCain, John's daughter, to Out.com, July 20.

"I just loathe homophobia. It's just disgusting and animal and stupid and it's just thick people who can't get their head around it and are just scared. ... I grew up around gay people entirely. I was the only child in my class who had any experience of homosexuality or anything like that."

—Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe to Britain's Attitude magazine, July 23.

"Countries as Catholic as Spain, as different as Sweden and South Africa, and as near as Canada have embraced gay and lesbian marriage without any noticeable effect -- except the increase in human happiness and social stability that comes from permitting people to marry for love. Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont ... have individually repealed their bans on same-sex marriage as inconsistent with a decent respect for human rights and a rational view of the communal value of marriage for all individuals."

—Lawyer David Boies writing about his and Ted Olson's bold lawsuit seeking to have Prop 8 struck down as a violation of the U.S. Constitution, in The Wall Street Journal, July 20.

"The Chico's (Tacos) case (where five gay men were ejected from the restaurant after two of them kissed) may seem small in comparison with the struggles of John Lewis and Martin Luther King Jr., but public fallout evoked familiar imagery. A place of public accommodation. A dining room counter. Threats of boycott. A picket line. A subjugated class. City Rep. Steve Ortega went so far as to describe gay equality as 'the civil-rights issue of our time.' A lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union in Austin said negative reaction to the gay kiss was reminiscent of the era when signs posted in West Texas restaurants read 'No Mexicans, no dogs.'"

—The El Paso Times news section goes there, July 26.

"I think it (the Episcopal Church) will hold (together). Now that we've done the, quote, unthinkable, the church won't look much different than before. Opponents of marriage equality predict the end of Western civilization as we know it if gay couples are allowed to marry. And then when it comes, there's no big whoop."

—Gay New Hampshire Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson to The New York Times, July 16.

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6. Girl Play
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10. Itty Bitty Titty Committee

* By wolfevideo.com

Gay Best Sellers*

1. The New Twenty
2. Newcastle
3. Pedro
4. Were the World Mine
5. Pageant
6. Mulligans
7. Whirlwind
8. Boy Crush
9. Another Gay Sequel: Gays....
10. Lilies

* By wolfevideo.com

Creep of the Week: American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property

By: D'Anne Witkowski

July is quickly evaporating. Before you know it it'll be September and you'll be wishing you did more than just watch "30 Rock" reruns in front of your A/C unit for three months. But hey, you're young, you're reasonably attractive, you've got transportation and you've got time to kill. It's time for a road trip!

But where to go? Well, gosh, what do you and your friends like to do? Daytona Beach is a popular destination ... Wait, what's that? You and your Catholic friends from The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property want to spend your summer vacation telling everyone how gay people shouldn't be allowed to get married because of how icky they are?

Why not head to New York, Rhode Island and Maine, then? I mean, Maine is gearing up for a major marriage equality battle, Rhode Island is dangerously close to homo-loving Massachusetts geographically, and New York has Broadway and Fire Island. Sounds like the perfect Marriage Rally Road Trip itinerary.

Hey, "Marriage Rally Road Trip" has a nice ring to it, don't you think? Oh, you already have a name? You're going with "Traditional Marriage Crusade?" For real? Don't you think "crusade" is a bit much?

If you call your trip a crusade it's going to be colored by that time during the Dark Ages when Christians, supported by land-hungry secular leaders, set out to supposedly take the Holy Land from the Muslims in the name of God but also engaged in a whole lot of killing, raping and pillaging along the way.

What's that you say? That's exactly what you're going for? That's, um, pretty sick.

And this handout you're planning to distribute, the one called "10 Reasons Why Homosexual 'Marriage' is Harmful and Must be Opposed"? A lot of crap in there.

Just take reason number one, for example: "Marriage has always been a covenant between a man and a woman which is by its nature ordered toward the procreation and education of children and the unity and wellbeing of the spouses."

Really? It's always been that way? Have you actually read the Bible? Also, surely it can't be lost on you that a husband used to own his wife as if she were, well, property. If you're truly espousing Tradition, Family and Property is that, like, cool with you then?

Then there's your claim that, "It is in the child's best interests that he be raised under the influence of his natural father and mother." I think you're getting a little too hung up on the private parts a child's parents have rather than the love and care they show for their child.

For example, what if your dad kills a hooker and makes you help him hide the body (which recently happened to a fifth grade boy in Orange County, Fla.)? Or how about the little girl in Hamtramck, Mich. who told police, "Mom cooks me like a turkey in the oven?"

Now that's something worth crusading over. Gay people wanting to live their lives together and raise their children in peace? Not so much.

But hey, if your bus breaks down you'll have plenty of those "10 Reasons" flyers to fold into fans. They aren't doing anything but waving around hot air anyway.

Couch from Page 2

"We put warning labels on cigarette packs because we know that smoking takes one to two years off the average life span, yet we 'celebrate' a lifestyle that we know spreads every kind of sexually transmitted disease and takes at least 20 years off the average lifespan according to the 2005 issue of the refereed scientific journal Psychological Reports," said Rev. Bill Banuchi, executive director, New York Christian Coalition.

Warning: I could be bad for your lifespan (but fantastic for the evening!).

All this attention on gay men (poor things get all the scrutiny) but with the same logic, I guess that means sex with women is far safer than sex with men - should all +straight+ women go for the safer version of sexual humpty- hump? Should govt.-funded commercials be made touting the health benefits of women-on-women delights? Finally; my tax dollars being put to work in a way I can approve of.

And what about giving birth? There must be thousands who have popped out countless babies - that's got to cut down on your life span. Yet no one has put that thought out to the world, having less hetero sex. No, it's just the damn gays we need to monitor.

All the time and energy spent trying to end 'homosexual behavior' is incredible. There are churches performing exorcisms to remove the 'gay demon', groups devoted to brainwashing lesbians and gays into 'turning straight again', blogs and websites devoted to hating/saving us, Fred Phelps' crazy clan determined to damn us eternally - all people with apparently more time on their hands that I have.

Perhaps they should take up smoking. It's not as bad for you as you might think.

*
Suzan Ambrose is often seen staring at summer night skies holding a clove cigarette when she's not writing diligently for the Rainbow Times.

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Q-Book Marks, the latest in LGBT books with spice

By: by Richard Labonte

[*The Creamsickle*, by Rhiannon Argo. Spinsters Ink, 268 pages, \$14.95 paper.]

Bois, boards, baby butches and bed hopping: Argo's angsty fiction debut, centered on the shenanigans of a crew of gender-fluid young women, should perhaps come with an age-appropriate label. Old folks—anyone over 40, more or less—ought to be adolescent at heart, or at least nostalgic for their own adventurous youth, to fully engage with its feisty plot. The effort, however, will be rewarded. The residents of *The Creamsickle*—a ramshackle San Francisco Mission District Victorian crash pad where art and anarchy reign—are a sexually rambunctious lot. Central to the story is Georgie, a hapless romantic tomboy-turned-stripper with a tough exterior and a yen for self-destructive punk rock girls, and her skater pals Cruz, a tough Mexican-American girl with a soft heart and a talent for photography, and Soda, who starts the cheerfully unruly story about the queerest of queer families as "her" and ends it as "him." Argo, who is touring this fall with dyke-spirited Sister Spit, brings the energy of live performance to this affectingly offbeat depiction of queer young lives.

[*The 38 Million Dollar Smile*, by Richard Stevenson. MLR Press, 288 pages, \$14.99 paper.]

For most of the previous nine books in Stevenson's venerable Donald Strachey, PI novels, Albany, New York and environs has been the prosaic (but nonetheless wryly entertaining and quite queer) setting. This time, and to atmospheric affect, the sleuthing relocates to Thailand, where Strachey and his loving companion sidekick are searching for steel company scion Gary Griswold, who has vanished along with his \$38 million inheritance. It's safe to guess that the author and his real-life partner have spent recent tourist time in Thailand; the story is salted with colorful references to such Bangkokian street delicacies as bird-spit beverage, pig colon and buffalo gums. Yum. And in context, they do sound delicious. Stevenson is as enthralled with the country's "land of smiles" culture as he is with the cuisine, to the extent that the plot's perilous twists and menacing treacheries are almost secondary to how the sexual, political and karmic tones of Thailand are captured with an outsider's wise eye. As much travel memoir as mystery, this tenth in a series spanning three decades is supremely satisfying as both.

[*Sprout*, by Dale Peck. Bloomsbury USA, 288 pages, \$16.99 hardcover.] Not so many months ago, Peck's sexually horrific, viscerally terrific *Body Surfing* was released. This young adult novel, the author's first, is work of a kinder, gentler sort. It's the charming yet sharp-edged story of 16-year-old, openly gay Daniel "Sprout"



Bradford "sprout" because he has defiantly dyed his hair a lush green—as he navigates the very square halls of his rural Kansas high school with snarky self-assurance and a vocabulary endearingly beyond his years. More an "out, so what" than a classic coming out story, Peck's invigorating YA effort embraces numerous tropes of the genre—beloved dead mother, emotionally absent and alcoholic father, best girl friend who "gets" him, understanding teacher who detects talent under a smartass surface, sex on the side with a jock hunk, eventual bonding with another boy, unlikely outsider who wins Sprout's heart. But this word-rich novel imbues these sometime stereotypes with extra dimension, adding complexity to a plucky adolescent's earnest search for illusive love and settled self-knowledge.

[*Moral Panics, Sex Panics: Fear and the Fight Over Sexual Rights*, edited by Gilbert Herdt. NYU Press, 304 pages, \$24 paper.]

When it comes to such issues as sex education in schools and same-sex marriage, AIDS prevention and private-use pornography, or black sexuality and abortion rights, the response from the political and the Christian right is, unerringly, honed self-righteous hypocrisy and focus-grouped hysterical panic. For cultural and sexual activists, challenging the manufactured panic around these matters is a given. In this six-essay collection, with an astute introduction from editor Herdt, social scientists and scholars of sexuality (more of them women than men) dissect where such loathing for personal freedoms originates, how maniacally it is deployed and whether there is an effective response to the fomented onslaught of anti-woman, anti-gay and anti-sexual moral Puritanism. For lay readers, this study's prescription for taking the offensive high ground against the fundamentalists' low-blow denial of rights may well be heavy going. But individuals and activist groups committed to the progressive struggle for cultural and sexual freedoms will find smart analysis and crucial advice in a timely academic call to arms.

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Trans Local Events

Northampton to host 1st Transgender Pageant: Proceeds to benefit Regional Transgender Pride March

Northampton, MA—Known for its progressive culture, Northampton, Massachusetts will become home to the Miss Trans Northampton 2009 Pageant this fall. Produced by Christa Hilfers with the help of local volunteers, the pageant will celebrate and present in a positive light transsexual women living in western Massachusetts. Although Gay or Transgender pageants have been held in some U.S. cities, Miss Trans Northampton will be a first for the Pioneer Valley.

Hilfers, herself a past pageant winner of the Miss Gay Rochester, Minnesota 2003 crown, said "I believe Miss Trans Northampton will be a wonderful addition to the city's cultural

activities, as well as a fun and affirming experience for trans women in the area who deserve to be recognized and become more visible in the community."

The pageant will take place on Saturday, September 5 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Northampton Center for the Arts, 17 New South Street, Northampton, MA. All are welcome. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Advance tickets may be reserved by sending an email to misstransnorthampton@gmail.com or purchased directly at Food for Thought Books in Amherst and at Pride and Joy Bookstore and the Ultra Gal shop in Northampton. Proceeds will benefit the New England Trans United

Pride March & Rally, scheduled for October 3 in Northampton.

Contestants will receive scores in four categories - glamour, poise, evening gown, and talent - and will be asked to answer a random question. The pageant winner will be crowned "Miss Trans Northampton 2009," receive a cash prize, march and speak or perform at New England Trans United Pride, and help organize a fundraiser for New England Trans United Pride 2010.

Included in the panel of judges are Jane Savage, owner of Ultra Gal in downtown Northampton; Susan Cummings Maroni, arts and culture writer for The Beat magazine; and several area trans activists.

The pageant is currently seeking additional contestants. Those interested may learn more and complete an application at <http://www.misstransnorthampton.tk> or by sending an email to tomisstransnorthampton@gmail.com.

The New England Trans United Pride March & Rally website is at www.newenglandtransunited.org. The group may be reached by email at newenglandtransunited@yahoo.com and found online at:

- MySpace: www.myspace.com/newenglandtransunited
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/netu.pride
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/newenglandtrans> (no hyphen)

Ask a TransWoman from Page 6

just happen to find punkgays with big blue mohawks super hot! Okay, maybe that's just me, but I think you get the point.

Allow me to present my own example. I was born male bodied. I knew from very early on though that I was not male. Somehow, appearances to the contrary, I knew I was a woman. As I grew up, whenever I looked in the mirror, I saw a stranger with my eyes looking back. I was disconnected from this admittedly handsome man looking back at me. Since I have begun to transition and my body has been changing, that has changed. More and more often when I pass a mirror, even naked, I catch a glimpse of a beautiful woman and when I stop and look, I see myself standing there! It is me! My own reflection as I knew I should have been! As I knew that I was. It is an incredibly liberating feeling.

For many years however, for a variety of reasons, I did try to live as a man. I had always considered myself to be bi-sexual, but in general practice I was mostly attracted to women. I fooled around and experimented, but guys just never did it for me. I think I liked the male-female dynamic more than anything else.

When I began HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy), and began to live full-time as a woman, some funny things happened. First,

since I have been in a long-term relationship with a super-sexy woman, my sweet love Widow Centauri, I discovered that I was now a lesbian by default. I regularly Out myself, without even realizing it. I'll mention my girlfriend in conversation, without thinking anything of it because I had previously been perceived as a mostly heterosexual man. I will watch people's faces go from "My God, you're a gigantic transsexual!!!" to "And you're a lesbian too????!!!"

The other thing that happened, that caught me off guard, is that I am now also very attracted to men! Not simply theoretically, but in a suddenly distracted, "Oh wow, check HIM out" sort-of-a-sense.

Physiologically, with the HRT, I'm going through puberty a second time, with all the attendant 14-year-old girl hormonal madness. Simply put, I'm suddenly Boy Crazy! Thankfully, I have an open relationship and an encouraging girlfriend, so I'm free to explore these bright shiny new feelings!

I'm a girl now and I want to see what it's like to be with a boy. Does that make me straight? I'm fairly certain that cute boy in the Red Sox cap I saw going into Hooters would disagree. But is there any good reason?

Plus, my head still whips around when a cute girl passes me by in the street! So what does that make me?

Further, why shouldn't a pre-op transman and

a cisgendered (not trans) gay man have hot gay sex!!!! Last I checked, there was no end to the, umm, sexual inventiveness gay people are capable of in the pursuit of a good, gay time!!

We have as wide a range of sexualities as the rest of the population. Being trans simply means that we have re-aligned our gender in a way that more closely matches our self-image. That self-image may be a man who is gay or a woman who is not. Or, like me, that self-image might alter subtly as we attain our true selves and learn more about who we are.

It's just an example of the complexity of the interactions between our gender and our sexuality. They are separate things, but it's not a closed system. There is overlap and influence. Unexpected things can happen when you go playing with gender! That is also why we are so inextricably intertwined with the LGBT (QQIK, etc...) community and why we belong in the movement.

As long as the rest of society looks at anyone who doesn't match their idea of the hetero-normative gender-binary (did I mention my girlfriend is a sociologist?) and indiscriminately labels us "fags" or worse, we will be fighting the same fight on the same LGBT team, whatever our self-image might be.

Trans is not "The New Queer." We've been with you since the beginning. Who do you think was there throwing bottles with you at

Stonewall? A bunch of uppity transfolk, that's who!!! We have always been with you, usually in the front lines of the fight! I myself can be found in a simple internet search, supporting gay marriage as loud and proud as I know how.

But now that Gay, Lesbian and Bi-Sexual people are beginning to win mainstream acceptance, your Trans Sisters and Brothers are still out in the streets fighting for our most basic rights: Protection against discrimination and hate crimes, for the right to live our lives in safety and not be fired from our jobs simply because of who we are!

But we don't all blend in quite so easily and we need your support now more than ever!

I hope that helps to answer some of your questions, my dear Confused Dyke. There were a few things I'll have to leave for another time, the psychiatric diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria for instance. Remember when being Gay was considered to be a mental illness? Well being Trans still is. There's a movement on right now to change all that.

There's a whole lot more to be said.

So keep those letters and emails coming folks! I know you've got questions you're all afraid to ask. You might think they're silly, stupid, offensive or just insane. But you really would like to know.

Well that's why I'm here. Just ask Lorelei. I'm your Trans-Answerwoman! *Slaante!*



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The Power of Kristine W and her gay connections

By: Skip Santana/Special to TRT

Kristine W's "The Power of Music" album has already proven its power on the dance scene with its first four single releases landing the #1 spot on the Billboard Hot Dance Club Play List.

In fact, with her latest chart topper released earlier in the year, Kristine edged out Whitney Houston to claim fifth place among artists with multiple #1s on the dance chart. Madonna tops the list, followed by Janet Jackson, Donna Summer and Mariah Carey. With 13 #1s, Kristine ranks #5. Houston ranks in 6th place with only 12 #1s.

If "Be Alright" performs as expected, Mariah Carey may have to prepare to share the #4 spot.

SS: If anyone understands the power of music, it's you. How does music have the power to change people's lives?

KW: Music brings people together and connects us in ways we would never otherwise experience. It introduces us to people we would otherwise never meet.

Q: What is the most powerful thing music has done for you?

A: I was very young when my father died. Music saved my family because my mother was a gifted singer and musician and couldn't find a job doing anything else. She performed every night of the week to feed and raise four young kids on her own.

Q: Why do you think your songs have resonated so powerfully with the gay community?

A: My songs are about empowerment, survival, and hope. The gay community has struggled with acceptance—more from their



KRISTINE W

Photo by: Rufskin Studios for Pix Magazine

families than even from society as a whole - which is the hardest rejection to face.

Q: When did you first realize you had such a

strong gay following?

A: When I played an event with Junior Vasquez in New York. I had no idea who he

was at the time. I got on stage in front of 2000 shirtless men and thought wow - what happened?

Q: How does your new album compare with your past albums?

A: It is more uplifting. Making Fly Again (Kristine's previous album) was a tough time, not really knowing whether I would survive the effects of leukemia. It was more of an album of purging my frustrations and dealing with the unknown.

Q: What's your favorite song on The Power of Music?

A: It changes everyday but at the moment it is "Be Alright." I've been performing it a lot lately and I see how that message connects with people. People who have never heard it are singing along after the 1st chorus and it seems to be resonating with people and making them smile.

Q: There's not much to smile about these days. The economy is down. Terrorism is rampant. Gay men and women are still denied our right to marriage.

A: As my grandmother always said, attitude is everything. We have the power to elevate ourselves in any situation, if we really want to.

Q: What do you think the gay community must do to reclaim our power?

A: Stop allowing society to focus on the "dark" side of the gay community. It's time we show them the wonderful people we really are. The truth is we are more like them then they think - only better dressers.

Kristine W's The Power of Music is available on i-Tunes and Masterbeat.com now.

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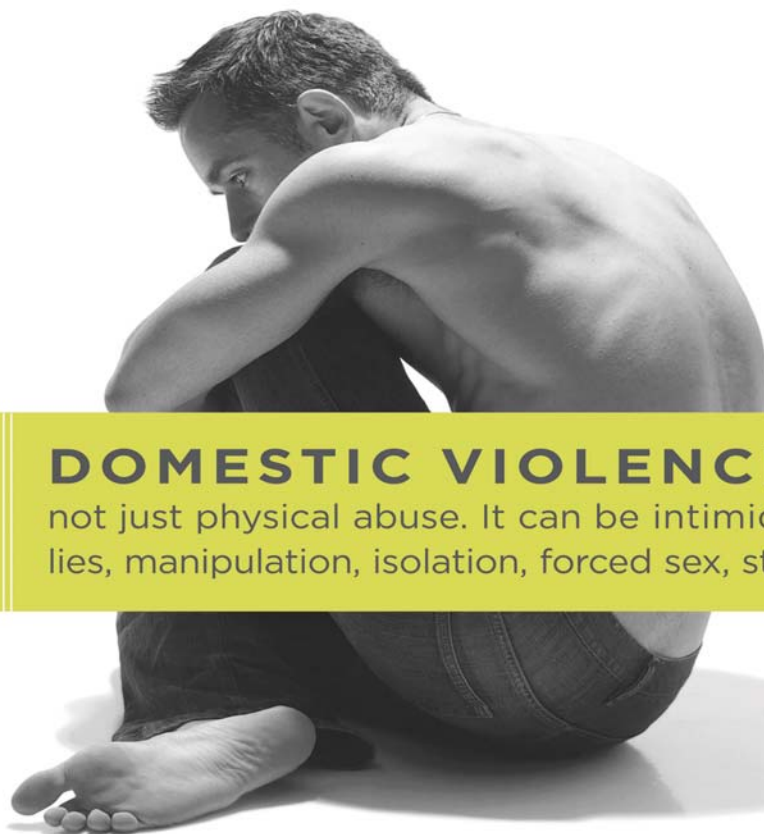
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Deep Inside Hollywood: Ellen Page, Olympia Dukakis, & the penis' TV myth blown by Hung



By: Romeo San Vicente*
Ellen Page's career up in the Eyre

Oh, Ellen Page—you're keeping mum about your sexuality, but you're teasing the lesbians into a frenzy. First there was that "Can't I wrap my legs around another woman in friendship?" sketch on *SNL*. Then, your decision to play real-life lesbian activist Laurel Hester in a biopic (a project which appears to be on hold for now) and a roller-derry girl in Drew Barrymore's directorial debut *Whip It*. But while you keep the ladies guessing, you're certainly staying busy, what with lead roles in three more upcoming projects. Page stars opposite Susan Sarandon and Cillian Murphy in the thriller *Peacock*. She's part of an all-star ensemble—that includes Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Murphy again—for Christopher Nolan's *Inception*, and Page will play the famous Brontë heroine in the BBC's *Jane Eyre*. Looking forward to all the non-revealing interviews Page will give to promote these movies.

Dukakis and Fricker are lesbians on the run

She played an MTF transgender woman in the three *Tales of the City* mini-series, and now Oscar-winner Olympia Dukakis will star as half of a lesbian couple. She and fellow statuette recipient Brenda Fricker (*My Left Foot*) play a pair of longtime companions in *Cloudburst*, due sometime in 2010 from gay Canadian director Thom Fitzgerald (*The Hanging Garden*, *Beefcake*, *3 Needles*). After 30 years together, when one of them gets placed in a nursing home, the two conspire to make a break for it and hit the road to Canada, where they can be legally married. During their travels, they are joined by a young male hitchhiker (who has yet to be cast). Dukakis and Fricker are both known for playing women who take no guff, so this casting seems perfect. Now, let's make movies about old, cool lesbians a hot trend, shall we?

Hung for teens?

Even though they can't show penises on television, the newly hip appendage (thanks, *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*) has never been hotter on the small screen. HBO is airing *Hung*, a comedy starring Thomas Jane as a high school basketball coach forced to market his one outstanding attribute to lonely women, and now MTV is following suit with *Hard Times*. This latest series follows the tra-

Photo by: Miramax Films



ELLEN PAGE

vails of teen loser RJ Berger (Paul Iacono of this summer's *Fame* remake), whose life is totally changed when his impressive package is unveiled in front of the entire student body. (David Katzenberg, who directed the pilot, knows plenty about accidental nudity from his years as a *Survivor* producer.) Will the revelation boost his confidence and make him popular, or will he become the butt of jokes from cruel classmates? Find out when MTV airs *Hard Times* later this year.

Pack your bags for BearCity

Once Kevin Smith and Kathy Griffin started making jokes about bears - gay guys who tend to be hairier and huskier than your average disco twink - it was inevitable that the culture at large would figure out that this niche of the queer subculture existed. Perhaps equally inevitable was *BearCity*, an upcoming feature film about a young, gay would-be actor who finds himself attracted to men with


some meat on their bones and fur on their backs. Casting is still taking place for the film, set to be helmed by Douglas Langway (director of the bear-adoptive-dads-with-guns action saga *Raising Heroes*), who co-wrote with filmmaker and entertainment journalist Lawrence Ferber. Shooting is set to start in August, so don't be surprised to see *BearCity* woofing it up on the 2010 gay film fest circuit.

* Romeo San Vicente thinks a real life *Bear City* would probably have some really great restaurants. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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Organization News

HRC calls on LGBT community & allies to participate in national, grassroots push to lobby Congress face-to-face

"No Excuses" campaign demands equality through in-district visits.

Washington—The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, today launched a national, grassroots campaign called "No Excuses" to demand action from Congress on key issues of equality. Designed to take advantage of the congressional summer recess, when members are in their local offices and meeting with constituents, "No Excuses" will mobilize HRC's 750,000 members and their allies to meet directly with lawmakers and push for federal legislative change. Members and supporters can get involved by visiting: <http://noexcuses.hrc.org>.

"While we salute and acknowledge the heroic members of Congress who have worked tirelessly on our behalf, far too many have dragged their feet on basic matters of fairness and equality that have lingered too long and hurt too many LGBT people and their families," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Yes, there are many challenges facing this Congress and this president. But LGBT people often face additional hardship protecting their families, their loved ones and their jobs, and too few in Congress are willing to champion these issues of basic fairness. Now, more than ever, members of the LGBT community need to make their voices heard face-to-face and in the districts where they live."

Using innovative online tools, one-on-one trainings and staff and volunteer follow-through, HRC members will press lawmakers to end discrimination in the military, treat all legally married couples equally, pass immigration reform that recognizes and honors

LGBT families, outlaw workplace discrimination for LGBT employees, and treat all federal employees' compensation equally.

The interactive "No Excuses" website allows supporters to download a meeting toolkit, schedule a meeting and report back on how it went. To take action, visit: <http://noexcuses.hrc.org>.

The in-district meetings will focus on the following key legislative priorities in the 111th Congress:

- Repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which denies legally married lesbian and gay couples more than 1,000 federal protections;
- Prohibit workplace discrimination for the LGBT community by passing an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA);
- Repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to ensure that service members who contribute to our nation's security are no longer summarily discharged for who they are;
- Pass immigration reform that recognizes permanent same-sex couples and ends the painful separation of families;
- And provide health benefits equally to the nearly 3 million federal government employees, including same-sex domestic partners.

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.

DOJ tells State Licensing Boards & Occupational Training Schools that it is illegal to bar people with HIV

WASHINGTON, D.C., July, 2009—The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a new fact sheet yesterday informing state licensing boards and occupational training schools – and the general public – that it is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act to bar people with HIV from professions such as barbering, massage therapy and home health care assistance. The new guidelines were issued in response to requests from AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, the American Civil Liberties Union, The Center for HIV Law and Policy, Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders and Lambda Legal.

"The DOJ has sent a loud and clear message to the state licensing boards and occupational training schools that HIV discrimination won't be tolerated," said Catherine Hanssens, Executive Director of The Center for HIV Law and Policy. "Even this late into the HIV epidemic, we continue to hear from people who are being barred from professions out of fear and ignorance about how HIV is spread. We are grateful for DOJ's leadership in helping to end this irrational discrimination."

As the fact sheet states, state licensing agencies and public trade schools for barbering, cosmetology, massage therapy and other occupations are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act, and because HIV is considered a disability under the ADA, any state licensing agencies or trade schools that bar people with HIV are in violation of federal law. The fact sheet concludes that it is safe for people with HIV to work in these professions and explains, "circumstances do not exist for the transmission of HIV in a school or workplace setting, including those involving massage therapy, cosmetology, or home health-

care services."

In urging DOJ to issue the guidelines, the HIV advocacy groups provided DOJ with several recent examples

of people with HIV facing discrimination from state licensing boards and training schools. These included a Georgia man whose massage license was revoked by the City of Atlanta, an Arkansas man who was kicked out of a cosmetology school because of the school's interpretation of state licensing requirements, and a Tennessee couple who had their foster parent license denied because one of them had HIV.

"For far too long state licensing boards all over the country have been allowed to wreck havoc on the lives of people with HIV out of ignorance about how HIV is spread," said Rose Saxe, a staff attorney with the ACLU AIDS Project. "We've known for years that you cannot get HIV through a hair cut or a massage, yet state laws have kept many people from these professions. Thankfully DOJ is now making states get rid of these senseless policies."

The fact sheet is available on the DOJ's website at www.ada.gov/qahivavids_license.htm. A PDF of the document is available at www.ada.gov/qahivavids_license.pdf.



Treatment of Lesbian couple lands Lions Club a warning from Lambda Legal

'It's not just insulting; it's illegal'

Huntington, Oregon, July, 2009—Lambda Legal has delivered a warning to Lions Club International charging that the treatment a lesbian couple received at a club-sponsored Oregon catfish derby violates state antidiscrimination laws.

On May 22, Angela and Tina Corriere-Gooch attended a Huntington, Oregon catfish derby with their family. As the group approached the registration area that evening, a club representative explained that the event

pricing included a discount for couples and added, "but none of this boy-boy, girl-girl couples crap." When another man in the room suggested that Angela and Tina should be given the discount if they could document their relationship status, the club representative stated that this is how the club has "always done it," and that the club had no intention of changing its policy. Adding insult to injury, the Corriere-Gooches' young nieces and their boyfriends were given the "couples" discount, while Angela and Tina both were

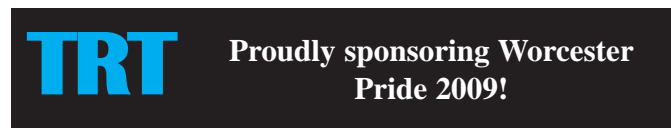
charged the full admission price.

"It's insulting and degrading that the club treated us like strangers, instead of recognizing our committed relationship," said Tina Corriere-Gooch.

"It's not just insulting; it's illegal," said Tara Borelli, the Lambda Legal staff attorney who drafted the letter. "Oregon's public accommodations antidiscrimination law expressly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and sex, and Angela and Tina were denied equal accommodations on both of those grounds. The Lions Club needs to make sure its clubs are aware of states' antidiscrim-

ination laws, and in fact, follow the club's own guidelines which include, in its own words, 'fostering a spirit of understanding among people and taking an active interest in the social and moral welfare of the whole community.'"

The Corriere-Gooches are requesting that all Oregon Lions clubs receive notice of their antidiscrimination obligations under Oregon law, a meaningful plan to ensure that clear notice is provided specifically to Huntington, Oregon Lions Club members, and a written apology.



HRC statement on guilty verdict in Lateisha Green murder trial

Washington—The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, issued the following statement on today's guilty verdict in the trial of Dwight DeLee, who brutally murdered Lateisha Green, a 22-year-old African-American transgender woman, outside a Syracuse house party in November. DeLee was convicted of first-degree manslaughter as a hate crime.

"As a community, we thank the jury in this case for ensuring that justice was served," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Crimes such as this, motivated by prejudice and hate, are meant to send a message to transgender people that their very



the fear that crimes like this brutal murder create. Our thoughts and prayers are with

"As some in Congress question the prevalence of violent hate crimes against the LGBT community, this case provides another reminder of the transgender community's desperate need for protection from hate violence and the need for action on a federal hate crimes bill," said HRC President Joe Solmonese.

existence is not tolerated. The jury's verdict sends a message in return: hate will not be tolerated, and we will fight it wherever it appears until all are safe to live their lives authentically and without fear. As some in Congress question the prevalence of violent hate crimes against the LGBT community, this case provides another reminder of the transgender community's desperate need for protection from hate violence and the need for action on a federal hate crimes bill."

"I am relieved to see Lateisha's killer brought to justice," said Allyson Robinson, HRC Associate Director of Diversity. "As a transgender woman and as a parent, I know

Lateisha's mother, Roxanne, and the rest of her family today. Their loving support of Lateisha in life, and their tireless advocacy for her and for all transgender people since her tragic death, provide an example of compassion and courage for us all."

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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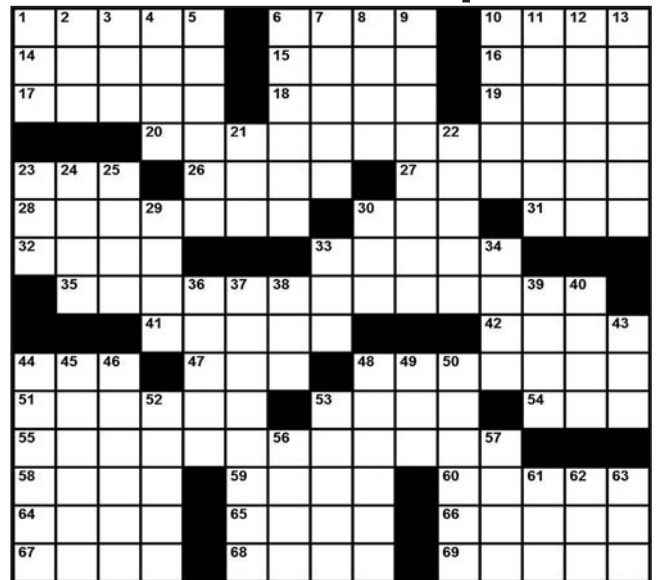
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Across

- 1 The only reason to tolerate homosexuality?
- 6 Bunch of stallions
- 10 Time line divisions
- 14 Became erect
- 15 Poet Khayyām
- 16 Pain in the derriere
- 17 South Korea's capital
- 18 Telethon request
- 19 ___ buco
- 20 Start of a quip from Samantha
- 23 More of the quip
- 26 David Hyde Pierce and peers
- 27 Stump
- 28 Rosie's *Sleepless* in ___
- 30 Morse's long one
- 31 Some commuter trains
- 32 Lily Tomlin's *A Prairie ___ Companion*
- 33 Nirvana fans in awkward positions?
- 35 Samantha's HBO series
- 41 Like some jackets
- 42 Fits your first mate's mast
- 44 Caesar's perfect bowling score?
- 47 Leather sticker
- 48 Robert Goulet musical
- 51 Give a hard time to
- 53 Lacking meat
- 54 More of the quip
- 55 End of the quip
- 58 Blow it
- 59 Some eagle feathers
- 60 Richard, of *Survivor*
- 64 Harvey's *Hairspray* role
- 65 French I verb
- 66 In concert
- 67 Gives in to gravity
- 68 Longtime lesbian couples often do this
- 69 Isn't quite straight

Down

- 1 U. degrees
- 2 Land of O. Wilde
- 3 Pal of Pooh
- 4 Poet Kitty
- 5 Protection for your head
- 6 Prepare for S and M parking?
- 7 Islamic leaders
- 8 Sitarist Shankar
- 9 Equestrian event
- 10 Sticky stuff
- 11 Data for a headhunter
- 12 Lash out at
- 13 Wraps for female impersonators
- 21 "I Could Have Danced ___ Night"
- 22 Code of conduct
- 23 Suffix with bear
- 24 Durocher and Tolstoy
- 25 Liberate fabric
- 29 Student's book
- 30 "Stupid me!"
- 33 From Jan. 1 until now
- 34 k.d. lang record label
- 36 Up to one's ears
- 37 Bit in the Windy City Times, e.g.
- 38 Martin of the Daughters of Billis
- 39 Pinball Wizard foul
- 40 "Son of Frankenstein" character
- 43 Swine cooler?
- 44 Forgets to use a lube?
- 45 Where PrideVision originated
- 46 "For ___ out loud!"
- 48 Lost passion
- 49 Beebo Brinker creator Bannon
- 50 Chaplain Judge of the NYFD
- 52 Son of Uranus
- 53 Nightclub employee
- 56 David's brother on *Six Feet Under*
- 57 Make less difficult to bear
- 61 "Get thee ___ nunnery"
- 62 Anderson Cooper's network
- 63 Cocks and bulls

Solution on page 16

Q-Entertainment

World's most famous Transsexual: Amanda Lepore's tell-all Q&A

She ... Amanda Lepore ... 'World's Most Famous Transsexual' on her upcoming LP, boob jobs, role model status and her famous 'vajayjay'

By: Chris Azzopardi

Amanda Lepore is pretty. Really pretty. And she has no qualms about pouting her lips or pouring out her cleavage enough times so you know it. The "My Pussy" singer's been plasticized into something of a caricature - she'd probably be the first to tell you, she modeled herself after Jessica Rabbit - which is one of the reasons the model/actress/nightlife queen's been dubbed "World's Most Famous Transsexual." Breaking from packing for Switzerland, Lepore chatted with us about that title, the *I ... Amanda Lepore* album due Aug. 11, and what it takes to look as good as her (and it's not plastic surgery).

CA: How are you, Amanda?

AL: Good.

Q: And your p@\$\$&?

A: It's good. Famous (laughs).

Q: It's early though, it must be tired?

A: (Laughs)

Q: "I ... Amanda Lepore" doesn't drop until next month, but what can we expect from it?

A: Different styles of music. It isn't just club music. There's slow songs; there's all different styles.

Q: Will you be exploiting your private parts on any of the tracks?

A: Um, let me think ... no, I don't think so (laughs).

Q: (Laughs) That's OK. They've gotten enough attention, right?

A: (Laughs)

Q: You're obviously known for your transformation, including a synthetic vagina. Watching a sex change procedure being done on TV inspired you, right?

A: Well, I heard that it was obtainable - you know what I mean? - but I always wanted to be a girl. There was no question about it. I mean, that TV show didn't put that in my mind; it just kind of gave me direction to where you could go to get it (laughs).

Q: How old were you then?

A: I think 12.

Q: How did you envision yourself at that age?

A: I just wanted to be a girl. For a long time, I didn't really (care about) anything except for wanting to be a pretty girl (laughs). I think all through Limelight (a string of nightclubs Lepore performed at), I really was just so happy



dressing up and being a glamorous girl and being an "it" girl that I really didn't have any motivation to be anything else (laughs).

Q: Do you feel like a role model to other transgender people?

A: Definitely. Nobody at the time wanted to call themselves the No. 1 Transsexual in the World. It was something they didn't want to be known as (laughs). Ten years ago, transsexuals (wanted) to blend in; there were more who wanted to blend in on the streets than wanted to be on the cover of *Vogue*. They would really go out of their way to not do anything too flashy; it was more about meeting a straight man and getting married. I know transsexuals that get a husband or something and go as far as getting married and never tell them. I think it was sort of a goal for transsexuals - for the guys not to know. It's like a game, kind of. I was the opposite and just said, "Hi, I'm the No. 1 Transsexual in the World," and I probably got that title because nobody wants it (laughs). I think that it really opened the door for transsexuals on TV. I went to a college one time in Ohio and there were girls becoming boys and they had hair on their legs, and they were going to college. When I went to school I had to have a tutor, like I could-

n't even go because people just couldn't deal.

Q: Dolly Parton has called herself a cartoon because of all the plastic surgery she's had. So how does being made into a totally different person on the outside change your perception of yourself?

A: I always got attention even before I did any plastic surgery at all. I was just really striking. People think I did a lot more plastic surgery than I really did; I mean, for a transsexual I don't think I did so much. A lot of transsexuals had way more plastic surgery than me. At least double.

Q: What's real then?

A: People think that my bone structure is (fake), but I only had one nose job. Everything else is just natural - that's what made me striking was the bone structure, more than anything else. And that's natural.

Q: Lucky you!

A: (Laughs)

Q: You've said that you wanted to look as close to Jessica Rabbit as possible.

A: Well, the blond bombshell, too. But I liked Jessica Rabbit too, because that was even curvier and prettier.

Q: How do you feel about aging?

A: It doesn't bother me only because I seem to get prettier. I'm one of those people who look better when they're older, so it doesn't really bother me. I definitely look softer and prettier now than I did in the '90s.

Q: Good genes or plastic surgery?

A: I don't know. I probably take care of myself better, I think. I go to the gym. I'm just smarter. I just look better. And probably experimenting with hairdos and everything. Like, I always studied pictures (to) know what works on me and what doesn't. You could look better if you have that knowledge. I don't really need any stylists or hairdressers or anything, I could really do it myself.

Q: You put your own makeup on?

A: Yeah, sometimes people do it for me, but most of the time I do it.

Q: Wow. So no glam entourage for Amanda Lepore, huh?

A: Well, I'm one of those people that - like when I did photos with, like, David LaChapelle, I'd always ask, "So, what did you do? What did you do?" I like doing myself, and I'd always ask a million questions. Someone like Pamela Anderson doesn't even do their own makeup; they're really dependent on somebody doing them, where I could look as bombshell as could be ... right now (laughs).

Q: What do you think or feel when you look through old photos of you, before you underwent the plastic surgery?

A: I'm just fascinated that I look better. It's fascinating, but it happens. I see some women that I know that are older and that look incredible. I went to a Louis Vuitton party once and I saw Iman - David Bowie's wife - and I know that she's been around longer than me, but she looks better now.

Q: When you were younger did you ever pretend that you had them by, maybe, stuffing your shirt with socks?

A: Nah, not really. I kind of liked that look - that model-y look - at the time. I didn't really want big ones. I associated them with "big mamas," and I just didn't have that body type. I was really tiny. It just looked right at that time to have little ones.

Q: Tell me about the breasts you have now, because you've got some of the perkier ones I've ever seen.

A: I got them done three times. I started off really skinny, so I went small. I wasn't one of those girls that gets giant breasts; I wanted them to be soft and pretty, so I went really small my first time. And, actually, I had my sex change before I even had breast implants, like I had little breasts and I looked good like that at the time. I had, like, Angie Harmon breasts, very Kate Moss type, and it looked good. Then I wanted more of a sexy look, so I started getting the lips, and wanted bigger breasts. It's a proportion thing, too - you do one thing, then you do something else. So for a while I had the bigger lips and maybe C breasts, but they looked really big. It was more stripper-y because I didn't have a really curvy body. I wanted more curves, (so I did) my hips and behind. Then, the breasts looked small, so I got bigger breasts to balance it - and then it was done. And I'm perfect now (laughs).

Q Puzzle Solution from P. 15

B	I	R	T	H	E	R	D	E	R	A	S
A	R	O	S	E	O	M	A	R	E	P	E
S	E	O	U	L	G	I	V	E	O	S	S
I	M	A	T	R	I	S	E	X	U	A	L
I	L	L	E	L	I	S	S	T	Y	M	I
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H	A	R	A	S	S	B	O	N	Y	T	R
A	N	Y	T	H	I	N	G	O	N	C	E
F	A	I	L	T	A	I	L	H	A	T	C
E	D	N	A	E	T	R	E	A	S	O	N
S	A	G	S	M	E	L	D	L	E	A	N

TRT

Tell them you saw their ad here!

Political IQ: Hate crimes and Congressional farce, how the twisted path of one bill shows us the future



Diane Silver

Get ready to laugh. I'm going to lead you through the twists and turns of one of the most ridiculous places known to humankind: the U.S. Congress. The purpose of this exercise is to explain what has happened to the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

But I have a deeper goal. The hate crimes bill is the first in a series of pro-LGBT proposals expected to come before Congress. These include the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, changes in immigration laws and repeals of the Defense of Marriage Act and the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbians and gays in the military.

Given that President Obama has said he favors these proposals, the trick for LGBT America is to get them through Congress and onto his desk. This is no easy task. To succeed, our community and allies must understand how Congress really works. We need to know when to relax and let the process rumble forward, when to flood Congress with phone calls and letters and, yes, even when to panic.

The civics class explanation of Congressional procedure is simple. First, a bill is considered by a committee, and then it comes up for a vote by either the House or Senate. The bill next heads to the other side of

the Capitol where it goes before yet another committee and passes a vote by the other chamber.

Any differences between House and Senate versions are worked out in a conference committee. The revised bill goes back to the House and Senate for final votes. If that version passes both chambers, it goes to the President for either a veto or a signature.

Oh, that Congressional action really were that easy.

The civics class outline is accurate, but it leaves out the differences between the House and Senate. Civics classes also ignore the cajoling, hand holding, threats and deals necessary to herd 219 contrary cats in the House and 60 grumpily independent cats in the Senate in the same direction.

The twisted path of *Matthew Shepherd Act* shows the real process. In the House, the proposal came up for a vote as a stand alone bill and won approval without being larded with amendments. That's because House rules give pro-LGBT Speaker Nancy Pelosi tight control over the chamber and the ability to block unsavory amendments.

The Senate, though, is the home of 100 powerful individuals. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid can't make any other senator do a darn thing.

Senators can offer amendments during floor debate. Senators can also filibuster, which freezes debate and takes 60 votes to break.

Despite the Constitution's insistence that only 51 votes are required to pass a bill in the Senate, these days it only takes the threat of a filibuster to kill a proposal. One can safely assume that threats will be made against any pro-LGBT legislation.

Because of the Senate's gnarly nature, controversial measures seldom arrive for floor debate as stand alone bills. Thus, hate crimes became part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Senators also like to insert "poison pill" amendments. These cute little things are so noxious that they make lawmakers vote against bills they actually like. In July anti-gay Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama inserted several poison pills into hate crimes.

All of this is why the fate of hate crimes protection has been tied, at various times, to the future of the F-22 fighter, a concealed carry gun proposal and the death penalty.


The good news is that versions of hate crime protection have passed both the House and Senate. Human Rights Campaign Senior Policy Advocate David Stacy predicts the Matthew Shepherd Act should be ready for the President's signature by the end of September.

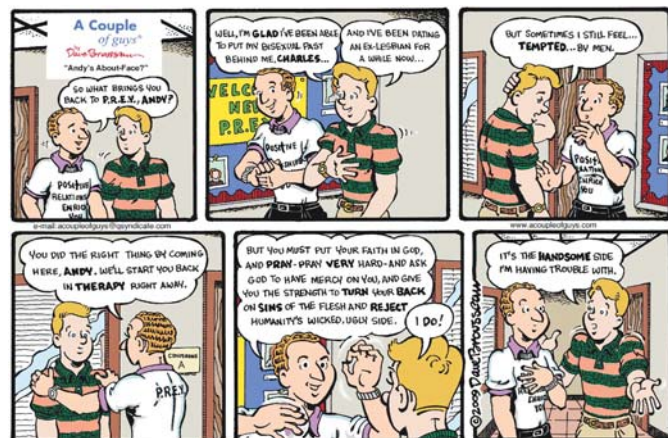
I love Stacy's optimism, but I'm a tad more jaded. As Stacy notes at HRC Back Story, much remains to be done. The defense bill is now the vehicle for passing hate crimes protection. Congressional staff will meet during the August recess to work out differences. Key decisions will be made by the House and Senate when they return to work in September.


Watch the progress of the defense bill. Pay attention to action alerts from the Human Rights Campaign and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Visit with your representative and senators when they're back at home in August. Also, cross your fingers or say a prayer if you're so inclined.

One more thing: *The Matthew Shepherd Act* is supposed to be the easy part of the pro-equality agenda. I can't wait to see what happens to the rest of our legislation.

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


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Saturday September 12th

12:00pm

Beer Garden (Water Street closes at 11:00am)

Welcoming presentation at 2:00pm

CMBC Business Expo from 2:00pm - 6:00pm

Political Rally at 4:00pm

Fashion Show at 5:00pm

6:00pm

Entertainment and Dance Party

Club Blu



Wednesday September 9th

6:00pm

Meet & Greet Cocktail Hour Fundraiser

At the home of Rich McNally

Thursday September 10th

5:30pm

Flag raising ceremony

MB Lounge

Friday September 11th

6:00pm - 10:30pm

Miss Gay Worcester competition

Hosted by Ms. Asia and Lady Sabrina at Club Blu

Sunday September 13th

11:00am - 2:00pm

Drag Brunch

86 Winter Bistro

7:30pm

Piano Night

MB Lounge

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86 Winter american bistro



Harvey Milk, Billie Jean King, Sen. Edward Kennedy to receive Presidential Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, today applauded the announcement by President Barack Obama naming Harvey Milk, Billie Jean King, Sen. Edward Kennedy as recipients of the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom. The HRC Religion and Faith Program also recognized Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Rev. Joseph Lowery for their work on equality issues. America's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom is awarded to individuals who make an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

"These individuals are each champions of equality and icons of our movement's history," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Harvey Milk took the first leap into the foray of politics and represented what we didn't imagine possible: an openly gay elected official. Billie Jean King not only shattered tennis records, she opened up new possibilities for women and became a role model for both LGBT players and fans. And Sen. Ted Kennedy, a lion of the Senate, has taken leadership in fighting discrimination and hate violence, standing up for our families, and keeping our Constitution safe from bigotry. Our community continues to be grateful for his decades of service."

"Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Rev. Joseph Lowery exemplify what is best about religion," said Harry Knox, director of the Human Rights Campaign's Religion & Faith Program and member of the White House Council on Faith and Neighborhood

Partnerships. "Not only are they heroes in the worldwide movement for racial equality and reconciliation but they continue to be prophetic leaders for LGBT equality. Their life work and ministry exemplifies the fundamental truth that none of us can be free until all of us are free."

"These outstanding men and women represent an incredible diversity of backgrounds," said President Barack Obama. "Their tremendous accomplishments span fields from science to sports, from fine arts to foreign affairs. Yet they share one overarching trait: Each has been an agent of change. Each saw an imperfect world and set about improving it, often overcoming great obstacles along the way. Their relentless devotion to breaking down barriers and lifting up their fellow citizens sets a standard to which we all should strive. It is my great honor to award them the Medal of Freedom."

President Obama will present the awards at a ceremony on Wednesday, August 12. Additional biographical information provided by the White House:

Harvey Milk:

Harvey Milk became the first openly gay elected official from a major city in the United States when he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. Milk encouraged lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) citizens to live their lives openly and believed coming out was the only way they could change society and achieve social equality. Milk, alongside San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, was shot and killed in 1978 by Dan White, a former city supervisor. Milk is revered nationally and globally as a pioneer of the LGBT civil rights movement

for his exceptional leadership and dedication to equal rights.

Billie Jean King:

Billie Jean King was an acclaimed professional tennis player in the 1960s and 1970s, and has helped champion gender equality issues not only in sports, but in all areas of public life. King beat Bobby Riggs in the "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match, then the most viewed tennis match in history. King became one of the first openly lesbian major sports figures in America when she came out in 1981. Following her professional tennis career, King became the first woman commissioner in professional sports when she co-founded and led the World Team Tennis (WTT) League. The U.S. Tennis Association named the National Tennis Center, where the US Open is played, the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in 2006.

Sen. Edward Kennedy:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy has served in the United States Senate for forty-six years, and has been one of the greatest lawmakers – and leaders – of our time. From reforming our public schools to strengthening civil rights laws and supporting working Americans, Senator Kennedy has dedicated his career to fighting for equal opportunity, fairness and justice for all Americans. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that every American has access to quality and affordable health care, and has succeeded in doing so for countless children, seniors, and Americans with disabilities. He has called health care reform the "cause of his life," and has championed nearly every health care bill enacted by Congress over the course of the last five decades. Known as the "Lion of the Senate," Senator Kennedy is widely respected on both sides of the aisle for his commitment to

progress and his ability to legislate.

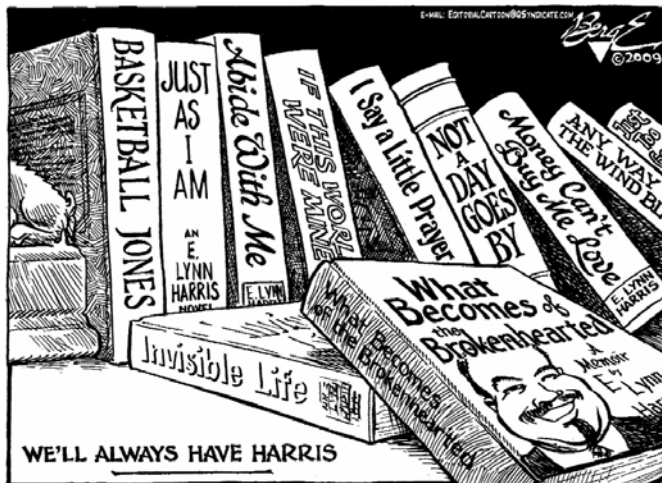
Archbishop Desmond Tutu:

Desmond Tutu is an Anglican Archbishop emeritus who was a leading anti-apartheid activist in South Africa. Widely regarded as "South Africa's moral conscience," he served as the General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) from 1978 – 1985, where he led a formidable crusade in support of justice and racial reconciliation in South Africa. He received a Nobel Peace Prize for his work through SACC in 1984. Tutu was elected Archbishop of Cape Town in 1986, and the Chair of the South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995. He retired as Archbishop in 1996 and is currently Chair of the Elders.

Rev. Joseph Lowery:

Reverend Lowery has been a leader in the U.S. civil rights movement since the early 1950s. Rev. Lowery helped organize the Montgomery bus boycott after Rosa Parks was denied a seat, and later co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a leading civil rights organization, with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Lowery led the march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. Rev. Lowery is a minister in the United Methodist Church, and has continued to highlight important civil rights issues in the U.S. and worldwide, including apartheid in South Africa, since the 1960s.

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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Boston Lesbian Voices

Lesbian Voices: The Queerness of MJ



By: Rev. Irene Monroe*

At Michael Jackson's memorial service the Rev. Al Sharpton gave a rousing speech that had the congregation at the Staples Center rise to their feet at times with shouts of Amen.

Sharpton made one particular statement in his speech to MJ's three children, addressing the reasons for Jackson's eccentricities when he said, "I want his children to know there was nothing strange about your daddy, it was strange what your daddy had to deal with, but he dealt with it anyway."

While clearly Sharpton's statement hinted to the racism Michael Jackson ensued in the music industry as an African-American entertainer trying to be a crossover success, Sharpton's statement totally ignored, as much as the black community has in its tribute to Jackson, the homophobia perpetrated against Jackson by us and the music industry.

Diagnosed with vitiligo, a skin disorder that causes depigmentation in patches of the skin, Michael bleached his skin, not as a denunciation of his blackness, but rather, as he said, as a way to cosmetically have a more even skin tone.

Just as Michael was black he was also queer. He did not conform to our society's heterosexist norms. As the man in the mirror faded from black to white so too did his staged, gender performance from cute, straight, boy lead singer of the Jackson 5 to an effeminate, male solo artist donning outfits in sequins. And as the consummate drag performer he was not only a singer and dancer, Jackson was also a shape-shifter.

Jackson transitioned himself first into looking like Diana Ross, later into looking like his baby sister Janet, and then later he transitioned himself into something, well, inhumanly ghostly as he became more ghostly looking.

Jackson's gender blending was as transgressive, tabooed, and subversive as his skin bleaching. He wore many masks until the masks became him.

Jackson's costumes and accessories range from various signature wigs to his hypermas-

A bigotry that's predicated on the stereotype that one's gayness, or perceived gayness, is not only deviant but also innately criminal.

"Every time they knocked Michael down he got back up. Every time they counted him out he got back in," Sharpton said at the tribute.

The child sexual abuse charges not only knocked Jackson down but it shocked his fan base. And with the potential of his multil-

Whereas [Michael] Jackson couldn't be on the down low about his skin bleaching he could be and had to be about his sexuality.

culine look with his military/marching band outfits. Or his classic red (faux) leather look from "Beat It" to his more softer look with white, nylon socks [that were always prominently displayed beneath his black dress pants] worn when he did his famous moonwalk.

Whereas Jackson couldn't be on the down low about his skin bleaching he could be and had to be about his sexuality. With an entertainment industry that forced Rock Hudson, a movie idol, in the closet until his death, and with a black community that still has light years to go in accepting its own lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer population, Jackson concealed his desire to grow up by donning an asexual Peter Pan image.

But when rumors abounded, nonetheless, that Jackson was gay, so too did rumors that Jackson was a serial pedophile who beguiled young impressionable boys into his bed using the Neverland Ranch as a lure.

Although Jackson was acquitted of all charges, the strangeness Jackson had to deal with that Sharpton did not speak about at Jackson's memorial was homophobic bigotry.

lion recording industry collapsing under false allegations Jackson had to go into action.

When Jackson tied the knot first with Lisa Marie Presley, Elvis's daughter, in 1994 following the first child molestation charges in 1993, everyone knew that Jackson was in damage control mode. And his second marriage, rumored to not have been consummated, in 1997 to Debbie Rowe, the mother of two of Jackson's three children, shows how compulsory heterosexuality exacted a toll on his life.

"We will never understand what he endured ... being judged, ridiculed. How much pain can one take? Maybe, now, Michael, they will leave you alone," said Marlon Jackson at his brother's tribute.

And maybe Marlon is right.

Jackson was unquestionably eccentric, and his masks did not always protect or liberate him because he always had to don them within the restricted boundaries of both race and sexual discrimination.

Perhaps Jackson's queerness was more a function of society's homophobia than it was his own.

*Rev. Irene Monroe is the Coordinator of the African American Roundtable of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry (CLGS) at the Pacific School of Religion, and a religion columnist. A native of Brooklyn, Rev. Irene Monroe is a graduate from Wellesley College and Union Theological Seminary at Columbia University, and served as a pastor at an African-American church before coming to Harvard Divinity School for her doctorate as Ford Fellow. As a syndicated queer religion columnist, Monroe columns appear across the country on the Huffington Post, in the Boston Globe, the Boston Herald, the Bay State Banner, Cambridge Chronicle, and Metro News.

Her award-winning essay, "Louis Farrakhan's Ministry of Misogyny and Homophobia," was greeted with critical acclaim. Monroe has been profiled in O, Oprah Magazine, and CNN's Paula Zahn Now, and "CNN Headline News." She was also profiled in the Gay Pride Episode of "In the Life" TV where the segment on her was nominated for an educational Emmy. She has received the Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching several times while being the head teaching fellow of the Rev. Peter Gomes, the Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church at Harvard.

She is in the film, "For the bible Tells me so," an exploration of the intersection between religion and homosexuality in the U.S. and how the religious right has used its interpretation of the Bible to stigmatize the gay community, and her coming out story is profiled in "CRISIS: 40 Stories Revealing the Personal, Social, and Religious Pain and Trauma of Growing up Gay in America" that was just released in September 2008. Monroe sits on the advisory board of several national LGBTQ organizations. Monroe lives in Cambridge and can be reached at revmonroe@earthlink.net (no hyphens).

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Boston's Third Annual Out Weekend

The New England area's premier promoters Chris Harris Presents & Rafael Sanchez bring you Boston's 3rd Annual OUT WEEKEND September 3-6, 2009! Growing bigger and better each year, OUT WEEKEND has quickly claimed a permanent spot on the circuit party calendar and invites you to come OUT and end your summer with a bang!

The weekend of events kicks off with Boston's original and most popular Thursday night out, The Glamorous Life at Estate with local icon DJ Rich LaDue spinning the very best in Hip Hop and Top 40's Dance music, while only the hottest people in the city hit the dancefloor! Doors at 10PM, Free before 11 p.m. and \$10 after, 1 Boylston Place, Boston, MA.

Friday night the party returns to Lansdowne Street and what used to be Avalon, the original home of Boston's biggest weekly dance party. Circuit superstar—2 ODI/Producer Manny Lehman spins OUT WEEKEND's event at The House of Blues with the incomparable Nina Flowers performing live! Manny rocked the dancefloor for Epic Saturdays 4th of July party so you don't want to miss this incredible event!

Doors at 10 p.m., \$15 for 21+, 15 Lansdowne Street, Boston, MA. Advanced tickets for this event can be purchased online at houseofblues.com.

Saturday night features OUT WEEKEND's main event with the highly anticipated return of DJ/Producer Roland Belmares to Epic Saturdays. Roland comes back to Boston after playing a summer of hot circuit events across the country and is sure to keep the dancefloor packed all night long! Doors at 10PM, \$15, 21+, 279 Tremont Street, Boston, MA.

OUT WEEKEND ends Sunday night with a Brazilian Born DJ Ranny to celebrate his annual Independencia Doors at 10 p.m., 21+, Free before 11 p.m. and \$15 after, 279 Tremont Street, Boston, MA.

More information is coming soon, including the announcement of a host hotel, pool party, tea dance, and boat cruise, as well as how you can purchase OUT WEEKEND event passes that will get you in to all of the weekend's events! Check back often to outweekendboston.com for more added pool parties, host hotels and travel info.

Financial Rubdown Tips: A different and rewarding job for guys

By: Daniel Strong/TRT Special

When *The Pointers Sisters* sang about wanting a man with a slow hand, were they referring to you? If you've been told you give great rub, your touch may be worth charging. Turning your talents into currency isn't that difficult, but to make it a sustainable business requires a bit more consideration. Here's the 411 on making it as a masseur.

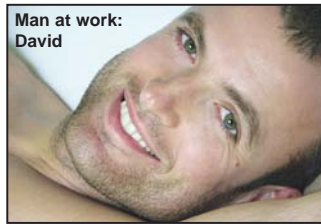
Know Why You Are Doing It. Your reasons don't have to be noble. It could be that you're unemployed, want a change in careers, or just some more spending money. Not everyone is trying to subsidize a PhD with the profits, but whatever the reasons, know what they are because these reasons will get you up in the morning, keep you motivated, get you to grow your business. It's self-defeating if at the end of the day, you wonder why oh why you are doing something you ultimately don't want to do.

Know What You Are Going to Do. What kind of bodywork will you provide? Does what you want to offer require certification or a license? You need to decide what kind of services you will offer: erotic massage? Reiki healing? Your own mixed bag of therapeutic massage techniques? You may need more initial investment if you decide more training is necessary before you begin your practice. Likewise, you must decide where or how you'll practice. For yourself? At a spa? Make decisions so you have a plan.

Sell It. Since now you know what you're selling, go and sell it. Advertising is key, and gay media or classified websites like Manworks.com that specialize in body workers can be the lifeline of your business, exposing you to thousands of people from the Internet. Getting the most of what you can from Manworks.com and other media require doing your part too. Write a compelling ad, have appealing pictures, get clients to post amazing reviews. Be a professional. Your work is a business. Treat it like one.

Reflect and Maintain Balance. Habitually evaluating your goals, your life, and your needs is essential if you are going to survive as a masseur or in any line of work. After a year as a skilled "amateur," perhaps getting certified in a certain technique is the next step for growing your business. Maybe you've finished funding school and now you have decided to save up for a grand holiday. Or perhaps you have been taking on too many clients and you want to spend more time with your friends. Checking in on where you are at and where you are going is a good practice for happiness. After all, massage shouldn't be a pain.

Interviews with some of the Men at Work: David (www.manworks.com/davidbodywork-inpairs2)



Man at work: David

Q: Why did you decide to launch a career in bodywork?

A: I try to have a healthy lifestyle and I have always been interested by the benefits of massage as a way to release the tensions and to feel good with my body. I decided to share this interest with others by launching a career as a massage therapist.

Q: Are there any techniques that you specialize in?

A: I specialize in Swedish and Deep Tissue massage. However, I am also trained in Esalen and Shiatsu.



Photo by: Dick Mitchell

Q: Does it bother you when people equate masseurs with escorts?

A: People who equate masseurs with escorts are people who do not know much about massage or well being.

Q: What's the difference between an escort and a masseur who gives erotic massages?

A: In many cultures, especially in Southeast Asia, sensuality is part of a massage. Nudity and body contact are felt differently than in Western cultures. A masseur's primary goal is to provide a massage. That should answer the question.

Q: Do you work in the nude?

A: A massage is a two way process. The masseur is giving energy to someone who is receiving the energy. In that process being in an equal state, both without the cloth barrier, is an important thing.

Q: What advice would you give to men who are considering a career as an erotic masseur? Anybody interested in a career as a massage therapist should be truthful and

honest about his interest in massage.

A: Are there any misconceptions about the business that you'd like to clear up now?

A: In any business, if you are good about what you do and if you care about your customers then you'll be successful.

Q: Is the money as good as everyone thinks it is?

A: The money is good but people should realize that giving a massage is physically demanding. It requires a healthy lifestyle and a genuine interest in others since you are giving a lot of energy.

Q: Make your pitch to potential clients: What do you offer clients that no other masseur can offer?

A: I am genuine. I give energy because that's what I enjoy. That's the only important thing that potential customers should consider.

Interview with man at work Vincent (www.manworks.com/VinCostesMassage)

Q: Why did you decide to launch a career in bodywork?

A: I got my very first massage four years ago in a spa. That was the best experience ever and I still go there every week and always use the same masseur. I learned a lot from his technique and decided to become a masseur myself.

Q: What techniques do you specialize in?

A: Deep Tissue.

Q: Does it bother you when people equate masseurs with escorts?

A: Not really. The reality is that many masseurs are or were escorts, and many of them don't really know what they are doing when giving a massage.

Q: What's the difference between an escort and a masseur who gives erotic massages?

A: The client can tell the difference right away. He will feel it within ten seconds, for sure.

Q: Do you work in the nude?

A: I work in the nude or not, my clients

decide.

Q: What advice would you give to men who are considering a career as an erotic masseur?

A: Get certified first. You must know what you are doing. Then if you are good, the mouth to mouth will bring many good clients. The clientele for massage is totally different from the clientele from escorting. If you are a real good masseur, you can get VIPs, and you will make much more money than if doing escorting. You will also meet amazing people. I did and still do.

Q: Are there any misconceptions about the business that you'd like to clear up now?

A: We (escorts and masseurs) have a heart, are sensitive, and deserve respect just like everybody else. Sometimes we get nasty emails or phone calls, and that's not cool.

Q: Is the money as good as everyone thinks it is?

A: The money is good but it is hard work.

Q: Make your pitch to potential clients: What do you offer clients that no other masseur can offer?

A: I am smart, you can take me anywhere and I would fit. I am very flexible, safe and honest. And above all you will get a real good massage, erotic or not.

Heading EAST? We ARE!

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bitter girl



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www.joanhill.net

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Toda la Justicia, revolución en la revolución

Por: Víctor Hugo Robles/Che de los Gays

El tan conocido, Che de los Gays, entrevistado en exclusiva a Mariela Castro Espín, hija del mandatario Cubano Raúl Castro y sobrina del mítico Fidel Castro. Tengo la dicha de conocer, cibernéticamente, al Che de los Gays, y me siento honrado de conocerlo ya que él hace un trabajo increíble en Chile, Cuba, y Latino América, con su activismo, artículos, libros, y películas. Gracias Víctor y estoy honrado en poder editar y publicar tu columna - ¡que Viva el Che de los Gays!

El primer acercamiento con Mariela Castro Espín fue a través de la prensa internacional. Ella, lúcida y audaz, promovía cambios culturales y legales para una Cuba inclusiva y respetuosa de la diversidad sexual. Pensé que el ser Castro Espín le permitiría realizar rápidamente su trabajo y desde ese lugar de poder, conquistar derechos que desde la sociedad civil es tan complejo alcanzar. Sin embargo, luego de nuestro diálogo, entendí que ser Castro Espín, fijaba cuotas de mayor austeridad y responsabilidad. "Mi papá me dice que sea más cuidadosa, como diciéndome: no te voy a poder defender, pero bueno, yo me amparo en mis conocimientos profesionales y en el objetivo social del Cenesex, el Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual de Cuba", señala Mariela, y ha dado un nuevo y refrescante aire al Centro Nacional que dirige desde el año 2000, luego que su madre, hoy fallecida, Vilma Espín, cediera responsabilidades a nuevas genera-

ciones de líderes con "otros temperamentos", como dice la entrevistada.

Ella es directa y carismática, yo me atrevo, pruebo, me arriesgo, confiesa, reconociendo una audacia que la impulsa a defender los derechos de lesbianas, homosexuales y travestis de Cuba, organizando jornadas en contra de la homofobia, bajando a los calabozos para sacar a las chicas trans arrestadas por la policía o realizando conferencias y charlas por el mundo, difundiendo la revolución en la revolución. Intenta así darle un novedoso sentido de justicia y cohesión al socialismo de hoy, que practica y en el cual cree. Habla de nuevos componentes de la revolución, señalando que todo proceso revolucionario debe incluirlos a todos, particularmente a homosexuales, lesbianas y trans.

¿Cómo le gustaría ser presentada al lector? Mariela Castro Espín, directora del Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual de Cuba, Cenesex (este es el centro nacional Cubano de educación sexual que comenzó su mamá en los 70 y que ahora tiene programas de promoción de salud reproductiva, educación sexual y el único programa reconocido para personas GLT; es el único programa de su clase en todo el país).

¿Cuáles son las problemáticas centrales que enfrenta la comunidad homosexual, lesbica y trans de Cuba?

En primer lugar que se nombre, que se hable de ellos, que sea visible, no tanto como comunidad, sino que como realidad. En nuestra



Mariela Castro Espín y Víctor Hugo Robles, el Che de los Gays. Foto por: El Che de los Gays.

sociedad, al igual que en todas, existen personas de todo tipo y deben ser reconocidas. Al no nombrarse, quedan como parias. Entonces, en la ley se eliminó al homosexual como figura delictiva, pero no quedó nombrada como persona con derechos: antes estaba como figura sin derechos y luego desapareció. Entonces, nosotros consideramos que en las leyes, en las políticas, en los documentos normativos de las organizaciones sociales y de los organismos del Estado, debe estar explícita la figura del homosexual, travesti, transgénero, como figura con derechos, visibilizando así su presencia y sus derechos.

¿Cuáles han sido los principales obstáculos que ha enfrentado en su trabajo relativo a la diversidad sexual?

Los prejuicios, la homofobia, el machismo...

¿Una revolución en la misma revolución?

Eso ha dicho alguna gente, pero yo no siento tanto que sea una revolución en la revolución. Ya estamos en una revolución donde se hacen cambios, estos serían componentes esenciales de la revolución. Si hablamos que debemos conquistar toda la justicia como decía José Martí y esa ha sido nuestra política, ese criterio debe abarcar todos los elementos de nuestra sociedad.

¿Cómo se expresa la homofobia en Cuba?

Alguna vez dije en una entrevista que era una homofobia blanda, porque no era una homofobia violenta, al no existen crímenes de odio por homofobia, transfobia o lesbofobia. Aquí se da un tipo de violencia más del tipo psicológica, a veces de tipo verbal o a veces un homosexual para lograr reconocimiento público debe ser muy bueno en lo que hace, haciendo un esfuerzo doble, exactamente igual como nos ocurre a las mujeres. Existen ciertos lugares donde vemos homosexuales con una personalidad tremenda y se imponen, pero existen otros que necesitan ayuda, porque no tienen esa personalidad y los aplastan con una mirada. Yo he escuchado cuando fulanito ha querido entrar a alguna comisión del partido, pero dicen, ése no tiene condiciones. Entonces, existen personas que se toman prerrogativas que no están escritas, pero se las toman, porque son culturales. Y como no se ha hablado lo suficiente y aún no se desarticulan esas ideas, prejuicios y la mala onda, estamos tratando de que se hable en distintos espacios, académicos, culturales, artísticos y de los medios. Quitarle ese miedo y susto a un tema desconocido y mal tratado.

Cuba llama la atención por las leyes de avanzada respecto de la diversidad sexual que han sido presentadas al Partido Comunista y al Parlamento...

Ya se aprobó en mayo de 2008 una resolución del Ministerio de Salud Pública donde se legitima las funciones de la Comisión Integral de Atención a personas transexuales y legítima las funciones de un centro especializado de salud para atender a estas personas. Dentro de las funciones de la comisión, están todos los pasos consensuados internacionalmente en el tratamiento a las personas transexuales, incluyendo las operaciones de reasignación sexual, que hasta el momento, no eran ilegales. Hubo mal manejo de la prensa y la población reaccionó con cartas de protesta en contra de esta situación...

¿Ser Mariela Castro Espín, sobrina de Fidel, hija de Raúl, dificulta o ayuda en su trabajo?

Las dos cosas, me dificulta y me ayuda. Yo te puedo decir que la única ayuda es que, cuando puedo ver a mi papá, puedo hablar con él, no siempre, porque cada vez que me ve llegar, abre los ojos.

Pero existe gente que señala que, si no estuviera Mariela Castro Espín en Cenesex, los avances serían más lentos...

Pero antes estaba mi mamá, que fue la que creó ese centro y creó el programa, ella luchó mucho por todo este tema. Mi madre y yo representamos temperamentos diferentes, mi madre en vida siempre fue más cuidadosa con todos sus compañeros de trabajo machistas, iba presentando las cosas más cuidadosamente en los momentos más oportunos. Me consta mucho que ella habló con mucha gente y no logró todo lo que hubiese querido. Yo tengo un temperamento más sanguíneo.

Un carisma...

No sé si carisma, pero yo pruebo y me arriesgo a ver si me funciona, si me escarcho, no importa, sigo probando por otro lado, creo en mi trabajo y lo asumo con absoluta convicción. Creo que me amparan las leyes, el objetivo social del Cenesex y estoy montada en ese carro para andar. Mi papá no me puede dar a mí una facilidad que puede darle a otras instituciones. Mi mamá, desde que asumí la dirección de Cenesex, se alejó, porque no quería que se interpretara como nepotismo. Yo siempre le rendía cuenta de mi trabajo y ella siempre me decía que fuera más cuidadosa, me señalaba, te van a poner frenos, seguro me lo decía desde su experiencia. Mi padre también me dice que sea más cuidadosa, como diciéndome, no te voy a poder defender, pero bueno, yo me amparo en mis conocimientos profesionales y en el objetivo social del Cenesex. Por un lado me frena ser pariente y por otro lado existe gente que no pone tantos obstáculos, pero me los pone de todas maneras.

¿Y cómo se enfrenta la contra propaganda revolucionaria en el caso específico del reconocido escritor homosexual, Reinado Arenas, que ha sido utilizado para bien y para mal de la revolución?

Se ha usando mucho para mal y conversando con gente que eran amigos de Reinado Arenas,

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The Outfield: The Vanishing Lesbian Coach



By: Dan Woog*

It's a little known, seldom discussed side effect of Title IX: As women's college sports have gained prominence, the number of female coaches has declined.

Even less noticed—or mentioned—are the employment obstacles faced by lesbian coaches.

Two years ago, Amy Sandler decided to shine a light on that dark side of the athletic closet.

At the time, she was teaching in the women's studies department at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. A former softball player and assistant coach at the University of Maryland, she was working on a Ph.D. Attending a conference on Title IX and gender equity issues, she realized an important area of study was not athletes, but the women - and, increasingly, men—who coach them. The number of female intercollegiate athletes is at an all-time high. The number of female head coaches, conversely, is at a historic low. Sandler wondered if heterosexism played a role. Using a snowball sample - people she knew, and people those people knew - as well as the Internet, Sandler identified 11 lesbian Division I head coaches. Most were closeted. Eight - including two who were completely out - agreed to be interviewed.

Six of the eight coaches believed that "sexism and homo-negativism" played a major role in the decline of female coaches.

"I felt like I was living a double life," one woman said. "At times I felt it would be better if I left coaching altogether."

Another closeted coach heard an administrator, evaluating a candidate for another position, say, "She's not that kind" (meaning she was not gay). The coach perceived that comment to mean that the college would not hire a female coach believed to be a lesbian.

Sandler heard stories of male coaches with significantly weaker credentials being hired instead of unmarried women. "The word got

out," she says. "Colleges are not hiring single women. So some qualified candidates stop applying."

"Coaches know these things. But they can't say or do anything, because they don't want to out themselves," Sandler continues. "So the stories never go beyond their colleagues. They never make the news."

And, Sandler admits, stories are only anecdotal evidence. "Heterosexism and homonegativity" are difficult to prove.

When considering whether to apply for a higher or more prestigious position, Sandler says, lesbians - those who are out, as well as closeted—must consider how comfortable they will feel mingling in a new community.

That's something few straight females - or most males - have to consider.

One coach, searching for an assistant, interviewed a lesbian. Usually, that process would include help finding the candidate's spouse a job. But the head coach felt uncomfortable telling her athletic director about the candidate's female partner—her college was in a state with no legal protection based on sexual orientation—so the woman did not receive the same opportunity others had.

Another woman left her head coaching position for reasons unrelated to sexuality. Her partner had a good job in the area, and did not want to move. Because the coach was not out, she felt her options with nearby schools were limited. She left the coaching profession altogether.

Earlier this year, Sandler presented her findings at the Sport, Sexuality and Culture Conference held at Ithaca College. The reaction, she says, was positive and excited.

She is gratified that people like Pat Griffin and major organizations back her work. The National Collegiate Athletic Association gave her a graduate research grant—one of only four awarded this year. "That speaks volumes about the interest of the NCAA," she says. "And they have discussed my suggestions for changing policy. That speaks volumes too."

Her suggestions include a close re-examination of the NCAA's own anti-discrimination



AMY SANDLER

policy. It already includes sexual orientation. But, Sandler says, member institutions do not always follow the policy. One college, for

example, has ruled that only spouses of coaches can be included in recruiting endeavors. In the many states where gay marriage is illegal, Sandler says, such an interpretation is inconsistent with NCAA standards.

Sandler also addressed the NCAA's certification process for member institutions. A self-study covers a school's environment for student-athletes of all sexual orientations. Sandler suggested a new section, assessing the environment for "coaches and administrators who do not identify as heterosexual."

Sandler notes that the two out coaches she studied had vastly different experiences than the closeted women. "They've normalized their lesbian identities," she says. One - a very successful coach - is seen as a role model by parents and students. Sandler hopes to study openly gay female coaches in greater depth.

But because many women do not feel comfortable being out in the college sports world, Sandler will continue to address the problem of vanishing female coaches.

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

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Women 4 women

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

NEW: I am a 6'4" who love my high heel boot, would you like to walk with me? FML: Liz at: crossdress88@live.com

Che from Page 22

sienten incomodidad de cómo se ha usado la figura de Arenas con mentiras y en contra de la revolución. Reinaldo fue expulsado de la universidad por fraude académico, no por ser homosexual. Hubo homosexuales que sí fueron expulsados por ser homosexuales, pero en el caso de él fue por fraude académico. Entonces, se le da otra vuelta a la historia de Reinando y son cosas con las que se debe convivir. Yo creo que dentro de su historia existe una gran fabulación y de la que ha vivido comercialmente su familia. Pero si existieron realidades de homofobia, sí hubo abuso contra personas homosexuales en los años 60, 70 y 80. Finalmente, estamos en la comandancia del Che en la Fortaleza San Carlos de la Cabaña en la Habana y me gustaría preguntar por Ernesto Guevara, ¿conoció usted al Che? Sí, de chiquitica y recuerdo que me enamoré. ¿Qué le parece la imagen metafórica de un

Che Guevara gay?

Leyendo lo que he leído del libro, pienso en lo interesante e inteligente que es asumir así al Che, rescatar su figura en esta lucha. Me pareció muy interesante la idea y además, luchar como lo han hecho en medio de una sociedad muy cartucha, como dicen ustedes los chilenos, entonces, me parece muy inteligente, se fueron encontrando caminos. Seguro que si se mira la figura del Che superficialmente, tal vez se pueda ofender un homofóbico cubano, pero conociendo al Che como lo conocí, si estuviera vivo, sería a una de las primeras personas a quien le pediría su apoyo.

* Entrevista por el activista Chileno y periodista, Victor Hugo Robles mejor conocido como El Che de los Gays. Editado y traducido al inglés por Wilfred W. Labiosa. Editado además por Grisel Martínez Ocasio. (To read this article in English, please visit TKT online and click on this link in parenthesis).



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