

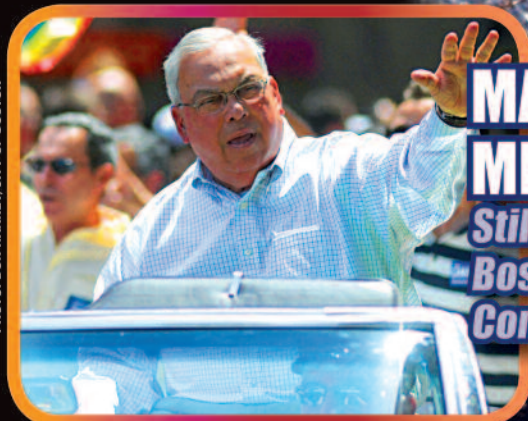
Year 5, Vol. 8 • August 2, 2012 - September 5, 2012 • www.rainbowtimesmass.com

The Rainbow Times

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

FREE!
NOW BOSTON-BASED!

PHOTO: DON HARNEY/CITY OF BOSTON



**MAYOR
MENINO**
Still Stands By
Boston LGBT
Community p4

PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER/TRT ARCHIVES



**MARTHA
COAKLEY**
Asks U.S. High
Court for DOMA
review p3

PHOTO: LAURA CROSTA



**RAINBOW
RIVERFEST**
The L-Word Band
and Melissa
Ferrick p7

SIX FLAGS NEW ENGLAND: Out in the Park Now 2 Days! p9

RHODE ISLAND: More Big Wins for Mister Sister Store p20

FENWAY HEALTH: LifeSkills Empowers Trans. Women p11

**EVA
SIMONS**
a Rising Star p15

PHOTO: NICK FARRELL

The hijacking of family and Christian values

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

OPINIONS

The oppressor cannot be the victim. Yes, it is as simple as that. If you're anything like me, you would have wished not to hear anything more from Gov. Mike Huckabee after he lost the Republican bid to the White House back in 2008. But, since his failure, he doesn't seem to stay much out of the public eye. He is the "Christian man" who is well-known for his attacks on non-majority citizens, most recently the LGBT community, surrounding the Chick-fil-A controversy. He was so outraged that Chick-fil-A's CEO was receiving wide criticism by the public and elected leaders (see TRT's story on p. 4) for his verbal attack on the LGBT community that he launched a "Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day," held on August 1.

On the Facebook page Huckabee launched to garner support to show "appreciation" for a business that actively works toward blocking the rights of LGBT citizens through third party organizations, he wrote "The Cathy family, led by Chick Fil-A founder Truett Cathy, are a wonderful Christian family who are committed to operating the company with Biblical principles and whose story is the true American success story ... It's a great American story that is being smeared by vicious hate speech and intolerant bigotry from the left."

Vicious hate speech and Intolerant bigotry from the left? The last time I checked, the left is where most modern day liberties, freedoms and civil rights stem from. It is not the left that is attempting to block the rights and freedoms of minority groups such as the LGBT community, women, oppressed groups, immigrants and many others. Get real Huckabee. However, he is

not the only Republican politician to utter such ludicrous comments. Mitt Romney, Michelle Bachman, and John Boehner are other fine examples of "freedom of expression" at many citizens' mercy. These people simply project their own sentiments by turning them around and directing them at the opposing party to confuse the public, become the martyr or cry wolf.

Additionally, why is it in a country that is diverse in just about every way, that Republican leaders somehow think it is appropriate to govern according to their religious beliefs? This occurs in election cycle after election cycle. However, never has there been a time where I can remember "Christianity" taking the front and center stage to defend bigoted and discriminatory viewpoints and justification for laws against certain groups of individuals. And, this type of profiling is all taking place while citing a sacred book like "The Bible?" Most of these "hate mongers" who persecute others based on their belief systems are neither Theologians nor biblical scholars. They are simply people that believe in what another lay human being believes. It is all a little too convenient that politicians justify discrimination in a power hungry world by citing their blundered interpretation of Biblical precepts. The Bible was used to condone slavery too, but I think just about every Republican politician would undeniably agree that logic is erred. Citing the Bible in current times is erroneous for a multitude of reasons. First, you have to consider the historical context in which the Bible was written. Lastly, Christ himself did not discriminate or judge, yet people seem to feel that they are justified and righteous to do so.

Ghandi surmised it best: "I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." I agree.

In the Name of God: Episcopal marriage rite; Liturgy approved for same-gender unions

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist

The Episcopal Church, the American branch of the Anglican Communion, nominally headed by Elizabeth Windsor (a.k.a. Her Majesty the Queen), has approved a liturgy (a sacred service) for same-gender unions, "The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant," for use beginning December 2. Priests will still need the permission of their bishops to celebrate the rite.

On July 10, the two-house General Convention of the Episcopal Church approved a resolution allowing sacramental blessings. Technically, it's not a marriage, but it's still a sacrament. Marriage or sacramental blessing is theological hair splitting.

In Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" we're reminded, "O, be some other name! What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Put in modern vernacular: a rose called by any other name is still a rose. Or as Gertrude Stein wrote a "rose is a rose is a rose."

The resolution that passed remains respectful of those who disagree as a matter of conscience. A priest doesn't have to celebrate the rite. Nor will he or she suffer from any fallout as a result.

The Episcopal Church has a slow, democratic and deliberative process. Bishops and lay persons voted on the new rite. Seventy-eight percent of clergy approved the rite with 76 percent approval by lay persons.

The liturgy, according to the document, "is a service of blessing for same-sex couples who are in lifelong, faithful monogamous, committed relationships." This underscores the sacredness of the liturgy. It's worth underscoring "lifelong, faithful monogamous, committed relationships."

In addition, "The Church expects the blessing of a covenantal relationship to bear the fruits of divine grace ... This makes the couple accountable to the community of faith as well as to God and to one another. The community, in turn, is held accountable for encouraging, supporting, and nurturing a blessed relationship as the couple seeks to grow together in holiness of life." It desexualizes the stereotype, especially held by social conservatives, that being LGBTQ is simply about a physical act with persons of the same sex and nothing more.

This language formally moves marriage equality well beyond economic or spousal rights under civil law. It speaks to spiritual growth and maturity by Christians and LGBTQ persons as a group and as individuals.

Some argue, like the Very Rev. Thurlow, that popular culture is changing God. The Creator is being forced to fit contemporary secular needs. I strongly disagree. When humankind stopped believing that colonialism was just, slavery and segregation was moral, and the sun revolved around the earth, among other things, all done

See God on page 19

Re-examining The Violence Against Women Act: Does it help or hinder?

By: Jason Lydon*/TRT Columnist



The majority of the GLBT press is currently heralding the Violence Against Women Act as an essential piece of legislation for our community and even patting Senator Scott Brown on the back for his

support, but I want us to look a bit more closely. Firstly, it must be abundantly clear to all of us that violence against women is a serious problem that compromises our capacity to be truly human. Gender-based violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other systemic patterns of control by one person over another are all issues that deeply impact our LGBTQ communities and require our wholehearted attention and commitment to action. However, is the Violence Against Women Act the way to solve these problems?

According to the FY2011 budget for the Violence Against Women Act, 70% of the \$649.36 million was put in the control of the Department of Justice, distributed to law enforcement, prosecutors and other arms of the penal system. Angela Davis reflected on this in 2000 as she spoke at the founding conference of INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence in Santa Cruz. Speaking under the title of "The Color of Violence Against Women," Davis explored the ways the domestic violence movement made it into the mainstream and the reality of white feminist demonization of men of color as perpetual perpetrators while simultaneously dismissing the

The Violence Against Women Act is being celebrated by LGBT people because it includes language that extends the legislation to people in same-sex relationships.

concerns of women of color. Even though the mainstream domestic violence and sexual assault movements were dismissive of many women of color, there have always been strong women of color voices speaking out about personal, institutional and cultural violence against women of color as well as honoring and celebrating survival strategies.

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

See Violence - Women Page 6

The Rainbow Times

The Freshest LGBT Newspaper in New England

www.therainbowtimesmass.com

editor@therainbowtimesmass.com
sales@therainbowtimesmass.com

Phone: 617.444.9618 / 413.282.8881
Fax: 928.437.9618

Publisher Gricel M. Ocasio Editor-In-Chief Nicole Lashomb	Webmaster Jarred Johnson Design Prizm Designs
Assistant Editor Emily Scagel Sales Associates Chris Gilmore Liz Johnson	Columnists Lorelei Erisis Deja N. Greenlaw Paul P. Jesepe Jason Lydon John Verlinden
Lead Photographer Glenn Koetzner	Reporters Chuck Colbert Clara Lefton Christine Nicco
Photo/Videography Rob Deza	

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
Nice coverage of by Chuck Colbert of all of the Massachusetts healthcare hospitals and organizations that received accolades from the Human Rights Campaign. Although I'm not totally fond of HRC, it was helpful to see that I chose to move, from Florida, to a state that is so progressive in GLBT healthcare. Thanks for listing the places that didn't care to participate too.

—Leslie Roman, Jamaica Plain

Dear Editor,
I loved the story about Mayor Morse and the pics about the LGBT Flag raising in Holyoke. I really appreciated the time that the administration took to put it all together for all of us, Holyoke and non-Holyoke residents.

—Rich Mendez, Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,
What else can I find out about CT Pride? I read your story, but didn't quite understand why there are no more news about it.

—Jason Jordain, West Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,
What amazing coverage of Boston Pride. I loved the photos in the paper, online and what do I say about the Guide! Fantastic work done by Boston Pride & you!

—Roger McPeters, Somerville, MA

Massachusetts asks U.S. Supreme Court for DOMA review

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Everybody knows this one is headed for the nation's highest court.

And in yet another legal step, expected to expedite the U.S. Supreme Court's consideration of the Defense of Marriage Act, Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley has asked the Court to uphold the decision by 1st Circuit U.S. Court of Appeal striking down of DOMA as unconstitutional.

In seeking review, the attorney general's brief states the "question" of the federal law's constitutionality "is one of national importance" and "should be conclusively settled."

The brief adds, as "this Court is likely to review it in the near future, if only to ensure uniformity in the enforcement or non-enforcement of DOMA throughout the country."

The lawsuit in question is *Massachusetts v. Department of Health and Human Services*, currently in the 1st Circuit where a three-member appellate panel of judges unanimously upheld a lower court ruling, which found Section 3 to be unconstitutional.

Section 3 defines "marriage," for the purpose of the federal government, as "a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is husband and wife."

The effect of Section 3 is to deny same-sex couples, married in the states that issue marriage licenses to them, more than 1,000 bene-

fits, rights, and responsibilities afforded at the federal level, including social security survivor benefits and filing joint tax returns.

Both the attorney general and Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) filed separate suits that were upheld in both district and appeals court findings.

The state's lawsuit was *U.S. Health and Human Services v. Commonwealth*. GLAD's suit was *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management*.

In both cases, the court said the ban on federal recognition of same-sex marriages violates the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection. The two cases have been consolidated under the title *Massachusetts*.

But the 1st Circuit did not agree with the state that DOMA violates the 10th Amendment right for states to retain powers that are not "expressly delegated to the United States."

And the 1st Circuit did not find persuasive the AG's contention that DOMA violates the Spending Clause of the federal Constitution because it "conditions federal funds on the Commonwealth's violation of ... equal protection" rights of same-sex couples.

GLAD did not issue a press statement in response to the attorney general's action, but the organization's senior staff attorney Vicki Henry said over the telephone, "It's another necessary step in the process," adding, "We are expecting to file our responses [in support of the appeals court decision] by August 2."

"We think this case really shows how hard-working people are really affected by DOMA," she told the Boston Globe. "We hope the harm of DOMA will be stopped."



PHOTO: TRT ARCHIVES/GLENN KOETZNER

Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley has asked the Court to uphold the decision by 1st Circuit U.S. Court of Appeal striking down of DOMA as unconstitutional.

"The Defense of Marriage Act is a discriminatory and unconstitutional law that harms thousands of families in Massachusetts and takes away our state's right to extend marriage equality to all couples," said Coakley in a statement.

"It is our firm conviction that in order to truly achieve marriage equality, all couples must enjoy the same right and protections under both state and federal law. If the Supreme Court chooses to examine this case, we will look forward to once again making clear that DOMA

and its perverse discrimination is unconstitutional and should be ended," she added.

Filed on Tuesday, July 24, the attorney general's brief comes on the heels of the Department of Justice's petition earlier this month, asking the high court to review another legal challenge to DOMA's constitutionality.

That suit is *Golinski v. Office of Personnel Management*, a San Francisco case that is currently before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Although briefing of *Golinski* continues, with oral arguments scheduled for the week of September 10, DOJ has asked the Supreme Court to take up the case anyway.

Earlier this year in a win for gay rights, the 9th Circuit ruled on February 22 that Section 3 of DOMA is unconstitutional, finding the 1996 law "violates [the plaintiff's] right to equal protection."

In his opinion, Judge Jeffrey White found that Section 3 could not pass either the "rational basis" or "heightened scrutiny" test. The latter is the more rigorous legal analysis.

The case dates from 2008 when lesbian attorney Karen Golinski, then a 19-year employee of the 9th Circuit, applied for health care benefits for her wife, but was denied the request.

Initially, White dismissed the suit on procedural grounds, but invited Golinski to amend her January 2010 complaint to challenge DOMA Section 3's constitutionality. She did so on April 14 of that year.

Even before the district court ruling, moreover, Attorney General Eric Holder announced

To read the rest of this story visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/bry3grs>

SIDNEY BORUM JR.  HEALTH CENTER

ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON WHO

MIGHT BE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL OR TRANSGENDER? IS LIVING ON THE STREETS? WANTS AN HIV TEST OR IS LIVING WITH HIV? IS WORRIED ABOUT STDs? NEEDS HEALTH INSURANCE? WANTS TO SEE A DOCTOR OR MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER THAT UNDERSTANDS YOU AND YOUR SITUATION?

The Sidney Borum, Jr. Health Center is here for you.

We provide safe, non-judgmental care and support for young people ages 12-29 who may not feel comfortable going anywhere else. Just call us at 617.457.8140 and make an appointment or stop in Monday-Friday after 1 p.m. and we'll see you at the next opening in our schedule. We can help you get health insurance and provide you with the care you need.

130 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116 [web sidneyborum.org](http://www.sidneyborum.org)
Monday+Friday 8:45 a.m.—5 p.m. Tuesday–Thursday 8:45 a.m.—7 p.m.



617.457.8140

COM 11.063

Mayor Menino: Cannot keep Chik-fil-A out, but still unwavering in his message

By: **Grisel Martinez Ocasio/TRT Publisher**

IN THE LIMELIGHT

BOSTON, Mass. — Mayor Thomas Menino's opposition to Chik-fil-A opening a store in Boston, derived from inflammatory anti-LGBT remarks made by Chik-fil-A's president to Baptist press (<http://tinyurl.com/8xr929a>), has caused national uproar in cyberspace, the business and non-profit worlds, college campuses, and even in the political arena. As such, he is joined by many who share his views and others who do not. Regardless, his pro-equality actions are affirmed by his letter to Dan Cathy, Chik-fil-A president.

"In recent days you said Chick-fil-A opposes same-sex marriage and said the generation that supports it has an 'arrogant attitude,'" stated Menino in his letter to Cathy. "Here in Boston, to borrow your own words, we are 'guilty as charged.' We are indeed full of pride for our support of same sex marriage and our work to expand freedom to all people."

Shortly after Menino's message, The Jim Henson Co. made an official Chick-fil-A announcement on its Facebook page.

"The Jim Henson Company has celebrated and embraced diversity and inclusiveness for over 50 years and we have notified Chick-Fil-A that we do not wish to partner with them on any future endeavors. Lisa Henson, our CEO is personally a strong supporter of gay marriage and has directed us to donate the payment we received from Chick-Fil-A to GLAAD."

Via a newly established Facebook page, ABC.news (<http://tinyurl.com/cs5hrua>) reported that former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee invited all of his fans and the general public to a "Chick-Fil-A Appreciation Day," (<http://tinyurl.com/dy3rsz7>) scheduled to take place on August 1. Via this Facebook page, the anti-gay sentiment linked to religion said it all.

"I have been incensed at the vitriolic assaults on the Chick Fil-A company ... The Cathy family ... are a wonderful Christian family who are committed to operating the company with Biblical principles and whose story is the true American success story. ... Too often, those on the left make corporate statements to show support for same sex marriage, abortion, or profanity, but if Christians affirm traditional values, we're considered homophobic, fundamentalists, hate-mongers, and intolerant. ..."

And so, opponents and proponents of LGBT causes and marriage equality flooded the Internet — the controversy even reached Congress, as reported by Bloomberg.com (<http://tinyurl.com/bvsqd6e>), where some Republican members, akin to the chain, visibly supported it.

"Members of the Republican Study Committee [on July 25th] dined on chicken sandwiches and wraps from the fast food company at their weekly luncheon. It was a show of support after its president ... said he opposes gay marriage," stated the Bloomberg story.

In response, a day after the Republican committee's chicken fest, the HRC "staged a protest outside of a Chick-fil-A food truck in downtown Washington, D.C."



PHOTO: DON HARNEY/CITY OF BOSTON

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino shows his support of the LGBT community at the Boston Pride 2012 celebration.

"HRC is sending a loud and clear message to Chick-fil-A: we will not rest until your consumers know that you take their money and hand it over to groups that actively work to demonize LGBT people," said HRC Vice President of Communications Fred Sainz via a press release. "Consumers should have all the facts about Chick-fil-A's anti-LGBT history, and then make informed decisions about whether they want to continue to support a business that

proudly touts its connections to discriminatory groups. ..."

Mayor Rahm Emanuel has joined Menino and Chicago's Northwest Side Ward Alderman Proco "Joe" to block Chick-fil-A's effort to build its second store in the city, according to Advocate.com (<http://tinyurl.com/c6cb6r7>).

"If you are discriminating against a segment of the community, I don't want you in the ...

See Menino Page 5

JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE

80TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

June 20-August 26

"the dance center of the nation"

— The New York Times

Tickets start at \$22!

WEEKEND OUT

August 10-12

Sponsored by

The Gay & Lesbian Review

300 events • 50 dance companies • free talks & performances • exhibits • onsite dining

Tickets: 413.243.0745 • jacobspillow.org

JONATHON'S YARD & GARDEN EQUIPMENT REPAIR

Florence, Ma.

Is Your Lawn & Garden Equipment Ready?

Use Promo Code:
Rainbow for \$5 off/hr!

LABOR RATE ONLY \$45.00 /HR

5/1/12

Pick-up & Delivery Service Available

413-387-4201

WWW.JYGER.COM

Yellowstone, Cody, Bozeman, and Jackson Hole

Established as America's first national park in 1872, Yellowstone has bewitched human visitors for more than 11,000 years with its otherworldly landscape of geothermal features, coniferous forest, and high-altitude lakes and rivers. It's one of the most visited places in North America, and this immense park is accessed on all sides by communities that command plenty of attention in their own rights - rugged western mountain towns like Bozeman, Cody, and Jackson. A trip to Yellowstone can easily be an adventure of a lifetime.

Although you won't find an obvious gay scene in the region, in this part of the West, you'll encounter a welcoming and generally tolerant live-and-let-live spirit, where locals tend to care more about whether their neighbors are reliable and honest than if they're gay or straight. Bozeman and Jackson are among the most politically liberal towns in their respective states, and Cody is home to one of the few vocal proponents of gay rights in the Republican Party, former U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson. The town also hosts a fabulous Western fashion-themed fundraiser each September, the Rendezvous Royale (rendezvousroyale.org), whose efforts support the town's outstanding Buffalo Bill Historical Center museum complex.

Furthermore, the U.S. National Park Service takes great pride in the diversity of its workforce and contributions by its LGBT employees (www.nps.gov/diversity/lgbt.htm), and its lodging concessions in Yellowstone (Xanterra Parks & Resorts) and Grand Teton (Grand Teton Lodge Company) are enthusiastically gay-friendly.

Planning a Trip to the Yellowstone Region

There's enough to see and do within Yellowstone's park boundary, which at 3,472 square miles is approximately the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined, to keep you entertained for a full week. If you're coming a long

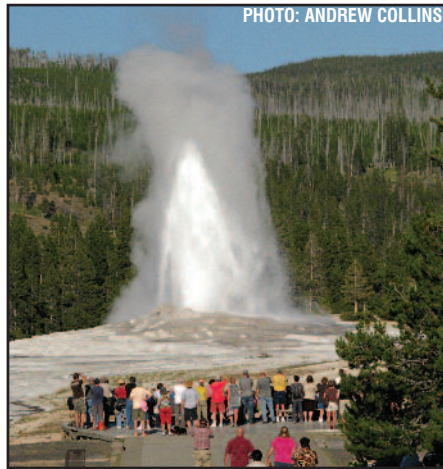


PHOTO: ANDREW COLLINS

Old Faithful geyser, viewed from the porch at the historic Old Faithful Inn.

way to visit the park, you should try to spend at least four days here, and allow an extra two to three days if visiting any of the major park gateway communities, such as Bozeman, Cody, and Jackson (where you may want to spend a day or two in Grand Teton National Park). Trying to visit the region over a two- or three-day weekend is technically possible but very restrictive, and you're likely to find yourself rushed and wishing you had more time.

Yellowstone National Park has five entrances, most open spring through fall and others (on the north and west sides) open year-round. The most popular regional airports are in Bozeman, Montana; Cody, Wyoming; and Jackson, Wyoming; there's also more limited, seasonal service on Delta to West Yellowstone, Montana. The closest major city is Salt Lake, Utah, about

Read the rest of this story online at
<http://tinyurl.com/ceucpso>

Menino From Page 4

1st Ward," Moreno told the *Chicago Tribune* (<http://tinyurl.com/cdhz9uu>) on July 24th.

On July 29th, Washington D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray joined the Boston, Chicago & San Francisco mayors when he Tweeted of his opposition to the "#hate chicken" chain coming to his city, according to reports from *The Washington Post* (<http://tinyurl.com/bsov469>).

According to *Adocate.com*, "college students are using online petitions to demand the chain get booted from campuses of [the] University of Illinois, University of Kansas, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Ball State University, College of Charleston, Wichita State University, and Minnesota State University."

In March 2012, *The Rainbow Times* reported that in response to mounting opposition, the undergraduate Student Government Association (SGA) at [Boston's] Northeastern University (NU) voted down a proposal to bring Chick-fil-A to campus.

"When you are a university in one of America's most progressive cities, you cannot ignore the queer community and put a symbol of discrimination [on] public display," said first year sociology major Devon Branin of East Greenwich, R.I. a spokesperson for NU Pride, the school's LGBT student group.

Last weekend, some Chick-fil-A company owners from other locations welcomed everyone to stores in heavily LGBT populated regions, such as the store in Hollywood and West Hollywood, as reported by the *Los Angeles Times* (<http://tinyurl.com/bvwb5x>).

Jeremiah Cillpam, owner of one of the stores, "circulated a letter ... on the restaurant's Face-

book page, stating his intention to run his business apolitically," according to the *Los Angeles Times* story.

Although last weekend Menino was quoted by the *Boston Herald* (<http://tinyurl.com/cqozuw3>) as not being able to actively ban the fried chicken company, he voiced that he still does not want them in Boston. Others concur with the Mayor.

According to the *Boston Herald* (<http://tinyurl.com/c7qzrz5>), "A Facebook page for [a] same-sex PDA demonstration [urged] people across the country to 'grab a friend (or 20)' and head to their local Chick-fil-A to protest [the] company CEO's anti-gay marriage remarks."

And that is what same-sex couples did last weekend as they visited Chick-fil-A's two North Shore locations, in a move that has been nationally called "National Same-Sex Kiss Day" a way to condemn the company president's inflammatory anti-LGBT stance.

Menino's response to Cathy's comments nonetheless, shows the reality of a country divided by religion, freedom of speech, and basic civil human rights. As the Boston Mayor stated "There is no place for discrimination on Boston's Freedom Trail and no place for your company alongside it." His intentions, criticized or not, show a profound and passionate sense of loyalty to a community he respects and knows too well.

"When Massachusetts became the first state in the country to recognize equal marriage rights, I personally stood on City Hall Plaza to greet same-sex couples coming here to be married," Menino further stated. "It would be an insult to them and to our city's long history of expanding freedom to have a Chick-fil-A across the street from that spot."

CARNIVAL 2012 PTOWN: A SPACE ODYSSEY

Big Dipper Pool Party

Sunday, August 12

Cover \$20, 2-5pm, Brass Key Guesthouse, 67 Bradford Street. Join us for some out-of-this-world fun as the Brass Key opens its pool to the public for the first time! Come for a "Big Dip" in the infinity pool and enjoy an afternoon of music as you touch down on Planet Provincetown!



Blast Off Opening Party

Monday, August 13

Cover \$20, 4-8pm, Bas Relief (Behind Town Hall) 260 Commercial St.

Join us on an odyssey to a world many light years away, filled with the most unimaginable creatures - a place far different than Mother Earth. Come experience the kickoff party for "Ptown: A Space Odyssey." Dance away with internationally acclaimed DJ Karen Hartley. This highly sexual, highly theatrical event is produced by MoonMaxx Productions bringing a whole new vibe to Carnival's 2012 opening party. Come dressed in your finest space gear for our costume competition.



Sam Harris in Concert at Town Hall

Wednesday, August 15

Doors open at 7:30pm, Show starts at 8pm

*VIP w/Meet & Greet ~ \$55,

Balcony ~ \$45, General Floor Seating ~ \$35

For nearly three decades, Sam Harris has starred on Broadway, TV, and in concert. Perhaps no other artist has chiseled so completely, the niche of redefining the vast American Songbook, exploring songs from the 20's to today, and appealing to audiences of all ages. *Meet & Greet will be at The Wave Bar at The Crown & Anchor after the show.

For a list of all times and events:
www.ptown.org



ptown.org



Episcopalians Okay Same-Sex Blessing, Trans Inclusion, Local Angle

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

It's a new day for the Episcopal Church, as clergy and leaders prepare to welcome an official blessing for same-sex couples and affirm full participation by transgender people.

Meeting in its triennial gathering last week in Indianapolis, the Episcopal Church approved an official blessing for same-sex couples and at the same time delegates at the 77th General Convention (July 5-12) approved another LGBT-positive resolution, one that affirms full transgender participation, including a non-discrimination policy, which allows for the ordination of transgender clergy in the priesthood.

The vote on gay blessings came July 10 and was lopsidedly in favor, with the House of Deputies, which includes the laity and clergy, giving its approval by a 171-50 margin, according to the New York Times.

The vote in the House of Bishops, a day earlier, was equally decisive, with delegates favoring the new rite by 111-41, including three abstentions, according to Episcopal News Service.

While falling short of using the word "marriage" to describe the new rite – called "The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant" – its liturgical celebration is similar.

For example, the couples consent to a lifelong commitment, exchange vows and rings, and receive a blessing.

Starting on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, clergy members will need permission of their bishops to bless gay couples.

But clergy can decline to preside at a bless-

ing liturgy as the resolution also states that no one "should be coerced or penalized in any manner, nor suffer any canonical disabilities" for either supporting or objecting to the convention's approval of a blessing rite for same-sex couples.

In a telephone interview, the Reverend Jay E. Johnson, an ordained Episcopal priest, discussed the significance of his church's more fully embracing LGBT persons among the faithful.

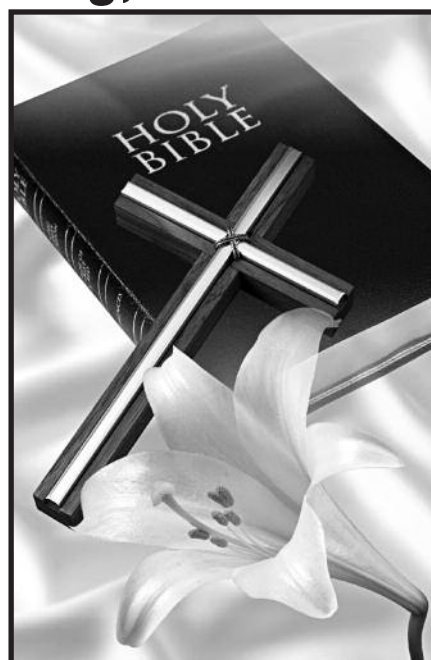
"For some observers" these recent actions at General Convention "might seem like this is coming out of the blue," he said. "But the Episcopal Church has been working on LGBT issues for a relatively long time."

Johnson, who is gay, wears several hats at the Berkeley-based Pacific School of Religion where he is a lecturer in theology and culture and senior director at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry for Academic Research and Resources.

Back in 1976, Johnson explained, General Convention "using the language of the day, passed a resolution which said homosexuals, like all other persons, have full and equal claim on the love, acceptance, and pastoral care of the church."

Of course, over time, the question became how to put that into practice, said Johnson, who readily acknowledged, "a lot of two steps forward and one step back, along the way."

A significant Episcopal milestone was reached in 2003, moreover, with the consecration of its first openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson of New Hampshire.



Two years ago, Mary Glasspoll became the second openly gay Episcopal bishop in the Los Angeles Diocese.

Johnson also said that while other blessing liturgies have been done in various parts of the church for some time, the recent resolution is important "because the national church is giving approval for a rite to be used throughout the whole church for this purpose."

"It's no longer an ad hoc" experiment "to see if we can get away with it," he said, referring to blessing liturgy.

Rather, "It's a firm, clear, and formal acknowledgement and recognition same-gender couples in our congregations," said Johnson.

Three years ago, General Convention gave

provisional permission to clergy to bless gay couples, but only with their bishops' approval.

Another significant feature of the 2012 resolution, said Johnson "is its call to form a three-year task force to study further the meaning of Christian marriage."

Johnson served as chair of the Theological Resources Task Force for the resolution.

"For those of us who worked on this for the past two-and-a-half years we realized a real need for educational materials and conversations and ways to engage people on the theological meaning of marriage," he said.

"Even though this was not a wedding liturgy that was approved and even though marriage was not used to describe it, it's very clearly calling for study on what is Christian marriage anyway," Johnson explained. "So I am really excited about those conversations moving forward."

The materials approved as part of the blessing resolution are nearly 100 pages, which include a series of theological essays, educational materials for congregations, pastoral care materials for couples and congregations, and the liturgical rites.

Closer to home, the Reverend Anne C. Fowler, rector of Jamaica Plain's St. John's Episcopal Church, welcomed the blessing rite.

"It's an acknowledgement of what is happening in the larger culture and long over due," she said over the telephone. "It's unfortunate [blessing liturgy] is not a marriage rite."

For a time during the state's same-sex marriage battle, Fowler served as board president for the Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry, a local interfaith advocacy organization, on the forefront of marshaling religious activism for marriage equality.

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://tinyurl.com/cxjmaek>

Be Our Next Success Story

At HCC, we have thousands. Each began with one small step. Call or visit HCC.

We'll help you write your own success story.



- More than 100 degree and certificate options for transfer or immediate career entry
- personalized academic support services to help you succeed
- convenient day, evening, Saturday, and online classes
- transfer opportunities to four-year colleges and universities
- sports teams & fitness facility
- financial aid and payment plans

www.hcc.edu • (413) 552-2321

**Fall classes begin
September 4!**

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS
HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Futures Inspired

Violence - Women From Page 2

The Violence Against Women Act is being celebrated by LGBT people because it includes language that extends the legislation to people in same-sex relationships. Yet we need to ask ourselves if prosecution is working to truly address violence in our communities. Angela Davis asked at the INCITE! conference, "Can a state that is thoroughly infused with racism, male dominance, class-bias, and homophobia and that constructs itself in and through violence act to minimize violence in the lives of women? Should we rely on the state as the answer to the problem of violence against women?" We need to ask the same question about LGBTQ communities as well.

The Violence Against Women Act has also been used to expand the power of the state in data collection. In 2005 the Kyl Amendment was included, which made it legal to collect DNA from undocumented people held in detention, as well as any individual who was arrested on a felony charge. Before an individual sees a judge, before an individual has a trial, they can be forced to submit their DNA to the national database. This extension of state surveillance was able to pass under the guise of protecting women, but rather it gives more power to the government and whittles away at civil liberties. DNA collecting has been supported as part of the "colorblind" solution to address racism in the

criminal justice system, but the reality of who is getting stopped, harassed and arrested by the police shows us that any data collection done will only exacerbate the impact on communities of color. In 2008 the Council for Responsible Genetics called this practice, "building Jim Crow's database."

My critique of the Violence Against Women Act is not an attempt to silence the reality of women or LGBT people. Rather, I am hoping we can create a critical lens that analyzes our solutions to social problems. I believe the Violence Against Women Act leads to greater violence, an extension of state violence through policing, prison construction, mandatory prosecution, data collection and more. It is key that we listen to the voices of those who are consistently silenced in anti-violence movements. I encourage readers to approach the Violence Against Women Act with suspicion and engage the expertise of organizers and scholars such as Victoria Law and Angela Davis.

**Rev. Jason Lydon is a Unitarian Universalist minister in Boston. He is a long time anti-prison organizer and founder of Black & Pink, an LGBTQ-focused effort working toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex. Jason is also an avid lover of famous people and blockbuster action flicks. You can reach Jason at blackandpink99@gmail.com.*

LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts announces Rainbow Riverfest 2012

HOLYOKE, MA – Rainbow Riverfest 2012, the Pride of Western Mass., is an all-inclusive festival to be held Saturday, September 22, at the Holyoke Canoe Club on the banks of the Connecticut River, with special guests Melissa Ferrick, featured in Curve, Go, and Out magazines, and Bitch, heard in Showtime's hit series "The L Word" and seen in the film, "Shortbus." Other performers include Dani Shay, a finalist featured on "America's Got Talent" and "The Glee Project," Sister Funk, Karen Grenier and more.

"The aim of our festival is bringing together people from all walks of life, including young people, who we hope are able to safely experience the LGBTQ community for the first time," said Suzanne Seymour, the LGBT Coalition's Executive Director. "Our Riverfest blends music and comedy with unique concepts, including a healing Zen Zone for body, mind, and spirit, as well as the Youth Tent, where young people can connect through innovative workshops and uniting activities."

This year, workshops in the Youth Tent will include Learn to Zumba!, Line Dancing 101, Suicide & Bullying Prevention, as well as healing workshops, free massage, acupuncture and spiritual support in the Zen Zone area. Select entertainers will also appear in the Youth Tent to share their personal and inspirational coming out stories.

Emily Scagel, LGBT Coalition Board Member, stated, "Feedback received from youth participating in last year's festival stated that Riverfest allowed them to realize the many positive opportunities that await them. It is our



PHOTO BY: LAURA CROSTA
Melissa Ferrick (center photo) and "Bitch" (right) from "The L Word" will be part of the fabulous performances at the Rainbow Riverfest 2012 to be held at Sept. 22 in the Holyoke Canoe Club. Other performances: Dani Shay, from "America's Got Talent" and Sister Funk, among others. PHOTO (R): CRAYOLA ENGLAND

hope that we achieve this not only for them, but for everyone in attendance."

The Coalition sponsors many community events, including the area's first National Gay-

Straight Alliance Day event, held in Springfield, "Loving Your Gay Teen" workshop for parents of LGBTQ youth, Northampton's Transgender Day Of Remembrance, as well as an ongoing film and forum series.

Tickets for the Rainbow Riverfest are available through The Northampton Box Office. Adults are \$17.50 in advance/\$25 at the door. Ages 13 - 20 are \$5 in advance, 12 and under are free. Doors open at 11 a.m., and the festival will run until dusk. Beer and wine will be available for 21+; positive ID required. This is a rain or shine event. For more information, please visit www.rainbowriverfest.org or call (413) 588-1018.

The Holyoke Canoe Club is located on Old Ferry Rd in Holyoke, Mass. off of Northampton St/Rt-5.

The LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts is a non-profit 501c3 tax-exempt organization and a member of InterPride (International Organization of Pride Organizers), the Northampton Chamber of Commerce and CABO (LGBT Chamber of Commerce), and was named 2012 Best Local Activist Organization by the Valley Advocate. To learn more about programs and other events, visit www.lgbtcoalitionwma.org.

It's not too late to register for Fall Semester Classes!

Take advantage of our **EXTRA HOURS** and **SERVICES:**

Gymnasium/Scibelli Hall

Super Saturdays!

August 18 & 25
9:00am-3:00pm

Late Registration!

August 20 - 24
Mon. - Thurs.: 8am-7pm
Fri.: 8am-4pm

www.stcc.edu

(413) 755-3333

Classes Begin September 4th



Scan to take a virtual campus tour!

Springfield Technical Community College

Exceptional Education. Proven Results.

Apply and Get **ACCEPTED!**
Meet with an Advisor
Register for Classes

Mystery book review: Trouble in Istanbul, Mehmet Murat Somer's "The Gigolo Murder"

By: Paul P. Jesepe/TRT Columnist

Mystery lovers, if you're looking for something out of the ordinary, put "The Gigolo Murder" by Turkish author Mehmet Murat Somer on your booklist. It's a short novel based on Istanbul's gay nightlife. The lead character is a transvestite nightclub owner who dresses in standard men's business attire for a technology day job. The book is one of three written in English in a series of seven.

On the first page, the reader learns of a murder. The transvestite nightclub owner is able to pull herself out of the dumps after a breakup that's broken her heart. "I was imprisoned in a chunk of amethyst," she says. She "imagined ... growing old, shaving side by side in the morning, dozing in front of the TV ... I loved waking up to his scent, nestled in the glistening golden hairs of his chest." Despite jadedness and street-smarts, she allowed herself to fall hopelessly in love.

Ponpon, a drag queen and good friend, forces the sleuth to shave and get out of her home for a night on the town. The sleuth falls for the "superhandsome" Haluk, brother-in-law of the accused murderer who took down a

gigolo. The heroine sleuth may have been drawn to Haluk out of lust, but she begins to develop feelings for him.

Sleuthing is cathartic for her, and she kicks into action to solve the crime. The reader never learns the name of the transvestite, which adds to the mystique of the novel. She has a love for Audrey Hepburn and strong, masculine men. There is a desire to have a protector, but make no mistake, she can take care of herself.

There is nothing campy about the story. It has wit, sophistication and understated sarcasm. There's also an important social commentary. Slapstick is not to be found here. Ponpon and the unnamed sleuth are not dumb characters. They're smart. Negative stereotypes about drag queens are smashed. Books tend to live on; they can appeal to a wide audience for different reasons. In this case, mainstream audiences can learn a few things.

The book comes with a glossary and list of characters in the front. You might think it a tad annoying to familiarize yourself with Turkish words, yet there are just enough to make the novel exotic without breaking the mood. It's

Read Mystery Book in this Page

Ask Lambda Legal: Arizona's Immigration Law

By: Iván Espinoza-Madriral/Lambda Legal



Q: Some of my gay friends have expressed some insensitivity towards immigration issues—especially with the news about Arizona's anti-immigrant law, SB 1070. What can I say to them that might make them reconsider their view?

A: Arizona's anti-immigrant law, known as SB 1070, was passed in April 2010 and, almost immediately, the law faced several legal challenges. In June 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down key elements of the law, including three of the most controversial policies: The Court said that Arizona cannot create its own system for immigration registration, impose criminal penalties on immigrants who are seeking work, or make warrantless arrests of immigrants based on possibility of removability. This decision is an important victory for communities across the United States. However, Arizona can still require its police officers to verify the immigration status of a person during a "lawful stop, detention, or arrest."

The LGBT community should be very concerned about SB 1070 and other states' efforts to enact anti-immigrant policies. Often the voices who oppose fairness for LGBT people are the same voices who oppose fairness for immigrants. SB 1070 criminalizes people based on their appearance, and the LGBT community knows all too well how easily those who are perceived to "look" or "act" different can be singled-out for harassment and discrimination. Many of us have experienced hostility because our presentation can clash with outdated, stereotypical notions of "masculinity" and "femininity."

Additionally, the LGBT community is diverse and encompasses not only bi-national same-sex couples and LGBT asylum-seekers, but also immigrants who are often trapped in a "double closet." Not only do they hide their sexual orientation or gender identity, they have to hide their immigration status as well. The struggle for LGBT equality is inextricably in-



making the case for equality

tertwined with the movement for immigrants' rights. For example, immigrants who are married to same-sex U.S. citizen partners continue to be denied "green cards" because the federal government does not recognize same-sex relationships for immigration purposes. And LGBT and HIV-affected refugees regularly appear in Immigration Court requesting asylum protection because they are fleeing persecution and torture in their home countries.

According to the Heartland Alliance's April 2011 report on U.S. Immigrant Detention, more than 50% of immigration arrests come through partnerships with local police. If immigrants know they will be detained, they are less likely to seek out police assistance if they are a victim or witness to a crime, thereby making communities less safe. Our community's own history of oppression has taught us that targeting individuals, families and communities is dangerous and wrong.

Since the introduction of SB 1070, five other states — Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah — have adopted similar copycat anti-immigrant laws. Civil rights groups have challenged these laws in court too, and the outcome of the Supreme Court case will likely affect these cases.

If you think you have been discriminated against, and are looking for resources in your state, call Lambda Legal's Help Desk at 1-866-542-8336, or see <http://lambdalegal.org/help>.

[Read this article in Spanish in this issue of TRT, on page 17].

Mystery Book from this Page

worth the time reviewing the word list. It's also easy to flip back when you encounter one of them while reading, because it doesn't take you away from the sights, sounds and smells of steamy, sensual Istanbul.

I'm not a regular reader of mystery or crime novels. Hence, how this matches up to

others in such a context is beyond me. Despite this limitation, I found "The Gigolo Murder" crisp, original and a quick moving read. It makes for a perfect vacation book when you're looking to decompress.

*Paul is an attorney and seminary trained priest. He writes the "Faith, Family, and God" column for TRT. He can be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.

COME OUT As You Are

THE LEADER IN THE ADULT INDUSTRY FOR OVER 40 YEARS NOW IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

SECOND PLACE
ADVOCATE
★ BEST ★
OF THE VALLEY
READERS' POLL
2012

ADULT VIDEO/BOOK
& NOVELTY STORE

THIRD PLACE
ADVOCATE
★ BEST ★
OF THE VALLEY
READERS' POLL
2012

PLACE TO BUY
LINGERIE

Store Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 10-9
Fri.-Sat. 10-10
Sun. 12-7
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

18 Main Street, Greenfield, MA
Take Route 91; Exit 26; 2A East; 1/2 mile on your left. The store is located next to Swift Cleaners.

413.774.9800 • AdamEveGreenfield.com

ONCE AGAIN, THE NATION GRIEVES BECAUSE SOME LONE GUNMAN ARMED TO THE TEETH WENT ON A KILLING SPREE.

PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR AMERICANS TO HAVE A SERIOUS DISCUSSION ABOUT WHY THIS KEEPS HAPPENING OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

I'M FROM THE AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION AND WE BLAME GAY RIGHTS.

...OR MAYBE WE'RE STILL NOT READY.

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

As Affordable as Internet Dating with the Touch of a Matchmaker

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

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

www.massmatch.com. • Phone: 413.665.3218

ADVOCATE
★ BEST ★
OF THE VALLEY
READERS' POLL
2012

ADULT
★ BEST ★
OF THE VALLEY
READERS' POLL
2011

SAVE THE DATE!

OUT IN THE PARK

NEW!

COLLIATIA

A GIANT AMONG COASTERS

JUJUBEE
back by
popular demand!



GO BIG. GO PROUD.

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2012

- ✓ Private Party Friday Night
Includes FREE ticket for Saturday!
- ✓ JUJUBEE -
Back by Popular Demand!
- ✓ Plus MORE to be announced!

**NEW...
2 Days for
the price
of 1!**

GO BIG

**GO
Six
Flags®**
NEW ENGLAND

For more information visit
OUTINTHEPARK.INFO
Tickets Available NOW!



GET YOUR HEART ON

VOLUNTEER FOR AN
HIV VACCINE STUDY



VOLUNTEER

We're looking for HIV-negative, 18-50 year old men who ❤️ men, and transwomen for an HIV vaccine study. Don't worry...you can't get HIV from the vaccine. You will be paid for your time.

FENWAY  HEALTH

617-927-6450

ihaveahearton.org



LifeSkills empowers transgender women, galvanizes LGBTQ community

By: Brook Rosini/Special to The Rainbow Times

The LifeSkills Project, a program for and by transgender women at the Fenway Institute, is making the news and recruiting new participants too. The Rainbow Times, TRT, interviewed its Senior Research Associate, Emilia Dunham.

Dunham, who besides being a crucial member of LifeSkills, is also active in other LGBTQ local organizations explained why LifeSkills is unique, and how it will positively affect trans people and LGBTQ communities in Boston, Chicago, and across the country.

The Rainbow Times: How did you get involved with the community and this work, and what drives you to continue with it?

Emilia Dunham: I became involved with the LGBTQ community quite naturally several years ago as a transgender and bisexual-identified youth in a small Massachusetts high school. Experiencing and watching my LGBTQ peers experience discrimination, bullying, family and peer rejection, depression, and other issues was and continues to be a motivating factor for why I work to make the world a better place for LGBTQ youth.

Q. How does LifeSkills fit into your goals for positively impacting LGBTQ youth?

A. LifeSkills is a prime example of a project that positively impacts these communities. LifeSkills is a research study for young transgender women ages 16-24 testing a group intervention designed and led by other trans women to empower participants and reduce sexual risk behaviors. This study recognizes the girls' unique needs, and our hope is that it will make a difference at such a critical time for a population that deserves more services. Ultimately, the study will lead to more information about the community, create opportunity for more trans programming across the country, and foster community right here in Boston.

Q. What are some of the challenges in getting city and state governments to support programs like LifeSkills?

A. Some of the main arguments governments give for their reluctance in funding LGBTQ youth projects is lack of research and data on LGBTQ health disparities, and there is even less research on transgender youth. However, LifeSkills seeks to add to that research and hopefully prove to be a successful program that governments could fund in cities and states across the U.S.

Q. I imagine accessibility is a key component of the project, making high-visibility outreach events like the Skillz Ball very important. Can you talk a little bit about that?

A. One challenge we faced with outreach is that there aren't many spaces for young trans women to hang out, so we decided to create a space for our community to not just promote the study, but also to give back to the community. This was precisely the objective of the Ball. We used a unique strategy of asking performers in the Ball to walk for an organization that serves transgender youth, as a way for them to give back to the organizations they care about. Each performer who won a category won \$50, and the organization with the most category wins received a \$500 donation from Fenway Health. We reached out to the major LGBT organizations serving youth in the area. Each promoted the event and many sent performers to represent their organizations.

Q. The LifeSkills website states that the



Emilia Dunham, center, at the Project LifeSkills first "Skillz Ball" held on Friday, July 13th. The event celebrated the efforts of local organizations serving LGBTQI youth and raised awareness of LifeSkills, an empowerment-focused research study for transgender women ages 16-24.

LifeSkills study is a "client-centered, community-based research study 'with' not 'on' trans communities." Why is that an important distinction to make?

A. LifeSkills is not just a study that puts up fliers on the subway or posts in the newspaper, and then waits for participants to show up. There is definitely a time and place for that, but trans people, even young trans people, are sometimes subject to insensitive, purposeless research that makes them feel like guinea pigs. Engaging with the community lets participants know that we actually care about them and support their communities, including supporting the events of other organizations, for instance with the Ball.

Q. What are other ways the LifeSkills study is different from others?

A. What's unique about this project is that most of the staff members are transgender, including all of the Research Associates/Group Facilitators. The reason for this is that we know young trans women often feel more comfortable talking about sensitive topics with people who can relate to what they are going through. The staff make-up, along with the content of the intervention, are specific to the needs of young trans women, so when we talk about having safer sex, or looking for a job, or how to handle discrimination on the fly, or how to disclose that you are transgender, it's specific to our community.

Q. I'm curious about the relationship between the LifeSkills Chicago team and the LifeSkills Boston team. How did that come about?

A. When Dr. Rob Garofalo, Dr. Lisa Kuhns, and the rest of the Chicago team decided to pursue LifeSkills as a larger grant with the National Institutes for Health, they sought a strong LGBT research institute and researchers experienced in trans research: Matthew Mimiaga and Sari Reisner here at The Fenway Institute, the Investigators on the Project. They had worked together on other projects, so it was a natural partnership.

Q. So, why Chicago and Boston? Do they simply have the right facilities for this kind of study, or are they cities that have a particular need because of their specific communities?

A. There is need in every city and town for trans services, but it was important to test whether this intervention could work in an-

other city. It will be interesting to compare strengths and challenges of each city to know how the intervention could be used in other cities down the line. That will be the true test!

Q. There are a number of partnerships involved in LifeSkills, beyond the Chicago-Boston one and the affiliations with the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and Fenway Health/Fenway Institute in Boston. Can you speak to the importance of partnerships for the study?

A. I can't stress enough how partnerships are the key to a successful study, particularly with a community project like LifeSkills. We were fortunate to have the sponsorship of Fenway Health, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dr. Jeffrey Spiegel, and Crazy Dog Photography, as well as in-kind donations and services to help fund the Skillz Ball. We only have so much capacity as a research study, so we truly appreciate the support to actually put on events that help us build needed community connections. Beyond that, we would never be able to perform this research if it weren't for funders. The Investigators applied for funding through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), seeking a five year grant, which they received. The grant was the largest ever to fund a project for this population by the NIH, so you know that they don't just give these things away, but require you to work at an institution where there is the infrastructure to carry this out. Howard Brown and The Fenway Institute have strong reputations for conducting LGBT health research, and hospital affiliations are fantastic because we are able to recruit directly from health centers that see young trans women.

Q. What are your dreams for the future of this project, this movement, this community?

A. I'd love to see this project really become successful and make a tremendous impact on the local community and on individual participants, by adding to our knowledge about the trans community and even spurring policy change. Since I've been out as transgender I've seen so many great changes for the trans community: attitudes are changing, policies are becoming more favorable, and there are finally some positive role models in the media for young trans people to look up to. While there are so many struggles and challenges that young trans women face, what I hope this project will show is the magnificent resilience and true hope and potential these girls demonstrate. Each and every one these women – whether in the study or not – are such powerful, beautiful, wonderful women, capable of incredible things. My dream is that some day, everyone in the world will see that.

To learn more about the LifeSkills project, visit www.projectlifeskills.org/. You can connect with Emilia and the rest of the LifeSkills Boston team on their blog through the website. If you think you know someone who might be eligible to participate in the study, you can find out details of the LifeSkills Community Referral Program, which offers financial compensation for referrals, at <http://tinyurl.com/c76e7nc>.

This Q&A is excerpted from a longer interview. Read the full story online at <http://tinyurl.com/d9norrn>. Also, see the photos from the event in page 15 of this issue of The Rainbow Times.

Are You HIV Positive?

We are looking for men and women ages 18+ who:

- are HIV positive;
- are in general good health;
- have a CD4+ cell count above 500;
- have never been on HIV medicines; and
- are not pregnant or breastfeeding.

You may be eligible to participate in the START (Strategic Timing of AntiRetroviral Treatment) study. Eligible participants will receive:

- Exams and laboratory tests that are part of the study
 - A \$35 stipend per visit (every 4 months for 3-6 years)
 - Your health insurance will pay for the routine costs of your health care.
- HIV medicines may be provided either by the study or by your insurance.



Baystate Medical Center
baystatehealth.org

To learn more, please call
Frances Santiago, RN, CCRP,
Baystate Infectious Disease Clinical Research,
at 413-794-7365 or email frances.santiago@baystatehealth.org
Hablamos español. Learn more at thestartstudy.org

Red Roof Inn: For LGBTQ or all a nice place to stay at the right price

By: Lorelei Erisis/TRT Reporter

The Red Roof Inn in Saugus, Mass. has recently been through a major renovation. As part of a 10-day stay in Boston for TRT's extensive coverage of the full scope of Boston's LGBT Pride Week, I had a wonderfully comforting and welcoming place to stay at while working. Such an experience seems to start from management, according to its general manager. A Boston area local that got his start working in the hospitality industry in Miami, Mike Ciulla was extremely affable, open-minded and excited about making sure the guests in his hotel had the best experience possible. His enthusiasm and excellent customer service extended easily to a desire to maintain a positive work environment.

"I started in night life in Miami then moved back to my hometown of Boston and entered hotels," said Ciulla, General Manager of the Red Roof in Saugus. Clearly, this is a hotel that focuses on the most important aspect of any hotel—its customers.

During my interview with Ciulla, I had the opportunity to tour the hotel and found that all the rooms, double's and king's as well as the suites, were well-appointed and all excellent places to stay for a road weary traveler like myself.

After working in the hot summer sun of mid-day, there was nothing better than walking into a cool lobby where smiling employees made me feel immediately relaxed and easy. Check-in could not have been smoother or stress free.

The third floor suite I stayed in was spacious and offered clean and comfortable surroundings. The room had two flat screen TVs, one in

the front room, a second in the bedroom; a kitchenette area that allowed me to prepare quick meals; a couch, dining table; and a desk that was easily transformed into my multimedia mission control.

A Boston area local that got his start working in hotels in Miami, Ciulla was extremely affable, open-minded and excited about making sure the guests in his hotel had the best experience possible. His enthusiasm and excellent

longer. Also, the training of new employees actively involves the staff, with a strong focus on team building.

"If I can build a really strong team, we're always going to win," said Ciulla. A statement born out of the extremely low personnel turnover at the hotel —

rooms have flat screen televisions and new beds. My bed was a pillow filled joy to sleep in. All

of the night-stands have outlets with enough taps for even the most tech heavy travelers. In such circumstances, there is no need any longer to worry about

leaving a phone charger or iPod plug behind the bed stand.

As part of the renovations, all of the flooring in the rooms has been replaced with hardwood flooring and area rugs, Ciulla explained. I found they gave the rooms much more of a homey feeling. Ciulla mentioned such a replacement is also easier to keep clean—an enormous benefit for a hotel chain that prides itself on its pet-friendly policy. Incidentally, the Saugus Red Roof Inn has no special cleaning fees and no extra charge for pets.

In addition, all of the rooms have great work spaces, perfect for the traveler on the job, as well as safes for tucking away your precious things. At the Red Roof Inn Saugus, Mass., no detail is overlooked and that is what makes the stay so excellent. There are hairdryers, irons and iron-



customer service extended easily to a desire to maintain a positive work environment.

According to Ciulla, all but one of the front desk employees has been there for six years or

some employees have worked for the full 10 years the location has been open.

There is a refrigerator and microwave in every room, according to Ciulla. Additionally, all the

See Red Roof on Page 14

Sheltering the homeless...
Feeding the hungry.

October 14, 2012

 **Shelter Sunday**



Make a difference in the lives of others!

Join us on Shelter Sunday as we canvass the City of Northampton raising crucial funds for our neighbors in need. This special event raises funds for six local organizations serving the homeless and hungry.

All it takes is just 2 hours of your time.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT

Grace House • Grove Street Inn • Interfaith Emergency Shelter
MANNA Soup Kitchen • Safe Passage • Single Room Occupancy Project

TO VOLUNTEER

Please call Wendy at 582-9508 or email volunteer@northamptonsheltersunday.org.

MONETARY DONATIONS

Shelter Sunday • c/o ServiceNet, Inc. • 129 King Street • Northampton, MA 01060

Sponsored By:

The Rainbow Times
The Provincetown, Cape Cod and Nantucket Magazine

LGBT COALITION
of Western Massachusetts

presents:

RAINBOW RIVER FEST

PRIDE OF WESTERN MASS

Performances by

BITCH & MELISSA FERRICK

SAT. SEPT. 22, 2012

HOLYOKE CANOE CLUB

❖ 2 miles from Northampton on Route 5 ❖

Music ❖ Food ❖ Comedy

Zen Zone Workshops Youth Tent

Games Beer Garden

www.lgbtcoalitionwma.org

Thinking Out Loud: Are We Out Enough?

How a Facebook status update raised hard questions about my marriage

By: Abby Dees*/Special for TRT



During a lazy day last weekend, my partner, Traci, and I were Google surfing in bed, one laptop between us. Every once in a while, Traci would switch windows, check Facebook, and then return to our search. Who knows what we were searching for, but I won't forget what we uncovered.

During one of those Facebook breaks, I saw that Traci had yet to confirm the fact that she and I were married. If you're unfamiliar with

for their next step."

She said, yes, maybe. But I could see that wasn't totally it.

Traci herself was uncomfortable advertising the fact that she was married to me, her spouse – and a very out "professional gay," as I call often myself. She has always listed her status as "married," and posts endless pictures of the two of us here and there, sampling weird food, on vacation, or asleep and drooling. She said it wasn't that she wasn't "out" or that she was ashamed of me, but that my level of outness was more "in your face." She doesn't like to be defined by her gayness, and it could turn off the conservative folks back home who hadn't had

Historic: LGBT inclusion from the Obama administration on aging

On July 10th the Administration on Aging (AoA), the federal agency responsible for funding and programs for the U.S. country's older adults, released a historic announcement that recognized LGBT older adults among those populations of "greatest social need" when planning for and providing services throughout the country.

The Obama Administration's Administration on Aging took significant steps to recognize that LGBT older adults exist and to ensure that there is money available to support programs that aim to reduce their isolation, thus improving their quality of life.

"This is a powerful message from the federal government that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults DO exist - and that mainstream elder services should be thinking about our older adults and including them in the scope of their work when the plan and deliver services in their communities," said Lisa Krinsky, LICSW, Director of the LGBT Aging Project.

The LGBT Aging Project and its colleagues across the country have long advocated for such a ruling that would include LGBT older adults in these guidelines and we applaud AoA for making this announcement.

Some of the details in the announcement and Q&A explain the details of the LGBT support programs.

In response to questions received about the inclusion of LGBT (and other) populations that may be included in the definition of "greatest social need," AOA today issued a new Frequently Asked Question (FAQ).

The FAQ explains that the definition of greatest social need does not exclude isolated populations other than racial and ethnic minorities and may include, depending on the planning and service area, religious minorities, individuals isolated due to sexual orientation or gender identity or other special populations.

The new FAQ reads as follows:

Q: Does "greatest social need" as defined in the Older Americans Act allow communities to target funds to populations they identify as experiencing cultural, social or geographic isolation other than isolation caused by racial or ethnic status?

A: While the definition of "greatest social need" in the Older Americans Act includes isolation caused by racial or ethnic status, the definition is not intended to exclude the targeting



Lisa Krinsky, LICSW, Director of the LGBT Aging Project

of populations that experience cultural, social or geographic isolation due to other factors. In some communities, such isolation may be caused by minority religious affiliation. In others, isolation due to sexual orientation or gender identity may restrict a person's ability to perform normal daily tasks or live inde-

pendently. Each planning and service area must assess their particular environment to determine those populations best targeted based on "greatest social need".

The FAQ can also be found online under the heading "Targeting" via this link: <http://tinyurl.com/8xxbtc5>.

The Older Americans Act encourages the Aging Network to target services to those of greatest economic or social need. Greatest social need is defined in the Act as:

24) The term "greatest social need" means the need caused by non-economic factors, which include-

- (A) physical and mental disabilities;
- (B) language barriers; and
- (C) cultural, social, or geographical isolation, including isolation caused by racial or ethnic status, that-
- (i) restricts the ability of an individual to perform normal daily tasks; or
- (ii) threatens the capacity of the individual to live independently

The LGBT Aging Project is the leading organization in New England that is dedicated to ensuring that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults and caregivers have equal access to the life prolonging benefits, protections, services and institutions that their heterosexual neighbors take for granted. Through LGBT cultural competency training for mainstream elder service providers, community building for LGBT older adults themselves, and civic leadership, the LGBT Aging Project ensures that LGBT older adults can age with the dignity and respect they deserve. www.lgbtagingproject.org.

I know that if we were straight, she wouldn't have hesitated to click "confirm" those many months ago.

Facebook, this is how they try to assure that a member can't randomly make public assertions about another member. In this case, many months ago I happily told Facebook that I was married to Traci. Traci was supposed to assure Facebook that I was not insane in thinking this and then both our Facebook friends would immediately see the updated info. But as of last weekend, she hadn't done this. So I, figuring she had merely forgotten, impulsively reached over and clicked "Confirm," at which point the now very old update hit Traci's newsfeed and congratulations poured in almost instantly. Never mind that we married in 2008.

I have big rules about respecting other people's personal space and I knew I'd broken one of them. It's the Internet version of reaching over from the passenger seat and honking someone's horn because the car in front of you is stopped at a green light. While understandable, it's still rude. It's not your car.

Traci was ticked off, but I soon realized that it wasn't so much about my commandeering her Facebook account as it was about broadcasting our marriage status. The first thing she said was that it could upset her parents. Her folks have embraced me completely as Traci's partner. They have come a long, long way in their understanding and acceptance of their lesbian daughter. While deserving a thumbs-up, they haven't exactly joined PFLAG. I am still Traci's "friend" when they talk to their neighbors and extended family. My response was, "You can't keep protecting them from themselves. It's time

much exposure to the idea yet. She felt she'd accomplish more in the long run by simply being herself and changing minds by example.

I understood all of this, but got stuck – and am still stuck – on the fact that she wanted to distance herself from me, even just a little bit. I do know she is proud of me, happy that I'm writing and talking about important LGBT issues. I would be disingenuous to accuse her of being ashamed of me, yet I can't find peace with her discomfort. I know that if we were straight, she wouldn't have hesitated to click "confirm" those many months ago. She disagrees. It's about being more private in general, she insists.

The first big irony here is that my whole public platform is about being patient with everyone's process and applauding our loved ones' baby steps toward understanding. I'm both irritated and hurt by her disassociation from me considering that my whole public persona is as cuddly, user-friendly, not-scary lesbian. I'm hardly a porn star or a Fox commentator. And then there's the other irony (you were probably here before me): I preach about patience, yet I'm having a hell of a time finding that patience in myself.

After the deed, and a brief argument, we stopped talking about it. We heard each other, and we both felt icky. But she didn't delete her update either. I wish I could be happier about it.

**Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. She can be reached through her website: www.queerquestionsstraighttalk.com.*

Red Roof from Page 12

ing boards, plenty of storage space, even coffee makers with coffee and tea ready to brew.

Ciulla tries hard to take care of his staff, telling me of his own experience, "When I got to Red Roof Inn, it was Real People." Ciulla said of working there, "You get to hear different stories. Meet people from other parts of the world."

The Red Roof Inn was originally founded in 1972 by a man named Jim Trueman. Trueman, who came from restaurant and NASCAR background, named it after his favorite bar and their original slogan was, "Sleep Cheap." The chain has grown dramatically since then and evolved with the times, but that original philosophy shows in the attention to the needs of the many types of travelers who call Red Roof home for a single night or many days. Other instances,

according to Ciulla, include a guest who had been staying at his location since he first started working there two years ago.

Guests at the Red Roof Inn in Saugus come from all over the world, for all sorts of reasons. Those guests indeed are a diverse array of people; blue collar workers doing industrial jobs, convention attendees looking for a more reasonable rate than in downtown Boston, sports fans ready to give their all for our beloved Red Sox, Celtics and Bruins, or LGBTQ Media Mavens, like myself.

The price is also reflective of their customer service commitment to the customer.

"We are always the least expensive hotel in Saugus, at all times, no matter what," Ciulla said. He also extends that criterion to other hotels in close proximity to Logan International Airport as well as Downtown Boston.

"This location is really nice because it's really a straight shot into Boston," said the general manager. "You really can't get lost, just go Route 1 south until you see big buildings. I like that."

It's also an easy hop over to Routes 93 and 95, which will bring take visitors quickly north to New Hampshire or down to The Cape and Providence. Also, the Wonderland stop on the MBTA Blue line is easy to get to and offers plenty of inexpensive parking, allowing the inexperienced Boston driver to avoid what is known to be one of the most difficult cities to drive in, in the country.

Looking for dinner? Well, in addition to the numerous offerings up and down Route 1, the famous Kowloon Restaurant and Comedy Club is immediately next door. For my money, and pure taste bud joy, I recommend a little roast beef place just shortly before the Red Roof coming

up Route 1 from Boston.

As a transgender woman, I could not have had a better experience than I had with my stay at The Red Roof Inn in Saugus. I was treated with all the respect I could have hoped for and then more. I received no stares or awkward comments, just a smile and friendly helpful service. It is definitely a fine place to stay for LGBTQ folks or anyone who is looking for a perfect place to hang up their hat and have a dreamy night's sleep after a long day on the road or in the city.

Ciulla sums it up perfectly. "We offer really good customer service, a clean comfortable place to stay while traveling."

The Red Roof Inn, Boston-Logan, is located at 920 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906. For reservations, call 781-941-1400 or go to <http://tinyurl.com/7t296av>.

Eva Simons: Rising pop star talks gay influences, doing Pride, more

By: Chris Azzopardi*/Special for TRT

It's hard to talk about Eva Simons without mentioning her hair. That towering mohawk is as big as her voice, which guests on will.i.am's single "This Is Love." With Simons' debut due this fall, the Dutch up-and-comer chatted about her recent Pride gig, how gay people influence her and the hair, of course.

Chris Azzopardi: How much hairspray do you go through?

Eva Simons: A lot! You know how they say you can't bring flammable things on the plane? I think those things are flammable but I have to bring them, otherwise I can't do my hair. Is that legal? I don't know! But I need it. I need my European hairspray. It's very important.

Q. How tall is your hair?

A. Eight inches. My brother was measuring it the other day. He wanted to know.

Q. That's bigger than the average p#&@\$. A. (Laughs) Oh my god, is it really? Well, good to know. I'm huge!

Q. How aware are you of your gay fan base?

A. I wasn't very aware until I performed at gay Pride in New York recently. That was when I was aware; they gave me so much love.

Q. Is that the first time you received that kind of reception from a gay audience?

A. I mean, I always have! Ever since my first record, "Silly Boy," they really believed in me. It's always nice when people get you, espe-



PHOTOS BY: NICK FARRELL

Eva Simons

cially in the gay community where they are so much about people being misunderstood. I totally understand that.

Q. You used to go to gay clubs when your mom, who's also a singer, used to perform at them. What do you remember?

A. I was just mesmerized by them. They were always so original and ahead of the game with the creativity. That always inspired me to always think ahead. I don't want to be old news with my music; I want to be current and fresh so people can relate. And the freedom! Sometimes life can feel like a closet.

Q. Have you ever come out of the closet, so to speak?

A. Yeah, especially before I did my hair. When I did my hair, I was like, "Yes! I'm free." And everybody's gonna have an opinion about it, and I don't care.

Q. One of your biggest influences is Madonna. What kind of influence has she had on your music?

A. Madonna is Madonna. It's just there. It's Madonna. I think everybody has been influenced by her. She's just amazing. She's so professional, beautiful and I really like her voice. People can say whatever they want to say but I really enjoy listening to her. She is a go-getter and that's inspiring.

Q. Is there a song of hers that changed your life?

"Secret." She showed a different side of her when she did that song. I like that she can do anything but she's still her.

Q. What kind of effect do you hope to have

on pop music?

A. I don't know if I want to have an effect on it. I just know that I want to have a good time, I want to be happy and I want to share that. I want to share happiness and I want to make something people can relate to.

Q. What's the word on your debut album?

A. I'm finalizing it now and I really hope that we can release it in September. It's unfiltered, on real subjects. It's gonna be me and you really have to be into my sound to like it, of course. If you're into "I Don't Like You" and "Renegade," you're going to really like this album.

Q. How would you describe yourself?

A. I have a big mouth, I am very energetic and I'm very positive. To me, that's just what everybody should be like – be free, be positive. And just f#&@% enjoy yourself. Stop complaining!

Q. What're some of your vices?

A. I like chocolate, but who doesn't? So that's boring. I like to keep my shoes neat. I brush them. Is that weird? I like everything neat. On tour, it's horrible: Sometimes you have to have a shirt and you can't wash it till next week – but I want to wash it! I will find a washing machine to wash my stuff. I love things to be clean and neat. It keeps me still inside. It's like meditation.

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://tinyurl.com/bslnkax>

LifeSkills is a 12-month research study for trans women ages 16-24 designed and led by other trans women that aims to empower participants and reduce sexual risk behaviors.

—Emilia Dunham, Sr. Research Associate

Fenway Health's LIFESKILLS BALL
Boston, Massachusetts

Photos: Glenn Koetzner/TRT

Mass. transgender athletes make strides toward equality in Olympics

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

A decade after beginning his career in the hammer throw, Keelin Godsey attempted to become the first openly transgender athlete to compete for the United States in an Olympic Game this past June. Although the North Adams, Mass. resident missed qualifying for the London Games by 11 inches, he was proud of what he accomplished.

"I was doing it for me honestly. That sounds selfish, but at the same time I feel like I had to. I was trying to be a role model for myself, quite frankly," said 28-year-old Godsey during a phone interview with TRT. "I could prove that you could still do it and be highly competitive, and it doesn't matter how you identify as long as you still compete."

The 5'9" competitor began his athletic venture into the discus, hammer, shot put and weight throw while attending Bates College, where he graduated in 2006 as a 16-time All-American athlete. It was during the summer before his senior year that Keelin announced his transgender identity, and tossed his birth name, Kelly, aside.

"That was the only thing left - it was the end of the rope, it was the end of my sanity," explained Keelin, who now works as a physical therapist when he's not training. "The effects it had on having trans athletes [as well as] other people coming out, hopefully they were positive, but I was doing it more for me."

Whether as an NCAA Division III athlete, or competing in the developmental and elite lev-

els, he was required to follow strict organizational rules about what ways he could transition to a male body. These rules include prohibitions from pursuing surgery or testosterone therapy, and continue to apply to Keelin throughout his career in track and field.

There are some leagues that do allow transgender athletes to compete, despite any transitions

participants may have made, such as Boston's Beantown Softball League.

The organization has two teams, the Barnstormers and the Trailblazers, whose mission statement includes being, "a softball team dedicated to creating a fun and safe space for gender non-conforming and trans people."

"It has become a second home for me," said Maxwell Ng, a Somerville resident who runs the Barnstormers. "It really was just a group of people who wanted to get to-

gether to play, and it has become this community that just welcomes everybody regardless of gender, body [or] playing ability. It's becoming incredibly social, it's such a supportive group - I've got some really fantastic friends."

Despite having multiple games almost every single weekend between the end of April through June, the competitive edge isn't always there. After a 27 year hiatus from softball, 53-year-old Chris Miller now participates on the Barnstormers, as well as a men's team in the greater Boston area. After almost three years of testosterone therapy, he feels confident enough to participate with biological males. A former NCAA Division I field hockey player and recreational weightlifter, he did not want his transition to get in the way of his life as an athlete.

"On a softball field I try: I'm very muscular, I work really hard on my body. So part of it for me is about pass-ability."

Both in how I look physically and how strong my body is, as well as how that affects positively my performance," said Miller, who also plays competitive poker.

Across the Northeast, it appears there is no shortage of transgender athletes passing and performing well in athletic events alongside their cisgender counterparts.

"I was pleasantly surprised that [Keelin] got to where he was, and I was disappointed that he didn't make the team. But it made me feel very proud as a transgendered person to see Keelin up there getting out and doing that," said Gunner Scott, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition. "It's important to help change the culture and the way people treat us."

TRT asked Keelin about what was next for him in the sports world, but the athlete declined to answer by saying, "I don't know if I want to try something else yet. I'm just going to kind of pass on answering because I'm still trying to work that out. A lot of things have been thought out and I just don't really want to say anything, just because I haven't talked to everyone in my life yet either and those people deserve to hear it from me first."

Correction: Since the July, 2012 press time, **Brian Evans performance** at The Wilbur has been changed to December 19, 2012 at The Wilbur due to an early CD release. Please visit: www.thewilburtheatre.com or Evan's website at: www.brianevans.com.



PHOTO: BECKY MILLER



CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION



PHOTO: ©PAT RYAN/HRC

HRC Protests Chick-fil-A Food Truck

Dozens of equality supporters amass outside of downtown D.C. food truck to protest Chick-fil-A's anti-LGBT donations

WASHINGTON— Recently, The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) staged a protest outside of a Chick-fil-A food truck in downtown Washington, D.C. Nearly 30 HRC supporters gathered in front of the food truck to pass out fact sheets to customers and raise awareness about the millions of dollars the company has donated to anti-LGBT organizations.

Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy has embraced his fast food chain's anti-LGBT discriminatory donations, declaring "guilty as charged" when questioned about them in a recent interview and even saying that supporting marriage equality was akin to "inviting God's judgment on our nation."

"HRC is sending a loud and clear message to Chick-fil-A: we will not rest until your consumers know that you take their money and hand it over to groups that actively work to demonize LGBT people," said HRC Vice President of Communications Fred Sainz. "Consumers should have all the facts about Chick-fil-A's anti-LGBT history, and then make informed decisions about whether they want to continue to support a business that proudly touts its connections to discriminatory groups. Organizations and elected officials from the Jim Henson Company to Boston Mayor Thomas Menino have already spoken out against Chick-fil-A's practices – we look forward to hearing other fair-minded companies and organizations follow suit."

* 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.

Read more up-to-date Chick-Fil-A outcries & denouncements, on page 4 of this publication.



Imagen latina LGBT en la prensa

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa*/Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Todos los días hay alguien que sale del clóset. Ahora son tantos/as que algunas veces ni es noticia, ¡sino sólo confirmación de lo que se sospechaba de ella o él! Pero todavía hay personas que no se sienten cómodas de salir del clóset en específico en los medios de comunicación y entretenimiento Latino.

El acto de "tapar" o de estar dentro del "closet" es algo que está cambiando en la televisión, los periódicos y la radio en español. Esto es posible gracias a imágenes objetivas y positivas que representan una dimensión no sensacionalista, falsa y arcaica de las personas con distintas orientaciones sexuales e identidades de género. Por ejemplo, el acto de que Ricky Martin recibiera una carta pidiendo perdón de Miss. Perú por hacer comentarios negativos o de que Ricky Martin fuera entrevistado sobre sus hijos y compañero de forma igual a las entrevistas a otros/as artistas heterosexuales está bien, aunque todavía hay muchos/as artistas que se tapan y se esconden en sus armarios.

Aunque este es un cambio positivo tenemos mucho por lo cual trabajar para realmente cambiar el sentir de aquellas personas que atacan, prohíben y marginan a otros que no reflejan la expectativa social de lo que es un hombre o una mujer. Al igual que muchos/as no aceptan a los Latinos que no asimilan los roles que se supone que asimilen como Latino/a. Por ejemplo, hay Latinos como yo, en puestos altos en organizaciones y gobierno con grados académicos y muchos otros Latinos/as en las ramas sociales. Esto ahora está cambiando pero todavía hay muchos/as que no aceptan estas diferencias y logros. En los Estados Unidos hay muchas personas que son racistas, xenofóbicos/as, clasistas, y demás al igual que hay mucha hostilidad en contra de los logros de nuestra comunidad Latina y LGBT.

Recientemente enves de presentar imágenes positivas de la comunidad Latina LGBT se están viendo de nuevo, en los medios de comunicación, imágenes negativas de nuestra comu-

nidad en especial a raíz de las recientes decisiones de la Corte Suprema y estado de Arizona. ¿Qué es esto? Debemos, como comunidad Latina LGBT, unir nuestras voces y exigir a estos medios que no utilicen métodos sensacionalistas en contra de nuestra comunidad y que hagan reportajes justos y sensibles. Esta situación también ocurre en los medios Latinos ya que es raro que estas dos identidades, ser Latino y LGBT, se unan de una manera pacífica y positiva en un segmento de noticias, en un artículo de periódico, en un chiste de un programa de radio matutino o de un programa de comedias de televisión Latina. Casi siempre los Latinos/as LGBT terminamos siendo el punto de burla, comedia, o de lo "negativo" o malo de la noticia.

Debemos de tener orgullo sobre nuestras historias y solicitar que se publiquen imágenes que no sensacionalizan nuestras experiencias y nos pongan al margen de la sociedad para hostigamiento y represalias. Esto viene de una sociedad que apoyamos diariamente como trabajadores, padres, madres de familia y al fin como miembros de esta nación.

Esta meta de participar completamente en todos los aspectos de la sociedad sin discriminación y con los mismos derechos que cualquier otra persona, otorgados en nuestra constitución, es la oportunidad perfecta para unir nuestros esfuerzos en contra de aquellas imágenes que difaman nuestras experiencias. En esta unión también podemos empezar a respetar nuestras diferencias, ya que nuestras vivencias son multidimensionales, como debería ser la representación que recibimos en los medios de comunicación.

La programación de los medios que consumimos en español y en inglés, tiene la responsabilidad de reflejar historias que son veraces y objetivas. Está de nuestra parte asegurarnos de que la visibilidad de nuestras comunidades sean consistentes y que realmente reflejen la diversidad que representamos como comunidad Latina LGBT. A los medios de comunicación, les pido que contemplen esta posibilidad de publicar algo justo y educado. A los artistas y personalidades les exhorto a que salgan del clóset y que no se cubran ya que cada vez hay más aliados/as a nuestra comunidad Latina LGBT. En Puerto Rico, quiero agradecer a los artistas como Silverio Perez, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Michael Stuart, Ednita Nazario, y tantos otros/as más que como aliados/as de nuestra comunidad LGBT han hablado en los medios de comunicación abiertamente a favor de la igualdad de derechos y la aceptación de la comunidad LGBT como individuos iguales en nuestra sociedad.

Les exhorto que se envuelvan en la organización de las actividades de Orgullo Latino en Boston y/o que participen de las actividades en Septiembre (www.bostonpride.org). ¡Que gozen del verano abiertamente y fuera del closet!

*Escrito por Wilfred W. Labiosa con conceptos editados por Chuy Sánchez y Carmen Oquendo-Villar.

Pregúntale a Lambda Legal – La Ley Sobre Inmigración de Arizona

P: Algunos de mis amigos gay han mostrado una falta de sensibilidad hacia asuntos de inmigración—especialmente con las noticias de la ley anti inmigrante de Arizona, SB 1070. ¿Qué puedo decirles a ellos para tal vez cambiarles el punto de vista?

R: La ley anti inmigrante de Arizona, conocida como SB 1070, fue aprobada en abril del 2010 y, casi inmediatamente, la ley encaró varios desafíos legales. En junio del 2012, la Corte Suprema de EEUU eliminó tres elementos de la ley: El Tribunal dijo que Arizona no puede crear su propio sistema para la matrícula migratoria, no puede imponer penas criminales a inmigrantes que buscan trabajo, o hacer arrestos sin orden judicial de inmigrantes basados en la posibilidad de deportación. Esta decisión es una victoria importante para comunidades a través de Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, Arizona aún puede requerir que sus policías verifiquen el estatus migratorio de una persona durante una "parada lícita, detención, o un arresto".

La comunidad LGBT debe prestar mucha atención a la ley SB 1070 y los esfuerzos de otros estados para promulgar leyes anti inmigrantes. A menudo las voces que se oponen a la justicia para personas LGBT son las mismas voces que se oponen a la justicia para inmigrantes. SB 1070 criminaliza a personas basadas en su apariencia, y la comunidad LGBT sabe de sobra que los que son percibidos como "diferentes" o "raros" pueden ser vulnerable al acoso y la discriminación. Muchos de nosotros conocemos la hostilidad porque nuestra presentación puede chocar con ideas viejas de la "masculinidad" y la "feminidad".

Adicionalmente, la comunidad LGBT es diversa y abarca no sólo las parejas bi-nacionales del mismo sexo y solicitantes de asilo, sino también a inmigrantes que son atrapados en un "doble clóset". No sólo ocultan su orientación sexual o identidad de género, también tienen que ocultar su estatus migratorio. La lucha por la igualdad LGBT está entrelazada inextricablemente con el movimiento por los derechos de inmigrantes.

La lucha por la igualdad LGBT está entrelazada inextricablemente con el movimiento por los derechos de inmigrantes. Por ejemplo, los inmigrantes que están casados con una pareja del mismo sexo que sea ciudadano de los EEUU siguen siendo negados la residencia porque el gobierno federal no reconoce las relaciones del mismo sexo para propósitos de inmigración. También los refugi-

Lea el resto de este columna en:
<http://tinyurl.com/cen9ks7>

hope for today

CASPAR,

proudly serving

the LGBT community!

If you know someone who needs help with recovery from alcohol or substance abuse, we are here to help!

CAMBRIDGE AND SOMERVILLE PROGRAM FOR ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG REHABILITATION

www.casparinc.org • 617-628-3850

Pon Tu Anuncio en The Rainbow Times!

Patrocinador Oficial del Rainbow RiverFest, otra vez en 2012.

413-282-8881

Jennifer Lopez, Wicked, Nina Arianda, Melanie Griffith and Sandra Bernhard

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Jennifer Lopez turns mogul

Jennifer Lopez jumping the *American Idol* ship wasn't really that surprising when you consider the show's slowly fading public profile and Lopez's perception of herself. This isn't a woman who likes to hide in the background of popular culture. She's got plans, and the next one involves developing groundbreaking television. Specifically, she's behind a one-hour drama for ABC Family about a pair of lesbian moms and their ever-growing brood of children. The untitled pilot, created and written by *Queer As Folk*'s Peter Paige and writing partner Brad Bredeweg, will be executive produced by Lopez and tell the story of a couple – a police officer and a teacher – whose child-filled home welcomes a troubled teenager into the mix. Next question: Could Lopez please play the cop? In fact, could it be the tough Karen Sisco, her character from Steven Soderbergh's brilliant 1998 film *Out of Sight*? That would be great.

Wicked casts a spell on Daldry

Casting aside the question of whether or not acclaimed filmmaker Stephen Daldry (*The Reader*, *The Hours*, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*) is still a gay man after being

married to a woman for 12 years – look, it's complicated and, more importantly, his own life to live – it only makes sense that Universal would at least be courting a gay-ish person to direct the film version of the musical *Wicked*. And that's exactly what they're doing. Other names have been tossed around, of course; that's how it works. But you're telling an alternate take on a pre-Dorothy *Wizard of Oz* here, so it just makes sense to go with the gay guy. Furthermore, Daldry would definitely lend an element of dignity to the situation; it's more or less his trademark as a director, and when one of your characters is green like Shrek you need all the dignity you can get. Meanwhile, in the world of the not-quite-so-gay musical, Jon Favreau is in negotiations to helm *Jersey Boys* for its leap to the big screen. That makes sense, too, since Favreau's straight guy camaraderie skills were well-honed in the '90s with *Swingers*. And if the failure of *Rock of Ages* has proven anything, it's that jukebox musicals need a point of view and purpose for the public to care. Favreau seems like just the right man for that job.

Tony-winning Nina Arianda breathing new life into Janis Joplin

It wouldn't be a shock if — after a dozen years of false starts, speculation and turnaround — the proposed film about the life of bisexual rocker Janis Joplin never happened at all. From early buzz about the late Brittany Murphy's audition tape to Melissa Etheridge to Pink to Zooey Deschanel to Renee Zellweger and now to at least one project with Amy Adams still attached, it seems like every woman in Holly-



Jennifer Lopez

wood with singing ability has been considered, then un-considered, with nobody getting any closer to actually making a movie. So now they've turned to Broadway, where Tony-winner Nina Arianda (Best Actress In a Play for *Venus In Fur*) is now on board to handle Joplin's life in *Joplin* from director Sean

Durkin, recently acclaimed for last year's dark indie hit *Martha Marcy May Marlene*. There's no timeline yet and, well, we're not holding our breath that there'll be one, but this is the latest news on a project that may or may not take another 12 years to find its way into actual movie theaters

Melanie Griffith and Sandra Bernhard roll with DTLA

A one-hour television drama about the lives of gay men and lesbians in Los Angeles that doesn't incubate its characters in a tiny homosexual bubble of interactions and life experiences? That's a novel idea; one that shows like *The L Word* and *Queer As Folk*, as entertaining as they often were, only occasionally accomplished. But that's the concept behind *DTLA*, a series from Larry Kennar — himself a former producer of *L Word* — that will focus on a group of friends in L.A. who don't shy away from actually having straight friends. And the coolest news surrounding the production is the presence of both Sandra Bernhard and longtime friend Melanie Griffith co-starring as lesbian exes. The pair are already shooting their scenes and if the powers that be are smart these two will have meaty roles and not just occasional cameos (and, naturally, we also want to see them making out, exes or not). The show begins airing in Canada this October, with U.S. networks still in negotiations to run the series at an unknown date.

*Romeo San Vicente's straight male friends are acting gayer and gayer all the time. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Transman educates, inspires LGBTQ community through program & personal narrative

By: Emily Scagel/TRT Assistant Editor

Some transgender people transition quietly, some transition in a grand way but keep some personal details to themselves and yet others transition and tell their stories in hopes of educating, inspiring and supporting the LGBTQ community. That is the case of a young man who has been reaching out across the country, from Seattle to Florida to New England, to give one voice to the, as he said, "often times silent T within the LGBTQ acronym."

Beck Lewis, 33, is a transgender male whom, after struggling with his identity for years, discovered the transgender community on *YouTube*, where he would watch videos of FtMs (Female-to-Male) share their transition stories

and relay how happy they were since beginning their transition. At first, Lewis said, he did not understand what that meant, what transitioning was. After educating himself, he realized that he, too, could be happy. Lewis stated that he then could "use the proper terminology that confirmed" his "identity," and "transition from one gender to another."

From the beginning stages of his transition, Lewis realized that there was an entire community of transgender individuals like himself that wanted to interact and learn from one another. Lewis has built upon this found community by creating a Facebook group and *YouTube* channel to document his transition and reach out to others, "I love the T community, as most of

those in it have helped me out so much ... the love and dedication that most within the community display toward one another is amazing." His *YouTube* videos garner thousands of hits, and so he is able to reach out in the same way that helped him at the start.

"As for right now ... I feel blessed and am experiencing pure bliss. I am currently living my life openly and freely. I feel like I do not need to hide who I am anymore," explained Lewis, who wants to give back some of this happiness to others who are less fortunate.

Each month, Lewis orchestrates contests for pre-op transgender men. He has partnered up with FTM Underworks, an online store, to provide new binder compression shirts to the winner of these contests. This program, named "Binder Boys," is especially great for those who may not be able to afford a binder.

"It makes me feel good to give back to the community by providing this opportunity, and together my Binder Boys program and FTM Underworks are helping one transman at a time," Lewis added.

By running this program, as well as his *YouTube* channel, Lewis hopes to educate others on transgender life and community.

Eventually, Lewis plans on becoming an LMHC or LCSW and would like to be able to provide hormone replacement therapy letters (psychological recommendations) for transgender men and women.



Beck Lewis

But for now, Lewis advocates to inspire others to be a voice and to instill bravery in them. This is his story's worth.

"If we, as one body, pull together, no one has to feel like the minority," said Lewis. "The world we live in can be a much better place if we reach out to the closed-minded in a way they might pay attention, if communities held more seminars, if schools from all over the country would educate on more than just sex education, if you held a food drive, if you volunteered, if you stuck up for someone else, etc. When I said 'it gets better,' I meant

it can and will for any community, LGBTQ and those outside of it. We can do big things in numbers, and I am just one person who strives to do my part in an effort to accomplish great things."

According to Lewis, readers can help within their own community in many ways.

"Readers can spread the word about Binder Boys and find their nearest LGBTQ center and inquire as to the needs of the center to see how they might be able to get more involved," he said. "I think more discussion groups on social networks would be a great place to start, so that there is always a place where people can confide in others, make friends and obtain the resources they need."

For more information about Beck Lewis and the Binder Boys program, visit tinyurl.com/cuteb5s and watch his *YouTube* channel at tinyurl.com/c9mr3k.

PHOTOGRAPHY

live it love it keep it

GLENN KOETZNER

860-499-0525

www.crazydogphotos.com

glenn@crazydogphotos.com

Creep of the Week: Judson Phillips

By: D'Anne Witkowski*/Special for TRT

CREEP NEWS

With Democrats and many Republicans demanding that Mitt Romney release his tax returns, it was only a matter of time before someone, in Romney's defense, called Obama a crack-smoking homo.

This someone is Judson Phillips, founder of Tea Party Nation.

In an editorial posted on the Tea Party Nation website July 19, Phillips actually says that this fuss over Romney's taxes is a baseless attack and what people should really worry about is whether Obama's ever had a crack pipe in his mouth or a man in his ass.

Phillips begins his diatribe complaining that the "Obama campaign and the Party of Treason continue to demand Mitt Romney release his tax records so they can pull them apart and continue to distort facts and lie about Rom-



called a "stupefying" press conference in 2008, Sinclair was arrested on charges unrelated to his Obama fantasies.

There's also the question of how seeing someone's medical records would prove that they're gay. But Phillips really, really, really wants Sinclair's story to be true. He wants it so hard. And that's impacting his ability to tell the difference between reality and nut case make believe.

"Crack cocaine is very addictive," Phillips writes. "It is very destructive. Addiction specialist will tell you that a crack addiction is very tough to break."

Wow. That's some heavy medical information. I suspect Phillips may be a doctor. Or per-

TOD@S: Domestic Violence in Black/Hispanic Communities High

BOSTON, Mass. (July 2012) – When we hear the words "domestic violence" or "partner abuse", we rarely think of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) individuals. Media and society would have us believe that people in LGBTQ communities don't experience the devastating effects that domestic violence or partner abuse has on one's life.

In fact, an estimated 25-33% of LGBTQ people experience domestic violence/partner abuse in their lifetime. What's more, these statistics may not accurately reflect the experiences of Black and Hispanic/Latin@ LGBTQ survivors. Factors like racism and other forms of oppression and discrimination, as well as cultural stigmas or taboos often make it even more difficult for Black and Hispanic/Latina LGBTQ survivors to talk about sexuality or gender identity, much less domestic violence/partner abuse.

Even as federal and state legislation has recently shifted to reflect growing support of equal rights for LGBTQ-identified individuals, violence – from hate crimes to partner abuse – continues to threaten the safety and well-being of Black and Hispanic/Latin@ individuals who identify as LGBTQ.

In recognition of the unique needs of Black and Hispanic/Latina LGBTQ individuals, the Violence Recovery Program at Fenway Health, Hispanic Black Gay Coalition, The Network/La Red and Renewal House have partnered to spearhead a partner abuse prevention and intervention project called TOD@S (Transforming Ourselves through Dialogue, Organizing and Services). TOD@S is funded by the United States Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women.

To gain greater insight into Black and Hispanic/Latin@ LGBTQ individuals' understanding of domestic violence/partner abuse resources and services, the TOD@S team is distributing and collecting surveys in person and online. The information gathered from the survey will be used to improve access to resources and services for those who've experienced domestic violence/partner abuse, increase knowledge about domestic violence/partner abuse in LGBTQ Black and Hispanic/Latino communities, and ultimately prevent occurrence of partner abuse within LGBTQ communities of color.

Black and/or Hispanic/Latin@ LGBTQ in-

dividuals over 18 interested in participating in the survey can visit <http://bit.ly/Psbo1q> (for an English language version) or <http://bit.ly/N1Rnim> (for a Spanish language version). The survey takes approximately 5 - 10 minutes to complete and is completely confidential.

The TOD@S project represents a rare and important opportunity to connect with Black and Hispanic/Latina LGBTQ individuals to hear stories of survival; learn how best to be a support throughout the healing process; create events, programs and campaigns to raise awareness about this issue, and unite Black and Hispanic/Latin@ LGBTQ communities to bring an end to the violence and abuse that leads to broken bodies, broken homes, fragmented lives and shattered spirits.

For media inquiries about TOD@S, please contact CarmenLeah Ascencio via phone at 617.927.6250 or through e-mail at: casencio@fenwayhealth.org.

Read about the other participating organizations at: <http://tinyurl.com/c236312>

But Phillips really, really, really wants Sinclair's story to be true ... And that's impacting his ability to tell the difference between reality and nut case make believe.

ney."

Got that? The only reason Democrats want Romney's tax returns is so they can lie about him. Which is an interesting claim since lying has never really been about facts so much. It also assumes that Romney has nothing to hide. Basically in the eyes of Mr. Phillips, Romney can do no wrong.

Obama, on the other hand, is nothing but wrong according to Phillips. And he wants to see Obama's medical records to prove it.

"Obama by his own admission was a very heavy marijuana user in his youth. He has also admitted to using cocaine, though he denies using drugs such as heroin. He also says he was a significant drinker," writes Phillips. "Why is this important? Because these are all symptoms of addiction."

Addiction to what, exactly? To being young and smoking some pot and drinking until you puke? That's called college to many kids. I'm not condoning it, but such a thing is hardly a rarity in America.

Phillips continues, "A man named Larry Sinclair claims that in 1999 he and Barack Obama had sex and then smoked crack cocaine. This is 1999, nine years before Obama would run for President."

Oooh, a smoking gun (pun intended)? Hardly. Sinclair is not exactly a reliable fellow. His tale of drugs and sex with the prez is backed by no evidence besides Sinclair's imagination. It's also interesting to note that after what the Huffington Post

haps he just freelances for Web MD. in the comments.

"Is Obama an addict? Was he an addict in the past? These are all legitimate questions to ask about a man who has his hands on the nuclear trigger," Phillips continues, breathless.

The question about drug addiction would be a legitimate question to ask about the President of the United States if, in fact, there was any basis in reality for the question in the first place. For Phillips it seems the fact that the president is black and supports marriage equality is enough to suspect he's a gay crack-head.

Know what is a legitimate question for a presidential candidate? Where are your f#\$%&@%g tax returns?

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

Mathew Brockelman LMT

**Leominster, MA
At Home Availability**

*Help yourself reduce
stress and pain today!*

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



it
could be
partner
abuse

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

617.742.4911 (v)

617.227.4911 (tty)

- bilingual hotline
- emergency shelter
- support group



- línea de crisis bilingüe
- refugio de emergencia
- grupo de apoyo

**The Network/La Red:
Acabando con el abuso de parejas en las
comunidades LGBTQ, pollamorasas y
sodomasochistas**

puede
ser el
abuso
de
pareja íntima

The AFA Announces 'Family Building Options for Men with HIV'

NEW YORK, NY – The American Fertility Association (The AFA) announced the initiation of a program designed to reach men living with HIV who want to create a family. The good news is that these men, with proper treatment, can safely have biological children of their own.

The educational outreach program, funded by a generous grant from Growing Generations and International Fertility Law Group, launched in July at the International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C.

"Advances in both the treatment of HIV and in Assisted Reproductive Technology means that men living with HIV can father their own children with virtually no risk of HIV transmission to the female partner, surrogate, or embryo," said Ken Mosesian, Executive Director of The AFA.

Stuart Bell, Owner and CEO of Growing Generations, stated, "With over 5,000 known pregnancies worldwide, using assisted reproduction and the sperm from men living with HIV, there has never been a single incident of HIV transmission reported."

The AFA will be sending information to HIV specialists throughout the country, so they can make their patients aware of the family building options open to them. The AFA will also be exhibiting at the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) conference later this year and additional conferences in 2013. For more detailed information, visit www.theafa.org/hiv.

The American Fertility Association (The

AFA) is an inclusive organization committed to helping people create their families of choice by providing leading-edge outreach programs and timely educational information. The scope of its work encompasses reproductive and sexual health, infertility prevention and treatment, and family-building options including adoption and third party solutions; www.theafa.org.

Growing Generations is the largest surrogacy and egg donor agency in the United States and is committed to assisting all family types regardless of sexual orientation, marital status, or HIV status. In 2006, the company launched a program to provide services to people with HIV, allowing them for the first time to become biological parents through surrogacy.

International Fertility Law Group, Inc. ("IFLG") was founded by Will Halm and Richard Vaughn, attorneys who have specialized exclusively in assisted reproduction and family formation law for over a decade. Will and Rich and their partners became parents themselves by means of egg donation and surrogacy and know first-hand the joy that assisted reproduction can bring to a family. It was from a desire to help create other families — all over the world — that they founded IFLG, specializing in providing expert legal services throughout the United States in the areas of surrogacy, egg donation, embryo donation, sperm donation, parental establishment, non-traditional family formation, co-parenting and second-parent adoption.

Erotica for & by the LGBT community: Local boutique wins awards

By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter

PROVIDENCE, RI — Mister Sister, a Providence-based Erotica retail store has run the gamut in 2012. In January of this year, the boutique was nominated for AVN's Best Independent Erotic Boutique of the Year Award, a nationally recognized award by industry professionals. Since that nomination, it has received the *Excellence in Customer Satisfaction* award from Talk of the Town for the third consecutive year and another local honor, *Best of Providence: Adult Tapes, DVDs and Games* from Providence Awards.

"These awards affirm that the ethics of our store work," said Robert (Ducky) McAuslan, Store Manager, Mister Sister. We are the only erotic boutique in RI that actively honors and cultivates the sexuality of all people. Talk of the town is an award that we are particularly proud of because it is based on Internet reviews. What that says to us is for the past three years, we've maintained a four star average review online."

Owner Devioune Mayim-Daviau, who previously owned two other adult stores, Toys of Eros and WildHearts, in Provincetown, Massachusetts, has a commitment to celebrating sexuality by carrying products that are designed by and for the LGBT community McAuslan said.

"Our shelves are full of products like those by Wet For Her, a lesbian owned company that makes non-phallic shaped toys that work with a woman's body," explained McAuslan. "We carry [lesbian and gender queer] videos by Shine Louise Houston. Our t-shirts are from Ajax 69 and underwear comes from Justus Boyz, both companies run by gay men."

Personal touch and care for customers' needs are what keeps one anonymous repeat customer coming back for more.

"I've always felt that there is sometimes a



Mister Sister carries merchandise by and for the LGBT community. The boutique is located at 268 Wickenden Street in Providence.

stigma attached to going to an erotica store," she said. But, the staff at Mister Sister is always readily available to answer any questions I have and they do so in a way that made me feel very comfortable from the start."

According to McAuslan, the goal is not to try and sell customers products. Rather, it is about having a "conversation with them." That conversation has led to other collaborations with community groups such as RI Pride and Bear Providence, amongst others.

"We've witnessed an amazing growth in the diversity of our clients," said McAuslan. "Our local leather community is beginning to view us as a resource by using the space to hold meetings and workshops. Local artists are coming to not only hang their art but also holding openings, revealing that they are proud to have their art hung on our walls."

And, speaking of leather, McAuslan is most proud of one leather product in particular, a strap on harness that are hand-crafted by a transgender man in Mass.

"Devioune and Chris have been working on perfecting these styles for years and they are so well crafted that a couple of distributors have shown interest in them."

Currently, the boutique is preparing to launch its website which will be completed with an e-store. McAuslan says it will be based on a user-friendly interface and will include detailed filters to allow optimal customization of product searches.

"We don't want to waste your time," he said. In the meantime, folks can always connect with us through our facebook page, at www.facebook.com/mistersisterprovidence.

Mister Sister is located at 268 Wickenden Street in Providence R.I. Find them on FaceBook or call 401-421-6969 for more information.

Nominated AVN Awards
2012 Best Boutique
in New England!

Mister Sister Erotica

Lingerie • Fetish • Leather
Gift Certificates

More toys than
the devil has sinners!

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

thanks to you,
we've reached 7K...
meet us now on our fan page!
search **"rainbow times"** to join us!

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. The Guest House
2. Joe + Belle
3. The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister
4. Tomboy
5. Hit So Hard
6. The Perfect Family
7. Pariah
8. Albert Nobbs
9. Elena Undone
10. The Drea Weber Set

GAY TOP 10

1. August
2. Private Romeo
3. Leave it on the Floor
4. Kawa
5. And Then Came Summer
6. Surf and Turf Double Feature
7. The Green
8. Judas Kiss
9. What Happens Next
10. Beauty

The Rainbow Times
The Premier Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Newspaper in New England

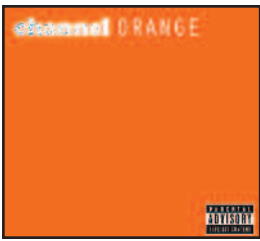
TRT
tumblr.

ON
twitter

THE
facebook

GO!
YouTube

Hear Me Out: Frank Ocean's music, Sparkle, Gentleman Reg and JLo's album



Frank Ocean, channel ORANGE

Even if Frank Ocean hadn't recently acknowledged that he's an equal-opportunity lover, becoming one of the first major hip-hop artists to come out, his very personal major-label debut doesn't hide a thing: He's living it up with a lady on "Super Rich Kids," but he's sad that his man doesn't love him back on the sorrowful "Bad Religion" — the guy he referenced in his public letter. Not only is his storytelling strewn with poetic vividness about a lonesome taxi ride and the feeling of "steak knives," but when his tenor — over an escalating instrumental palette — hits a vulnerable falsetto, he breaks you into pieces. The rest of Ocean's remarkable work stays away from R&B conventions, too: "Sweet Life" grooves with an old-time feeling that's got hit power without bringing bitches and hoes into the mix; "Forrest Gump" is a bittersweet confessional about, presumably, the same boy who has his heart; "Lost," percolating with gaming-noise blips, is sexy, liberating and good enough to go on for another five minutes. His influences are everywhere, from classic Mary J. Blige references to the Stevie Wonder and Prince sounds that are heard in the caramel-smoothness of his voice. But this is obviously Ocean's moment, as the 24-year-old who once guested for Jay-Z and wrote for Beyoncé steps into superstardom. The album shot to No. 2 on the pop charts in its first week, and rightfully so: *channel ORANGE* is a soul-baring piece of hip-hop art. And that has nothing to do with who's in his bed at night.

Grade: A-

Sparkle soundtrack

Near the end of Whitney Houston's life, the super belt that made the singer a star had been reduced to a rough whimper. One of the most treasured vocal icons of our time lost its unparalleled power. Nothing, though, could take



away the spirit and soul inside it. Both find their way into her version of "His Eye is on the Sparrow" from her first movie in 15 years, which would also tragically become her last; it doesn't capture Houston at her vocal zenith, but there's no denying she feels every word of it: Over just piano, she — along with a choir — carries the song hauntingly into a moving posthumous paean. "I sing because I'm free" is all the more powerful in the wake of Whitney's death. It's not the best song on the Motown-inspired soundtrack, also featuring Jordin Sparks and Cee Lo Green, but it's definitely a standout. Sparks' song with Houston, "Celebrate," goes for Disney cutesiness with a disco-lite sound that makes it an easy listen, but Sparks does all the heavy lifting. If only there were more to celebrate. And elsewhere, there is: Soul singer Goapele's own song, "Running," has classic '60s written all over it, Sparks' "One Wing" is an inspiring ballad with a showy climax of diva runs, and Cee Lo keeps "I'm a Man" fresh without losing that trademark blues sound. More on that level and *Sparkle* could really shine.

Grade: B-

Also Out

Gentleman Reg, Leisure Life Part One

The five songs on the queer Canadian's EP is just the beginning: Two more are due shortly, before a full-length hits in the fall (how very Robyn of you, Reg). If this one's any indication, the indie outsider — known for lo-fi folk that eventually becomes background music on popular TV dramas — goes for power-pop on "I Could Be What You Wanted," about a pair of star-crossed lovers, and the synth-swirled "Waiting Around for Gold." Both sound progressively rich. His androgynous voice, however, is still an acquired taste. Proceed with an open mind.

Jennifer Lopez, Dance Again ... The Hits

Thanks to *American Idol*, Jennifer Lopez's career found a second life. But the fly girl's best dance songs still go back to the first, when she initially made the actress-to-singer transition with "Waiting for Tonight" and "If You Had My Love." It's easy to forget the genius of those — especially the slinky former single — when what she's recently released doesn't exactly have the same charm. "Feelin' So Good" is another reminder of how good Jenny From the Block could be when she had a simple beat, a rapper du jour and lighthearted lyrics about ... nothing.

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

FREE

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

SOLD

Find Your Perfect Agent Online:
www.GayRealEstate.com

Or Call Toll Free:
1.888.420.MOVE (6683)

www.GayRealEstate.com

Nice Place. Nice Price.™

Red Roof Inn®

We warmly welcome all LGBT travelers with a clean, comfortable and affordable stay, every day.

Enjoy the perfect location with nearby shopping, dining and sightseeing. We offer more than you'd ever expect from an economy hotel:

- Free Wi-Fi, local calls, long-distance calls in the continental U.S. and up to 10 fax pages in the continental U.S.
- #1 in Customer Satisfaction — online reviews, *Market Metrix*, 2010 & 2011
- All new rooms with contemporary furniture and bathrooms with granite countertops
- Interior corridors and elevator
- In-room coffee, hair dryer and iron/ironing board
- Superior King Rooms with large workstation, in-room coffee, microwave and refrigerator
- In-lobby Business Center
- Free *USA Today*® newspaper
- Free HBO®, HBO2®, ESPN®, ESPN2®, TNT®, USA®, Fox News®, CNN®, GAC®, Discovery Channel® and more
- In-room safe
- Children 17 and under stay free
- Pets stay free



Red Roof Boston-Logan

920 Broadway • Saugus, MA 01906
phone: 781.941.1400

For reservations visit redroof.com or call 800.RED.ROOF (800.733.7663)

The OutField: Nike reaches the LGBT Sports Summit, with help from organizations

By: Dan Woog*/Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



A few years ago, no one was talking about LGBT issues in sports. Now, everyone is.

Suddenly, the game that dared not speak its name

turned into a cacophony. Legit sports organizations (the NCAA; American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) wanted to address homophobia in athletics. So did gay groups like GLSEN, GLAAD and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Smaller organizations cropped up specifically around gays in sports. They had names like Athlete Ally, Our Group, the StandUp Foundation and You Can Play.

You could not tell the players without a scorecard.

Cyd Zeigler covers LGBT sports for a living. Co-founder of the very popular website *Outsports*, even he was confused. And he realized many groups were talking past – if not against – each other. Observing so much duplication of ideas and energy, he wondered what it would take to get a variety of organizations into the same room.

Kirk Walker, head softball coach at Oregon State University, loved the idea. He suggested the perfect host: Nike. Walker had worked with the company in the past and had been impressed with their gay-positive attitude.

Robert Goman, a consumer product manager and head of Nike's LGBT & Friends Network,

was immediately enthusiastic. With the help of NCLR Sports Project director Helen Carroll and GLSEN Changing the Game sports director Pat Griffin, the Nike LGBT Sports Summit was born.

The first problem was keeping the June meeting to a manageable size. "We wanted it to be a working group," Zeigler says. "You can't do that with 100 people. We kept it to 25 so we could have real conversations."

Talk they did. Though Nike went all out as host – covering travel costs and meals; throwing a welcome party and Pride reception at their downtown Portland store; offering meeting space on their Beaverton campus; welcoming Summit participants to march with the Nike contingent at the Portland Pride parade – their real contribution was providing leaders and facilitators.

On Saturday morning – after two days together – a Nike executive spoke up. "This is great," she said. "But you're not thinking big enough."

Her words were electrifying. "Everyone realized she was right," Zeigler recalls. The group scrapped the rest of the day's agenda, and focused on how they could "really, really change sports in a big way," he says.

Gradually, participants focused on the idea of "champion." Though the word now means an athlete who plays on a winning team, Zeigler says that from the time of the Romans a champion has been defined not by trophies won, but by actions taken.

"A champion is someone inclusive and supportive," Zeigler notes. "We realized how important it is to drive this idea forward: that a champion includes and supports everyone on

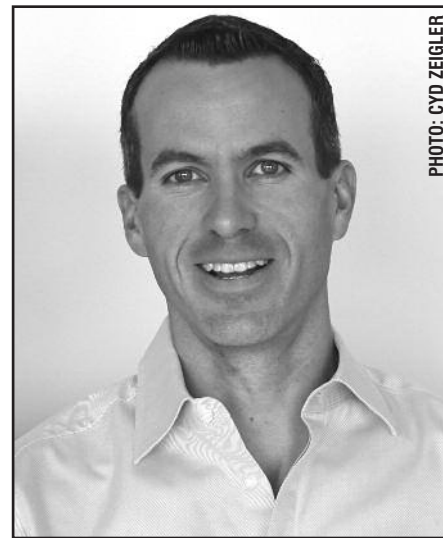


PHOTO: CYD ZEIGLER

Cyd Zeigler

his or her team."

The newly formed "LGBTQ sports coalition" vowed to work to achieve several goals. They will engage each of the major American professional sports leagues to work toward inclusion. They will try to increase the visibility of out college athletes, coaches and allies. They will devise an "LGBTQ inclusive model policy" for national youth and adult recreational leagues.

And they will promote a new, inclusive definition of "athletic champion" to young athletes, while providing inclusive training resources to physical education teachers and coaches.

"Everything we do, it's ultimately about youth and young athletes," Zeigler says. "That's something everyone agreed on."

Of course, any time over a dozen groups get together, there will be contention. At the summit, discussions of funding were seldom easy. "Ultimately, there's a limited amount of resources," says Zeigler. "Groups compete for funding. That came through very clearly."

But overriding those discussions was a more important feeling: trust. "A lot of the people there had never met each other. Or they didn't understand or trust them," Zeigler says.

"Trust is a huge part of sports. You have to trust your teammates. You have to trust a game plan. I think we really built trust among the different groups. There's a much better sense now of knowing when to lead, and when to follow."

Zeigler adds, "The gay sports movement has been going on for 40 years. But I think this is the beginning of the end of homophobia in sports." He predicts that within four years, anti-gay attitudes in athletics will have faded remarkably.

Why four years? "That's the length of high school, or the number of years you play in college. It takes four years for each group, beginning to end."

Zeigler uses one final sports analogy to sum up the good feeling of the men and women at the Nike LGBT Sports Summit.

"Part of winning is playing well together. We're athletes. We all know how to win."

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

To Cook is To Love: Jurassic Park Café

Another installment of Food and Politics and the 2012 elections

By: John Verlinden/Special for TRT

¡MUCHO GUSTO!



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER

Remember Jurassic Park, the best-seller and blockbuster movie? It was a cautionary tale about genetic engineering's great potential (scientists create an idyllic prehistoric theme park

with live dinosaur rides and exhibits), and one tiny unintended consequence (the amusements attack and eat the guests). Could our food supply be headed for such a future?

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are plants or animals whose DNA has been altered in a way that doesn't occur naturally – e.g., a gene from one plant or animal is transferred into the cells of another. The U.S. is the leader in production of GM foods, and they are already a large and important part of our food supply. We are assured these products have been adequately evaluated and are safe, but many people here and around the world remain skeptical.

GM foods hold great promise – in the near future, we'll likely be able to create crops that are disease, drought and pest resistant with enhanced nutrition, animals that grow faster, require less food and produce less waste and plants and animals with special proteins that

will protect us from disease. GM foods could help us eliminate hunger and improve global health. But, because this is still an emerging technology that is poised to expand dramatically in the next few years producing many new species, there are risks to public health, to the environment and to the economy.

Some other countries have established robust programs of oversight and regulation, require mandatory labeling of products containing GM foods so consumers can choose and have established careful control over ownership rights to newly created organisms. They worry about the long-term health effects of GM foods, outcrossing of genes from GM plants to conventional crops or to related species in the wild and about a few large corporations gaining control of all or part of our food supply.

Ask politicians who want your vote what they know about the future of GM foods. Do they have concerns? And, what do they see as an appropriate role for government in this area? This is an especially time-sensitive issue, as many new GM food products will be on store shelves before the next major election cycle.

Next month we'll take a look at food additives.

Share your thoughts, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article – contact me: john@muchogusto.com or visit his site www.muchogusto.com and join our food forum.

Until next time – ¡Mucho Gusto!, ¡Muchas Gracias! y ¡Buen Provecho!

• TRT is Now Boston Based, New England Read! •

NEW YEAR-NEW HOME-NEW JOB-NEW BEGINNING

• Check out this great live-in opportunity in Boston, MA •

Seeking a man (25-40) to be (i) Personal Assistant; (ii) Home manager; (iii) Yard work/snow removal and (iv) Exercise buddy.

JOB DESCRIPTION: Professional single male, 50, with active, busy life, lives alone with minor medical problems that need help and attention. Requires help with maintenance of residence (cleaning and laundry), yard, removal of snow. As a Personal Assistant you will help with calendar, grocery shopping, airport pickups, banking, post office, minor errands and other personal needs. Great if you can cook Indian/Pakistani food. If not, will teach if interested in learning. Most important—provide motivation and companionship during exercise with goal to reduce weight, improve strength and increase flexibility.

QUALIFICATIONS: Most important is responsibility. Other qualities sought are motivated and goal-oriented, honesty, integrity, trustworthy, punctuality, cleanliness, organizational skills, multitasking, driver's license, communication skills, computer savvy, personable, speak fluent English and Urdu/Hindi (if possible). Must be single (unmarried); divorced ok. Preferable (but not essential): Athlete, sportsman or muscleman. College degree and handyman skills helpful. Must be non-smoker, no alcohol, drugs, no pets, no visitors (except) parents or family. Someone who will treat this home like their own home.

COMPENSATION: Large room and bath free. All meals free. Salary negotiable. Health insurance. In addition, if college degree in biology, biochemistry or chemistry, can offer up to 20 hours/week job in office at good hourly rate. Tuition assistance for education/training after 6 months of successful performance.

Please reply if you can satisfactorily perform some of the requirements.

Please send your response to: specialpersonforuniquejob@gmail.com and provide names and addresses of three references.



WHO DOESN'T

♦ ♠ *prefer a* ♥ ♣

FULL HOUSE

to a straight?

Join us for loose slots, stiff drinks and colorful nightlife seven days a week. Unwind with award-winning dining, epic concerts and a million different ways to have a good time. And since the party never stops, anytime is a good time for a visit.



FOXWOODS
Anything But Ordinary™



GAME



HOTEL



DINE



SHOWS



SHOP



SPA



GOLF



GROUPS

FOXWOODS.COM | 1-800-369-9663