

The Rainbow Times

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

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unleashed at Imperial Court Ball

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PHOTO: CHINO OF POINT CLICK PRODUCTIONS

The backlash of radical abortion law

By: Nicole Lashomb*/TRT Editor-in-Chief

OPINIONS

Last month, the Texas Republican-led Senate passed its abortion bill. This bill, pegged as the most restrictive abortion bill in the history of the country, would leave approximately 35 percent of the rural and poor population without access to abortion care, according to Terri Burke, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas. Women's rights advocates vowed to challenge its constitutionality in court, the New York Times reported.

Health-care providers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley have begun seeing the after-shock of such catastrophic legislation, Reuters reported. Cytotec, a prescription abortion pill has hit the black market. Women who obtain this pill illegally are not provided the appropriate level of instruction on how to use the pill. As a result of incorrect use, they have been treated for partial abortions, premature births and uterine rupture. This is certainly not the "ideal" world that Gov. Rick Perry dreamed of as a world without abortion. More importantly, Texas has stuck to its guns with its abstinence-only policy for underage and unmarried partners. Deplorable.

Instead of criminalizing women who choose to have an abortion, preventative measures to an unwanted pregnancy should be the first line of defense. Additionally, boys and men should be held to the same level of

parental responsibility that a woman automatically must assume once she becomes pregnant. And, in our society with a prevalent rape culture, rapists must be held accountable instead of the victim.

However, even with these barriers in place, a woman's choice to have an abortion is a personal one that is hers to make, and hers alone. I imagine it is not a conclusion that is reached quickly nor easily. If you are a pro-life advocate, that's fine, then don't have an abortion. But, you have no right to strip away the rights of other women, who in their situation and their circumstance decide that terminating an unwanted pregnancy is the best way for them to be able to move forward. What you do with your body is the only point of relevance that should reflect your personal opinion.

Topics like abortion may not directly impact your life, but it does affect your well-being. Anytime that we try to curb someone's liberty, by taking away their right or choice we are taking one step back into the closet. The same way that legislation should not be established to discriminate against the LGBT community, legislation should never be used as a means to morally justify a brigade against any group of people, including women and other underrepresented groups.

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... preventative measures to an unwanted pregnancy should be the first line of defense.

Examining economic poverty among LGBTQ people

By: Paul P. Jesep*/TRT Columnist

LGBTQ organizations and individual activists still fight for legal equality in housing, employment, and family definition, but justice goes beyond legal rights. Poverty (<http://tiny.cc/2tqq0w>) is another important issue.

The Williams Institute (<http://tiny.cc/vuqq0w>) at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law released an updated study in June titled *New Patterns of Poverty in the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community* (<http://tiny.cc/kvqq0w>) by Badgett, Durso, and Schneebaum. The report draws attention to ongoing issues of economic injustice found in the LGB (lesbian, gay, bisexual) community. Unfortunately, TQ (transgender and queer) persons seem left out. Despite this omission, the report is eye opening. Consider the following, quoted from the report:

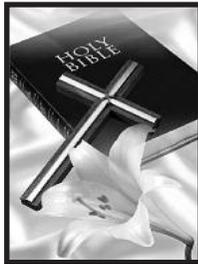
- As poverty rates for nearly all populations increased during the recession, lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) Americans remained more likely to be poorer than heterosexual people.
- African American same-sex couples have poverty rates more than twice the rate of different-sex married African Americans.
- One third of lesbian couples and 20.1 % of

gay male couples without a high school diploma are in poverty, compared to 18.8% of different-sex married couples.

• Lesbian couples who live in rural areas are much more likely to be poor (14.1%), compared to 4.5% of coupled lesbians in large cities. 10.2% of men in same-sex couples, who live in small metropolitan areas, are poor, compared with only 3.3% of coupled gay men in large metropolitan areas.

• Almost one in four children living with a male same-sex couple and 19.2% of children living with a female same-sex couple are in poverty, compared to 12.1% of children living with married different-sex couples. African American children in gay male households have the highest poverty rate (52.3%) of any children in any household type.

• 14.1% of lesbian couples and 7.7% of gay male couples receive food stamps, compared to 6.5% of different-sex married couples. Also, 2.2% of women in same-sex couples receive government cash



We are not supposed to judge those with less, yet, sadly, we do. The Creator does not love those on an A-list more than the poor or struggling working class.

See Poverty on page 14

Justice for Trayvon Martin comes out of community, not courtrooms

By: Jason Lydon*/TRT Columnist



Five hundred and four days passed between the shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin and the 'not guilty' verdict

of George Zimmerman, the man who openly admits to killing the unarmed Black teenage boy. The verdict resulted in thousands of people around the country responding with protests, vigils, community meetings, and a commitment to action.

The murder of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of George Zimmerman are not anomalies in our criminal punishment system. They are the norm. Article upon article has been written since the verdict reminding readers that Black bodies are not valued by our culture and Black people can be killed with no consequences to those who pull the trigger or who create the systems that lead to constant premature death for people of color.

My Facebook news feed and email inbox have both been filled with links to articles written by those seeking a deeper conversation about what justice would look like in this case. While the NAACP has called for a civil prosecution of George Zimmerman by the Department of Justice, others question why we would turn to the same court system that

Would George Zimmerman's incarceration change our cultural assumption of the inevitability of Black death and the sanctity of white life?

perpetuates the criminalization of people of color and the innocence of white people (and those perceived as white). I have also asked myself if justice would have been created if George Zimmerman was convicted and sent to prison. Would George Zimmerman's incarceration change our cultural assumption of the inevitability of Black death and the sanctity of white life? Would a guilty verdict have proved that our criminal punishment system is somehow working and serving the people? As someone who is in court often, providing support to LGBTQ people navigating the system, I have never seen any inkling of justice coming from the halls of the courtroom. I simply see suffering, exploitation, punishment, and false claims of helping "victims."

To read the rest of this story visit: <http://tiny.cc/sbhy0w>

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts is grateful for TRT's constant support, and thrilled to hear that it is a sponsor of The Crown Prince and Princess Ball!

—Jessica Crevier, AIDS Foundation of Western MA Executive Director

Dear Editor, [Re: Deja Nicole's article - Transgender rights are the key to the future of us all].

I was hoping that there was an uncomplicated answer to the washroom crisis.

I am a closet cross dresser but I did dress up in P-town as a girlie (last week) in the daytime. This was a first for me. I didn't get enough of P-town, so I'm returning in September. Will I have to run to my motel again? What if I am in a gay bar? One Halloween night, I used the men's room; I was treated like a lady. This was Halloween; I'm not so sure about this time of the year. I know! Hide in the corner and use a beer cup!

—Mary Ann Loveheart, Online

Dear editor, Wow, what a great article! [Fenway's Lifeskills] It's so nice to see the voices of three beautiful women represented! Great performances Bella, Sasha and Nelisa! Way to represent LS and lead the way for other trans girls!

—Jaclyn White, Online

PRISM LGBT Health closes its doors after losing funding source

By: Lauren Walleser/TRT Assistant Editor

IN THE LIMELIGHT

NORTH SHORE, Mass.—After sixteen years of serving the LGBTQ community in the Massachusetts North Shore and Merrimack Valley, PRISM LGBT Health closed its doors at the end of June, leaving those who received support from them—particularly HIV/AIDS services—to seek it elsewhere.

Kirsten Freni, who was an HIV tester, educator and counselor at PRISM, explained how PRISM developed as an organization from its origins as The Gay and Bi Men's Health Program (GBMHP). She shared why she felt the services they provided were important.

"There was nobody here to provide it," Freni said. "We reached out to make sure that any disparities that were facing the community were addressed."

Freni said GBMHP was the first organization to pilot mobile van health services in the area.

"We started taking the van to gay clubs and [we would] park and set outside and get people tested, people that didn't have insurance, people that had fears or they were afraid of stigma around going in to get tested," said Freni. "Now it's a statewide initiative."

PRISM was also, according to Freni, the first program to do outreach on Manhunt and other hookup sites. They were also responsible for doing HIV testing at Salem State College, North Shore Community College, North Shore Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth (NAGLY), and

Merrimack Valley Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth (McVAGLY). They ran a lesbian spirituality group, social events and support groups for people at risk.

Freni said the funding for PRISM came primarily from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and that PRISM originally operated as part of Health & Education Services that fell under the umbrella of Beverly Hospital. Later, CAB Health and Recovery acquired Health & Education Services, where

PRISM continued to operate.

Freni said PRISM was continually funded for almost 17 years under the same grant from DPH. However, when Lahey Health took over Beverly Hospital, Freni said that they stated a year later that four out of the five programs in the community service division (including PRISM) didn't fit their mission and that they were letting them go at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2013.

Although *The Rainbow Times*, via this reporter, contacted Kevin Norton, CEO of Lahey Behavioral Health Services, he declined to comment on record. However, according to Gloucester Times (<http://tiny.cc/qyqq0w>), Norton said that Lahey decided to stop operating the behavioral programs, which included PRISM, in order to focus on "core services" under health care reform. He also said the programs had "incredible value" to the community but

might be "better operated by a different provider." DPH did not return this reporter's inquiries for comment before press time.

The grant funding that PRISM held has now gone to Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS), an organization based in Cambridge, Mass. with six offices throughout the state. According to Anabela Quelha, director of disease prevention and screening services at MAPS, the organization did not apply for the funding lost by PRISM.

"The state Department of Public Health ac-

quainted us to take over and expanding to the North Shore. She said MAPS sees disease prevention and screening as an important part of their organization.

"I think the Department of Public Health asked us to take this over because one of the reasons was the fact that we get it, we understand how to really utilize dollars effectively and efficiently," Quelha said. "So, for us, we have extremely competent staff and really professional staff that understand all this and are part of the LGBTQ community and really understand how to connect with them at different venues."

Freni, however, said MAPS "had no presence whatsoever in the area" and expressed concerns with them taking over the services.

"They're giving an MSM program—men who have sex with men, which is predominantly the funding—to a Portuguese organization that was doing nothing," said Freni. "They never reached out to us, never said anything about the integrity of the program, nothing."

PRISM is now referring people to Health Quarters in Beverly, Mass. for testing (www.healthq.org) and to the North Shore Pride website for other referrals to community resources (www.northshorepride.org).

"As a LGBTQ community member, I do highly recommend that folks refer to the exceptional organizations that are currently serving LGBTQ people on the North Shore," said Brian King, former director of PRISM. "Bringing awareness to these services is vital. Helping to strengthen their presence is a great way to ensure that the ...

See PRISM on Page 6



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Op-Ed: Justice for Trayvon Martin — Fighting the Zimmerman mindset

By: Keegan O'Brien*/Special to TRT



PHOTO: PAUL WEISKEL

Only in a country as racist as the United States could a grown adult racially profile, hunt down, and murder an unarmed black 17 year old boy—and get away with it. George Zimmerman's trial revealed to the world what Black America has known for far too long; that in America, black lives don't matter. But this time, people have refused to remain silent. The murder of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of George Zimmerman have produced an explosion of anger and protests, forcing politicians, the mainstream media, and even the president, to engage in an explicit and rare conversation about race and racism today.

The first statement from the Obama administration was insulting; it ignored race completely while asking people to respect the jury and remain calm. But following Zimmerman's "not guilty" verdict thousands took to the streets to express their outrage. The following weekend, in over a hundred cities, thousands poured into the streets again to demand the federal government take action. As a result of continuous pressure, President Obama, for the first time in his five years in office, went on national television and spoke honestly about racism and the Trayvon Martin case.

Obama's words are refreshing compared to

the total neglect these issues have received from politicians and the mainstream media, and have emboldened many to feel legitimate and justified in their anger. But, politically opportunistic rhetoric designed to placate people's outrage and desire for change will not challenge the institutions and policies, which have created and continue to perpetuate the Zimmerman mindset that lead to Trayvon's killing, and so many others like him.

According to Florida's judicial system and

George Zimmerman's trial revealed to the world what Black America has known for far too long; that in America, black lives don't matter. ... Instead, racism is coded, concealed, and packaged into formally "color-blind" language and policies.

many political commentators, race was not a factor in Zimmerman's case. Zimmerman never explicitly mentioned race, he followed Martin because he was suspicious looking, not because he was black. But, this line of argument completely misunderstands the operation of racism in 21st century "color-blind" America. Today, we rarely witness the same kind of explicit, white hood wearing, troglodyte, anti-black racism that existed fifty years ago. Instead, racism is

coded, concealed, and packaged into formally "color-blind" language and policies. So, although Zimmerman never said that he followed Martin because he was black (that would be considered racist), it was definitely an operating subconscious factor. The well-known truth is that if Trayvon Martin had been white, it is very likely he'd still be alive today. Race has everything to do with this case.

Take for example the highly controversial and now widely debated "Stand Your

Ground" law, a policy that doesn't mention race explicitly at all. But, when you examine the application and interpretation of the law, there emerges an undeniable pattern of racial biases. There are two cases everyone concerned about Trayvon Martin should know about, Marissa Alexander and CeCe McDonald.

Marissa Alexander is an African American woman and mother who fired a warning shot into her ceiling to prevent her abusive ex-

boyfriend from attacking her. Instead of being granted the right to stand her ground and defend herself, the state of Florida sentenced her to twenty years in prison in 2012. CeCe McDonald is a young black transgender woman who defended herself against a hate crime from a white supremacist in Minneapolis and as a result faced the rest of her life in prison. Thankfully, instead of serving a natural life sentence, CeCe was offered a plea and given forty-two months in prisons. Although she deserves to be spending zero time behind bars, CeCe's reduced sentence was the direct result of an international pressure campaign launched by her supporters.

A recent study showed that in states with "Stand Your Ground" laws, white people were more than 300 times more likely to get away with killing a black person. So, if you murder an unarmed black teenager; no problem. But, if you're a black trans woman who defends herself against a hate crime, or a mother who defends herself against a violent partner, or God forbid, a black man defending yourself against racist cops; tough luck. The message is clear; the right to "Stand Your Ground" doesn't apply equally to everyone, because black lives do not matter.

One important question Trayvon Martin's case raises is; how on earth could a grown adult be acquitted for profiling, stalking down, and murdering an unarmed black teenager? While Zimmerman pulled the trigger that took Trayvon Martin's life, it was our racist society that socialized him to believe it was okay to view Trayvon as a criminal,

See Trayvon Martin on Page 6

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Imperial Court of Mass-Western Division's 1st annual Imperial Crown Prince & Princess Ball

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—The Imperial Court of Massachusetts-Western Division (ICMA-WD) held their first annual Imperial Crown Prince and Princess Ball July 13, 2013. The Disney-themed event took place at the Sheraton Hotel's Grand Ballroom in Springfield, Mass. and raised over \$1,200.

"We put the fun in fundraising. That's our tagline. That's what we in the Imperial Court do," said Nelson Roman, president of ICMA-WD. "For most of our members and myself, it's almost like, 'Okay, I'm tired of the normal club scene. I don't want to just go there to party. I want to do something that is meaningful and gives back.' [ICMA-WD] members, clubs/bars and community members who sponsor and attend our events know that tips they give the queens and the door cover proceeds all are going to charity."

Tickets to the recent ball were sold at \$50 each before July 5 and were \$60 after that date. All proceeds went to AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts (AFWM) and Springfield Mass Pride.

"A lot of these underdog organizations that really service our LGBT community really need that funding support. They don't get it a lot of the times because...they're not part of a big agency and that's when the Imperial Court comes in," said Roman. "We can go after the big money and make sure that it gets to those charities that really need it."

Headliners from the event included recording artist and songwriter Daniel Patrick Ellis as well as *RuPaul's Drag Race*



President Nelson Roman (Prince Rafael Giza Ambrosia) sits with Luis Andres Torres (Princess Jenayah De Rosario).

star Jujubee. The two had been in contact with Roman through various other drag events and, according to Roman, were excited to be a part of the ball.

"Jujubee is great," said Liz Mazzie, an employee at Diva's nightclub in Northampton, Mass. and board member of ICMA-WD. "I've met her a few times before. [She is] so kind and just a really genuine person. She started doing drag at Diva's a long, long time ago."

The Imperial Crown Prince and Princess Ball was also an opportunity to recognize Angelo Comisso, whose stage name is Bianca Dubois, for all of his years of service to the LGBT community. The Wednesday night host of a drag show at Diva's, Comisso received the first ever Diamond Award from ICMA-WD. In the future this honor will be given annually at the ball to any individual, group or business organization/agency that has helped further the

LGBT community or helped the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

"This was actually my very first time working with and taking part in anything that had to do with the Imperial Court," said Comisso, who is a professional makeup artist at a local establishment at the Holyoke Mall. "I am honored that it being my first time, I was acknowledged for my efforts and humbled by being given my title and being so warmly welcomed into such an illustrious group of people."

Additional recognition was also given to Amaad Rivera, a former City Councilor of Springfield, Mass. During the ball, ICMA-WD bestowed Rivera with the title of a knight in recognition of his political activism as the first openly gay City Councilor in Springfield.

"He was truly a pioneer with regards to motivating the community to be politically active. Really, he re-kick started Springfield Pride in this generation," said Roman. "He's really just pushed along a lot of the community...he really gets the congressmen, senators, state reps, local mayor, local state reps, to really rally around the LGBT community and our causes."

Overall, ICMA-WD has deemed their first ever ball a success and has already scheduled plans for next year. The second annual Imperial Crown Prince and Princess Ball will take place on July 14, 2014, once again at the Sheraton Hotel.

"I feel that for the very first function on this scale, it went amazingly," said Luis

See Imperial Court on Page 14

CHANCES ARE ... WE'VE BEEN THERE.

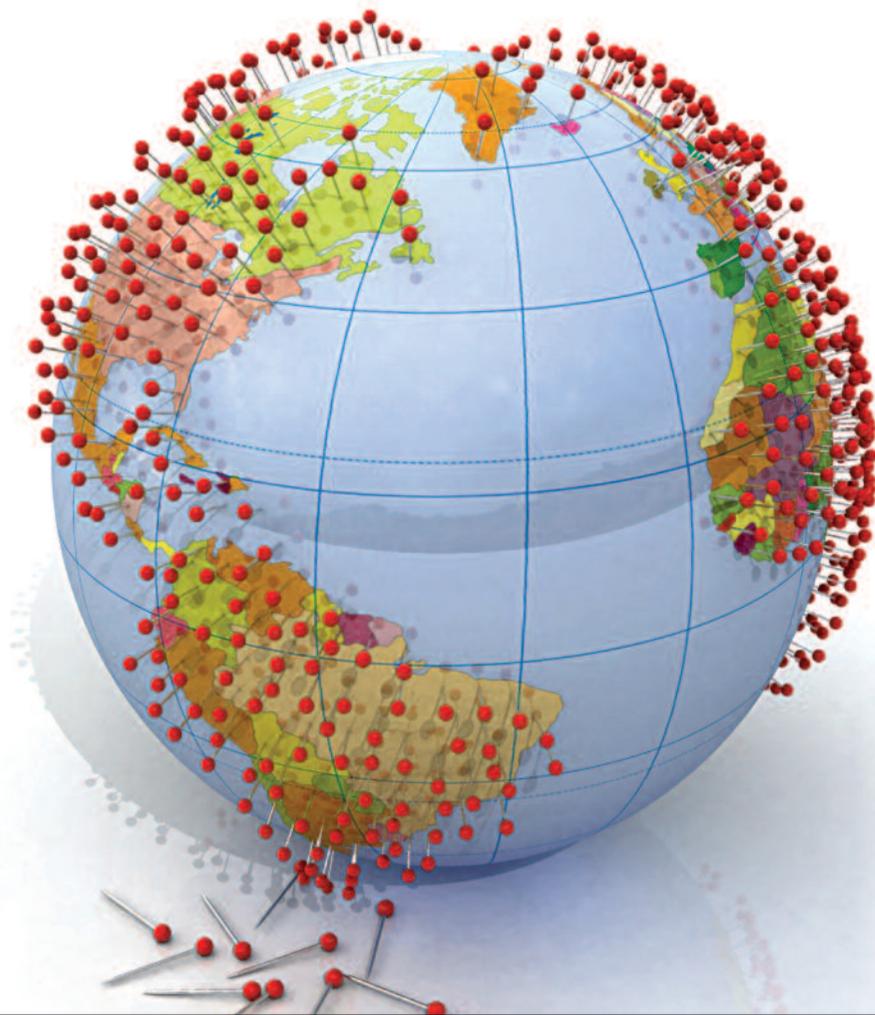
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Trayvon Martin from page 4

hunt him down, and murder him; it was our society that told the Sanford police department it was okay to mark Trayvon Martin as a John Doe and test his dead body for drugs while they let Zimmerman walk free for forty six days. And, as horrific as Zimmerman's actions were, they aren't rare. Police officers in cities across the country profile, harass, brutalize, and even kill people of color, particularly black men, every single day. Should the fact that these men and women are armed and authorized by the state make their actions any more justifiable? Absolutely not.

This Zimmerman mindset has been produced by the corporate media and political

establishment to justify and legitimize three decades of; racially charged "get tough" on crime laws and the war on drugs (essentially a war on poor people and people of color who use drugs), which have turned Black and brown communities into sites of police occupation, and a prison industrial complex and system of mass incarceration that have swept millions of black and brown people into cages while devastating communities of color. This matrix of laws and institutions is what civil rights attorney and author Michelle Alexander has termed "the New Jim Crow."

While Zimmerman deserves punishment for his horrible crime, so do the countless police officers who've committed the same atrocities, but have never been held account-

able. Ultimately, it is the Zimmerman mindset—the widely held and normalized belief that black men are a threat requiring policing, incarceration, or even death—and the institutions, policies, and lawmakers that have perpetuated this outlook, that deserves to put on trial.

Why should the LGBTQ community concern itself with issues of racial justice and a case such as Trayvon Martin's? Firstly, because much of our community is people of color and for them these fights are inseparable. Secondly, as a community that is continuing to fight for our most basic civil rights, we have an obligation and reasonability to stand by those who are continuing to struggle for theirs. Lastly, our capacity to fight and our potential to win is dramatically increased when we overcome the divisions fostered between us and champion the struggles of other

racial justice in decades.

While a single protest won't dismantle the prisons system over night, the August 24th March on Washington will contribute tremendously to forcing this conversation about racism in America today back to where it belongs—in the political mainstream. Secondly, it will be a crucial moment in the development a nation-wide movement against racial profiling, and all the injustices of the New Jim Crow and Mass Incarceration. Why does this matter? Because it has been grassroots activism and pressure from below that have pushed those in power, such as President Obama, to even shine the spotlight on these issues. What we've been doing has started to work, we better keep it up. August 24th, Washington D.C.; because if you want to live in a world where there will never be another Trayvon Martin, CeCe McDonald,



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PRISM from page 3

LGBTQ health needs of the North Shore are being met."

In addition to HIV/AIDS services, PRISM also helped people connect to services for housing and disability.

"My concern is the hole that's left in the community," Freni said. "We had clients coming to our office, calling us crying, like 'Where do we go? What do we do?'"

Freni suggested that people who want to express their concerns about PRISM's closing can call the Massachusetts Governor's Office to file a grievance or voice their concerns, or can do so online. They can also contact their local representatives if they live in the North Shore/Merrimack Valley. For more information on MAPS, visit www.maps-inc.org.

So, although Zimmerman never said that he followed Martin because he was black (that would be considered racist), it was definitely an operating subconscious factor. The well-known truth is that if Trayvon Martin had been white, it is very likely he'd still be alive today. Race has everything to do with this case.

oppressed community—it's called solidarity.

So what can we, as an LGBTQ community, do to show our support for Trayvon Martin and the broader fight for racial justice? Reverend Al Sharpton's National Action Network, the NAACP, ACLU, American Federation of Teachers, and a host of other civil rights and labor organizations are continuing the fight for Trayvon Martin by calling for a national demonstration in Washington D.C. on August 24th (read more on page 16 or find out more information online at <http://tiny.cc/dy6x0w>), the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Protesters will be demanding the Department of Justice prosecute Zimmerman and that the federal government seriously begins to tackle the range of injustices—from racial profiling to mass incarceration—that Black America continues to experience. August 24th will likely be one of the largest demonstrations for civil rights and

or Marissa Alexander, you've got a responsibility to join thousands of people—black and white, queer and straight, young and old—in Washington D.C. on August 24th (see page 16 of this edition or read their information online: <http://tiny.cc/dy6x0w>). A better world is possible, but it's up to us to fight for it.

**Keegan O'Brien is a long time LGBTQ youth activist in Boston, anti-war organizer, a student at UMass Boston, a former board member of BAGLY, and member of the International Socialist Organization in Boston. He also has written extensively on LGBTQ social justice websites. To attend the event, e-mail him at: keeganxbrien@yahoo.com.*

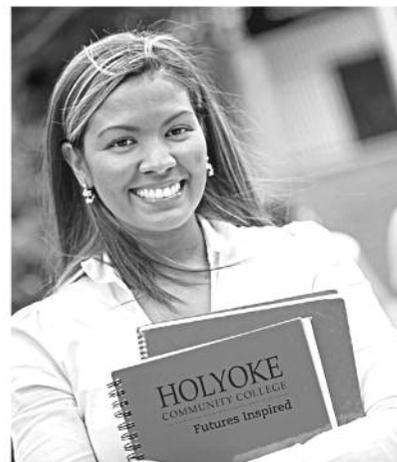
National March in Washington, D.C. - Aug. 24th - Page 16 for details

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Candidate for City Council runs campaign grounded in equality, fueled by life experience

By: Lauren Walleser/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, Mass.—With elections for Boston City Councilor At-Large quickly approaching, Francisco L. White—the 26-year-old formerly homeless freelance journalist and blogger who identifies as gay, Afro-Latino and is also HIV positive—is not a typical candidate. However, he explained why this may be an advantage.

“For so long, voters have been taught to believe that politicians should have certain backgrounds,” White said. “With the expectation that our elected officials have met very traditional standards of achievement or success, we have eliminated the diversity that is really needed in our politics. What we’ve ended up with is plenty of degree holders who have never actually had to personally deal with the issues they claim to want to resolve. I was in my third year of college, as a working adult, when I decided to run. My story is not the typical politician’s story and that’s okay. It’s my real-world education, in addition to academic experiences, that make me a uniquely qualified candidate. With that said, I fully intend to complete my undergraduate degree and law school. As for my age, let’s just say it’s been nearly twenty seven years rich with experience.”

White has been endorsed by the Greater Boston Chapter of the Green-Rainbow Party and the Green-Rainbow Party of Massachusetts for his focus on issues of equality. He recently released a statement to the LGBTQ community in which he shared how his life experiences will inform his work as a City Councilor.

“As a gay man who overcame homelessness at 19, I am committed to combating the youth homelessness crisis in our city and ensuring adequate consideration of homeless LGBTQ youth,” White said in the statement.

“As a gay man who has been living positively with HIV for nearly six years, I recognize the importance of sex education in our

public schools and will work to make it as LGBTQ inclusive and HIV/AIDS intensive as possible. I know what it’s like to be policed but not feel safe or secure under police protection. I realize that we’re not all affluent, so classist policies affect us.”

Karenga Ocean, treasurer for White’s campaign, agreed that White’s experience would benefit his work in office.

“Francisco has an understanding of issues that affect most of us because he is us,” Ocean said. “He has lived out many of the issues he wants to stand against. Francisco’s life experience will keep him grounded, re-

alistic and in touch with the issues most of us face. There is no better person to work for change on any issue than one who knows what it’s like. Empathy cannot be faked and is essential to effective public service.”

White, a former Young Civic Leaders Coordinator for MassVOTE who was studying Communication—Digital Journalism with a

minor in Social Science at Newbury College when he decided to enter the race, explained why he chose to run.

“Boston attracts thinkers and those who want to cause change, but we have trouble keeping those people here,” said White. “It’s also a city that

underutilizes its cultural vibrancy and young demographic. I want to bring a cross-sectoral approach to resolving those issues while giving unheard voices an opportunity to influence municipal policy.”

As for the most dire issues currently facing Boston citizens, White said racial and economic segregation leading to achievement gaps in schools and unequal access to hous-

ing and transportation top the list and that acknowledging the root cause of these issues and creating policy to resolve them is needed.

Nick Dahlberg, the volunteer coordinator for White’s campaign, expressed why he believes White would make a good City Councilor.

“When he speaks about the problems facing our communities, you can hear his passion, and it’s obvious that what he’s saying is genuine,” Dahlberg said. “It isn’t pandering or maneuvering by any means. He has actually experienced many of the issues he talks about. I also appreciate his frankness, as well as his willingness to think radically and to ask questions that target the ‘this is how we’ve always done things’ mentality.”

White gave some advice for LGBTQ youth and homeless youth who are struggling.

“I have to be honest by saying that, contrary to what has been said, it doesn’t simply get better. Each of us has to reach that point when we’ve had enough and make it better for ourselves,” White said. “That can’t happen until you can look in the mirror every day and recognize your worth. Look in the mirror and tell yourself that you’re just as good and worthy as anyone else breathing this air. When you believe that, you won’t accept anything less than what you want for your life and you’ll make it happen.”

The Boston preliminary municipal election takes place September 24 and the municipal election will be held November 5. For more information on White and his campaign, visit www.franciscolwhite.com.



Francisco L. White (right), candidate for Boston City Councilor At-Large, poses with Karenga Ocean, treasurer for White’s campaign.

PHOTO: KARENGA OCEAN

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HBGC launches video series: Features Boston Mayoral candidates

BOSTON, Mass. — On July 2, 2013, the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) announced it will release a series of videos designed to get those aspiring to be the next mayor of Boston talking about the lives and realities of Black and Latina/o LGBT people.

The video series will feature one-on-one, in-depth conversations between HBGC's Executive Director Corey Yarbrough and each candidate. The interviews will explore their candidacy, previous voting record, and intentions for advancing LGBT communities and Black and Latina/o communities as mayor.

"Latina/o and Black LGBTQ people have a lot at stake when it comes to who will be the next mayor of Boston. This video series is HBGC's way of increasing the visibility of all the candidates in the race while bringing some of the issues that impact our communities to the forefront of the conversation," said Yarbrough.

All candidates have been invited to participate. To date, eleven of the twelve candidates have committed: Councilor Felix Arroyo, John Barros, Charles Clemons, Suffolk District Attorney Daniel F. Conley, Councilor John R. Connolly, Councilor Robert Consalvo, Charlolette G. Richie, Mike Ross, Bill Walczak, State Representative Martin J. Walsh and Councilor Charles C. Yancey.

Committed candidates will be interviewed throughout the month of July. In August, HBGC will release two or three interviews a

week highlighting the candidates' positions on a number of topics, including immigration, education, crime, jobs, health, race relations, homelessness and LGBT inclusion and equality. Each topic will be discussed keeping Black and Latina/o LGBT communities in mind. Videos will be available on HBGC's website (www.hbgc-boston.org) and shared on HBGC's social media sites (Facebook, Tumblr and Twitter) to encourage community dialogues. *The Rainbow Times*, as co-sponsor of the project, will also make videos available through their social media networks and report on the interviews in upcoming print editions.

Although HBGC will not be formally endorsing a candidate for mayor of Boston, Yarbrough hopes the video series will help HBGC's supporters better familiarize themselves with the candidates and who they would like to vote for.

"This is an opportunity to compare where candidates stand and make informed decisions, but it is also a unique opportunity to hear commitments that will be made to LGBT people and Black and Latina/o communities, commitments we will inevitably have to hold them accountable for," Yarbrough said.

Community members are encouraged to get involved by submitting questions they have for all or some of the candidates by emailing mayoralvideo@hbgc-boston.org or calling HBGC's office at 617-487-HBGC (4242). For more information see page 12.

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Colors of Compassion Walk for Equal Human Rights

On September 11, 2013, Compassionate Action Network International of Seattle, Washington will host the Colors of Compassion Walk For Equal Human Rights in New York City. Participants will walk on a route that is planned to pass by The Stonewall Inn and Christopher Street Park and end at the United Nations Plaza.

Walkers will assemble at 11 a.m. at a specific location in Manhattan, to be announced not later than August 17, 2013 at www.compassiongames.org and www.lgbtcompassiongames.org.

The walk will begin at 12 noon, led by The Stonewall Veterans Association. Tibetan-style and Bhutanese-style prayer flags will be carried by several groups during the walk to United Nations Plaza, where the prayer flags will be presented to UN representatives by Stonewall Veteran and Human Rights Activist Erica Kay-Webster. She and other dignitaries will honor the United Nations and address those assembled.

Participants will also include human rights organizations, peace organizations, open and welcoming interfaith religious organizations and allied groups. A global invitation is hereby extended to all organizations and individuals who would like to walk in solidarity.



The walk is being held to honor the United Nations for its December 10, 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to honor The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in Cape Town, South Africa, which on Friday, July 26, 2013, launched Free & Equal, an unprecedented global public education campaign for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality. At a press conference held in Cape Town, South Africa, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay was joined by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and Justice Edwin Cameron of the South African Constitutional Court to announce the year-long project.

The Colors of Compassion Walk For Equal Human Rights will launch the 11-day Compassion Games International and LGBT Compassion Games, which are being held internationally beginning on September 11, 2013 and ending on September 21st, the International Day of Peace.

To sign the Charter for Compassion, please visit www.charterforcompassion.org.

For more information on this or other coinciding events around the world please visit: www.compassiongames.org or www.lgbtcompassiongames.org.



PHOTO BY: TRT/SEAN SULLIVAN

The Rainbow Times' Terriers placed third in the 2013 Beantown Softball League Division 3.

Beantown Softball League 2013 Season champions

Division 1

Champions: Boston Blizzard
2nd Place: Club Cafe Angels
3rd Place: Fritz Rebels

Division 2

Champions: Club Cafe Pink Sox
2nd Place: Ramrod Machine
3rd Place: Fritz Studs

Division 3

Champions: Bluewave Hot Tickets
2nd Place: Fritz Stray Cats

3rd Place: The Rainbow Times Terriers

The Rainbow Times' congratulates all of the division champions and the teams that placed 2nd and 3rd this season. TRT would like to send a special shout out to The Terriers, TRT's sponsored team this year who finished 4th place for the Season & 3rd place for the Playoffs.

For more information about the league, to donate, sponsor a team or become a player (players are needed) for next year, go to www.beantownsoftball.com.

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What's it like being trans? The good, the bad, and the new way of thinking

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



Being trans involves living your life, but with more questions, unusual situations and new thoughts than the average person.

One question people frequently ask is: Why are we trans? Many transwomen will tell you the theory of the trickling hormone wash. You see, female is the default gender for the fetus. We all begin as female fetuses. To make a male fetus, there must be a heavy testosterone wash to masculinize the fetus. However, if there is just a trickle, the theory says that the fetus remains mostly female and the result is a transgender female. This may be an acceptable theory for people who are born female in male bodies, but how does it work for people who are born male in female bodies? I've never heard of any medical theory explaining how they came to be. It's my opinion that we are just simply male spirits born in female bodies or female spirits born in male bodies. I realize that it's a non-medical reason, but to me it makes the most sense and it covers both

genders.

When telling our life stories at an outreach program, many transpeople will tell you how they lost friends, family members and even their jobs when they transitioned to their true gender. The inquisitive person might ask: If everything has gone wrong in our lives, did

It may set them back a bit when I say that since I like men, I am straight. At first they may want to call me gay, but then the wheels turn and the reasoning sinks in.

we ever think of transitioning back to our birth gender? I believe most would say we would not. Why not? The reason I give is because of the wonderful peace that I now feel. I've never felt this peace before, and now I do.

You might ask me if it is worth it to lose friends, family and a job and I will agree that the cost is very high, but it is worth it to find peace in your being. What is really troubling is the fact that some of your friends, family members and employers cannot or will not share the joy of your peace. You may become excluded from their lives. Yes, even family

members may shun you. Some folks might reason that we are selfish for becoming someone who they don't approve of and as a result of our transition, relationships with family and friends are broken. I question who the selfish one might really be. Is it us for being who we truly are, or them for wanting

like men, and folks are fine with that response. However, many transwomen will answer that they like women, leaving the person asking the question puzzled and with more questions. They might ask: "If you like women, then why did you change into a woman? Why didn't you stay a man?" These folks are obviously trying to relate to the heteronormative model of one man and one woman, and when they hear that transwomen like women they have a hard time understanding that concept. The transwomen then might state that they are lesbians, and the resulting looks are first of puzzlement but then of understanding. It's a quick learning curve. It may set them back a bit when I say that since I like men, I am straight. At first they may want to call me gay, but then the wheels turn and the reasoning sinks in.

These are just a few examples of how different the life of a transperson may be. The questions and the situations are thought provoking. I've often said that transgender thought is a new type of thought. Things that you may have always taken for granted are suddenly in question. It's a whole new way of looking at things.

**Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has three grown children and works at 3M. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbglobal.net.*

Ask a Transwoman: The (not-so) subtleties of facing discrimination in a very public space

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



As I'm sitting here writing these words, I am angry. I tried to write something fun this month. I wanted to write something fun, something that wasn't a call to arms or a dissection of tragedy. I started out as a comic after all. However, some-

times things happen that I cannot, and perhaps should not, just let pass.

Two days ago I was traveling from a friend's house in Providence to my present home in Littleton by commuter rail via Boston. While in town, I needed to stop by an office of our fine federal government to deal with one of the many little form changes that seem to go hand in hand with a transgender identity.

Upon finding and entering the building, I saw that there was a standard security set-up, with an X-ray machine and walk-through metal detector. It's a routine I'm used to from lots of travel. Unfortunately, I was traveling with the overstuffed backpack I had brought for several days away from home.

When asked by the officer staffing the X-ray belt if I had any electronics, I replied that I did and apologized for the delay as I diligently dug through my bag to remove the sundry and assorted devices that are part of a modern life. I put my backpack on the belt and the officer pushed through the tray with my purse and the electronics.

Once through the metal detector, the officer operating the X-ray machine told me he saw a flask and asked if I could take it out for him. I happily complied, not having remembered it was there before I went through.

The officer indicated it was a problem, and I politely asked if I could check it with them. I travel frequently and often have cause to encounter security checkpoints. I know the rou-

tine and am always helpful, calm and polite.

I told the security officer the flask contained "fairly nice Irish whiskey." He opened it and easily verified the smell.

However, as I was asking if I could check the flask, a Homeland Security Officer briskly approached the checkpoint, took the flask and began walking away. He told me they could not check the flask and he would have to confiscate it.

I informed him the flask had been given to

I was literally reduced to begging the Homeland Security Officer to return the flask. ... I also kept requesting [him to] refer to me as "Ma'am" instead of "Sir" and that he use my proper pronouns.

me by my very recently deceased grandmother. He told me he could not return it and added that since he considered the flask an "open container" he would have to confiscate it. I repeated my entreaty to return the flask and the fact that it was tremendously precious to me as a keepsake.

I was shaking badly and pretty freaked out. My grandmother passed just a couple of weeks ago and we were incredibly close.

This exchange went back and forth as the Homeland Security Officer, who later told me his name upon request, kept referring to me by various male pronouns. Not that it needs noting, but anyone who has met me will know my gender identity is not especially hard to establish.

I was literally reduced to begging the Homeland Security Officer to return the flask, even if it meant simply putting it back in my bag and leaving quietly. While this was going on, I also kept requesting that the Homeland Security Officer refer to me as "Ma'am" instead of "Sir" and that he use my proper pronouns.

The Homeland Security Officer refused both requests and told me I needed to not raise my voice to him. Due to my size and several decades of theater training, my voice is quite powerful, though I at no point raised it to an inappropriate level or spoke disrespectfully to either the security officers or the Homeland Security Officer.

He kept referring to me by male pronouns and as a crowd was gathering behind me in line at the checkpoint, he told me to

gather my belongings and follow him. I was physically shaking and visibly humiliated by the treatment I was receiving and the large crowd in front of which it was happening.

The Homeland Security Officer simply kept repeating that I gather my belongings and follow him. **Growing angrier, he continued to refer to me as "Sir,"** completely missing the point of an "honorific."

Finally able to pull my belongings together, I followed as instructed, quite sure I was about to be detained. With the crowd watching and this fully decked out and intimidating-looking Homeland Security Officer still misgendering me despite my continued requests that he use my proper pronouns, I was led outside.

There, he told me to listen to him and not raise my voice or he would arrest me. At this point, though I complied and kept my voice as quiet and calm as I was able, I refused to answer any further questions, all of which were coupled with a misgendering. I simply kept repeating, "Please call me by my proper pronouns."

Eventually, the Homeland Security Officer told me to give him my ID. I promptly handed him my driver's license, which indicates my gender as female. He did not apologize nor correct himself, but simply stopped using any pronouns or honorifics. At this point, I continued cooperating by answering his questions.

After several minutes of lecturing me in front of the passing onlookers outside, he told me he would return the flask, though he would have to pour out the contents. Being a good Irish woman, I dared to mention that I thought this was wasteful given the quality of the whiskey, but saw I had no other course of action than to comply with all requests and withhold all objections or otherwise risk my freedom.

After a further moment of lecture, the Homeland Security Officer handed me the flask and told me to leave. He added as an afterthought that I was barred for 24 hours, essentially preventing me from completing the business I had come to Boston to do in the first place. **I was shaking, angry and humiliated.** I felt entirely powerless.

My point in sharing this story is that discrimination is not always as neat and clear-cut as we activists and politicians would like to think it is. It's messy.

This did not necessarily start out as being about my gender identity, but it quickly became that. We who are trans suffer these humiliations all the time. Sometimes they are writ large, like my abusive encounter with Homeland Security. More often, they occur in countless little ways, so frequently we don't even think to mention them.

We deserve the same dignity and respect as anyone else. It's time to speak up and tell our stories until people begin to listen. Slainte!

**Lorelei Erisis is an activist, adventurer and pageant queen. Send your questions about trans issues, gender and sexuality to her at: loreleierisis@gmail.com.*

Hay esperanza en el futuro de África: Mi viaje al continente

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa*/Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Escribo esta columna durante mi vuelo de regreso a casa. He pasado unas semanas en África, Tanzania y Uganda. Fui por dos razones:

primero para pasar unos días de vacaciones en un safari y segundo para presentar mis trabajos con la comunidad LGBT en Cuba y con hombres en recuperación de drogadicción y alcoholismo en Boston. Estos propósitos me rindieron la oportunidad de conocer a la comunidad LGBT y de dialogar al respecto de pólizas homofóbicas con personas en el gobierno. Fue un viaje que siempre recordaré y mantendré en mi corazón, el "clóset" en África es uno hecho de madera fuerte, dura, y oscura que tiene unas raíces fuertes de cortar.

Tanzania: Conocí a un par de muchachos gay en un pueblo colorido y lleno de historia (no quiero escribir sus nombres ni pueblo por confidencialidad y protección). En Tanzania, al igual que en casi toda África del Este y Oeste, ser homosexual es ilegal y conlleva tiempo en cárcel. Si la policía te arresta durante "el acto", esto conlleva una encarcelación más bruta y larga. Estos dos



PHOTO: ILFRED LABIOSA

A Ugandan young man at Lake Victoria

muchachos gay ellos están llenos de esperanza por un futuro diferente. Aunque no viven cerca uno del otro se encuentran con frecuencia. Lamentablemente no tuve tiempo de conocer a otros/as personas gay y lesbianas amistades de ellos. Les deje calco-

manías, bolígrafos (gracias a TRT) y banderas. Ambos me dijeron que las cosas cambian bien lento y es gracias a los extranjeros que están invirtiendo en su ciudad y viviendo allí que existe un grado de esperanza. En esta ciudad hay una barra en uno de los hoteles donde la policía no entra y la comunidad sabe que es un espacio donde se congregan personas gay y lesbianas – pero cabe recalcar que expresión en público no es aceptada por nadie, sin importar la orientación sexual (es ley). Aunque no pude encontrar este lugar, ciertas páginas de web y revistas de turismo lo confirman.

Uganda: Aquí fue mucho más difícil conocer a personas LGBT pero por la conferencia llegué a conocer a tres muchachos gay. Uno es joven universitario estudiando psicología y que está saliendo del clóset poco a poco. Otro trabaja en el campo de salud pública haciendo grupos de prevención a través de toda Uganda. El tercero que conocí ha vivido con SIDA/VIH por más de ocho años. El rompe con los estereotipos locales y baila (vestido de hombre) roles que solamente lo hacen las mujeres – el grupo de baile y su comunidad lo respeta por esto ya que es muy difícil bailar estos pasos por la manera que los cuerpos entre hombres y mujeres se diferencian. Estos tres hombres gay son diferentes. Los tres viven vidas con miedo al salir de sus ámbitos y círculos. Y los tres son personas alegres, llenas de esperanza y amor.

Aunque muchos políticos en el parlamento en Uganda apoyan una póliza de criminalización y de enjuiciar a las personas homo-

sexuales, la mayoría en las comunidades (que conocí en Entebbe y Kampala) no respaldan esta póliza. Los actos homosexuales ya son ilegales y lo han sido desde los tiempos coloniales ingleses. Lo que esta póliza busca es poder añadir a este código la oportunidad de las personas en la comunidad de poder enjuiciar a personas LGBT y traerlos/as a la policía para condenar e incluir la pena de muerte. Esta póliza no pasó gracias a agencias internacionales y personas locales que abogan por la igualdad; pero esta póliza no se piensa que va a pasar ya que hay oposición vasta entre embajadores, personas de negocios y compañías extranjeras que "corren" la economía de este país.

Tuve la oportunidad de hablar con la presidenta del parlamento la Honorable Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, el director ejecutivo de la Fundación para los Derechos Humanos el Sr. Livingstone Sewanya y con el Embajador de los Estados Unidos en Uganda el Sr. Scott DeLisi. Todas estas tres personas, y muchos/as otros/as más en el ámbito de la política, salud pública, y negocios concuerdan de que el futuro de Uganda tiene que incluir a grupos minoritarios incluyendo a la comunidad homosexual. El Embajador DeLisi me mencionó que él ya se ha reunido con grupos religiosos, comunitarios, LGBT, y mandatorios públicos y todos están de acuerdo de que hay que respetar la vida de todos/as por igual y que esta póliza afectaría la economía de este país por muchas razones.

El Embajador, al igual que otros/as, ...

See Latin Vision on page 13

Pregúntale a LL: Después de DOMA, ¿Qué más?

Por: Susan Sommer/ Directora de litigio constitucional para Lambda Legal



P: Ahora que DOMA ha desaparecido, ¿qué significa para mi familia?

A: La victoria en la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos fue un momento increíble para nuestra comunidad, pero también sabemos que habrá un sinnúmero de preguntas en las próximas semanas y meses. Hay más de 1,100 puntos en la ley federal en donde acceso a una protección o responsabilidad depende del estado de matrimonio civil. Las agencias federales—burocracias grandes—pueden necesitar tiempo para cambiar las formas, implementar los procedimientos, capacitar al personal e incorporar eficazmente a las parejas del mismo sexo en el sistema conyugal.

Hasta que las parejas del mismo sexo puedan casarse en todos los estados de la nación, habrá incertidumbre sobre el grado en que los cónyuges del mismo sexo recibirán protecciones civiles federales en todo el país. Para los programas federales que evalúan el estado civil de los matrimonios con base en las leyes de los estados que no respetan los matrimonios de parejas del mismo sexo, esas leyes estatales probablemente plantearán obstáculos para las parejas casadas legalmente y cónyuges sobrevivientes cuando intenten acceder a las protecciones y responsabilidades federales.

Dependiendo del beneficio que las parejas estén buscando, las agencias federales tienen diferentes enfoques en cuanto a qué leyes estatales consideran para determinar si un matrimonio a nivel federal es válido. Por ejemplo, algunos de los beneficios, como

beneficios para veteranos, consideran si el estado donde vive la pareja reconoce su matrimonio mientras que otros beneficios, como derechos de inmigración, consideran si el estado donde se casó la pareja reconoce su matrimonio como válido. Y para cuestiones como los impuestos federales, esperamos que el IRS provea más información sobre la situación de las parejas en uniones civiles.

Lambda Legal, junto con otras 10 organizaciones trabajando por la comunidad LGBT, emitió conjuntamente una serie de hojas informativas para proporcionar orientación a las parejas del mismo sexo y sus familias que intentan acceder los derechos, beneficios y protecciones federales.

Las hojas proporcionan información general sobre los principales aspectos de los derechos y protecciones federales basados en el matrimonio. Antes de tomar una decisión, es esencial

Las personas deben tomar decisiones cuidadosamente sobre cuándo y dónde casarse ...

que las parejas del mismo sexo consulten con un abogado para recibir asesoría legal individualizada. Las personas deben tomar decisiones cuidadosamente sobre cuándo y dónde casarse, mientras trabajamos juntos para poner fin a esta injusticia. Visita: <http://tiny.cc/tb1x0w> para obtener más información. Ciertas hojas informativas están disponibles en español. Las hojas son creadas por: American Civil Liberties Union, Center for American Progress, Family Equality Council, Freedom to Marry, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, Human Rights Campaign, Immigration Equality, Lambda Legal, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Out-Serve-SLDN.

Si consideras que has sido discriminado/a en base a tu orientación sexual, identidad de género o estatus de VIH, comunícate con nuestra Línea de Ayuda <http://tiny.cc/ld1x0w>.



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Prop 8 The Movie, Billie Jean King, Alicia Silverstone, Ian McKellen news

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special to TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Prop 8: The Movie

First it was a horrible ballot initiative designed to strip marriage rights away from California's LGBT community. Then it was a parody YouTube musical with an all-star cast. Then it was a play from Dustin Lance Black based on court transcripts. Then it was a dead piece of historic legal discrimination thanks to the Supreme Court of the United States (boom!) and now, thanks to HBO Documentary Films and directors Ben Cotner and Ryan White, the Proposition 8 media train makes another stop at the feature-length doc station. For the past five years, Cotner and White have had access to the work of both the legal team and the plaintiffs, whose stories gave the case such a powerful punch when it came to demonstrating Prop. 8's harm to gay relationships with no concurrent benefit for society. The as-yet-untitled film is currently in production and is scheduled to air on HBO at an unspecified date in 2014. If justice prevails, there'll be more states adopting marriage equality laws in the interim. Victory lap!

Billie Jean King: American Master

For the first time ever, PBS's *American Masters* is going to profile a sports figure

and that inaugural honor goes to tennis legend Billie Jean King. The 90-minute documentary on the 69-year-old King will focus on her career, one that challenged sexism in American sports and changed the way women's athletic achievements are perceived all over the world. In addition to new interviews with King, the film will feature Serena and Venus Williams, Maria Sharapova, members of the Virginia Slims Circuit "Original 9" like Rosie Casals, Gloria Steinem, Chris Evert, Margaret Court, Bobby Riggs' son Larry, King's friend Elton John and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Fittingly, *American Masters: Billie Jean King* will premiere September 10 on PBS affiliates to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the infamous "Battle of the Sexes" match between King and Bobby Riggs. This calls for a watching party: white Lacoste shirts and soft-butth haircuts mandatory.

HR gives Alicia Silverstone the job

We've missed Alicia Silverstone. Like, a lot. Our worn out VHS tape of *Clueless* bit the dust and then we wore out the DVD, too (yes, it can be done) as the talented comic actor focused on her own post-*Clueless* life - vegan cookbooks, unorthodox child-rearing practices, simultaneous Internet notoriety for those unorthodox child-rearing practices and a lot of less-than-awesome TV and film projects that we pretty much ignored (with the exception of that one-off episode of the hilarious and weird *Children's Hospital*). But now Darren Star (*Sex and the City*) has her and we have hope again. A pilot for Lifetime called *HR* will

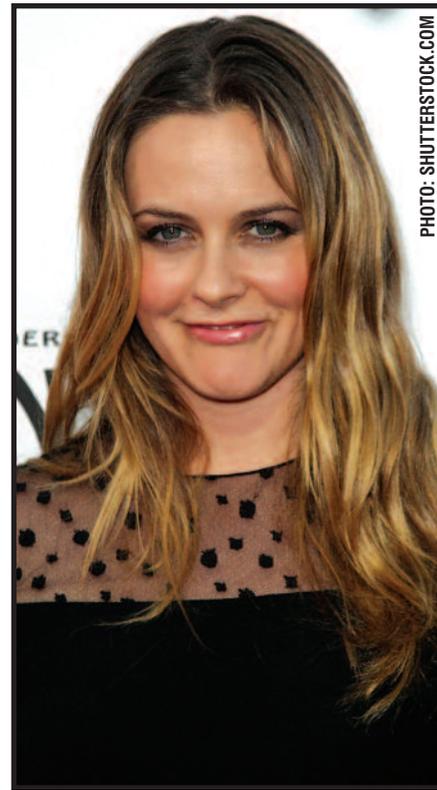


PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Alicia Silverstone

star Silverstone and focus on the changes her character, a Type-A director of Human Resources for a large corporation, goes through after suffering a head injury. Drama? Comedy? Probably a little of both (although most likely not slavishly attached to being the female version of the old sitcom *Herman's Head*), which suits us fine. Head injuries are like that. More news as this develops.

Ian McKellen to star in a zombie movie. Excited?

When you're Gandalf and Magneto at the same time, you can do whatever you like. So you can forgive Sir Ian McKellen for deciding that another Shakespeare adaptation would be, of course, a wonderful idea ... perhaps later. Right now he'd much rather run off to star in a zombie comedy sporting the unlikely title of *The Curse of The Buxom Strumpet*. You really can't blame him. Set in the 18th century, the story concerns a small English village beset by a zombifying illness, causing the uninfected to flee, even if it means going to - oh dear - France. So think *Shaun of The Dead* with less electricity and more mud. Directed by Matthew Butler, the film also stars Gillian Anderson and Academy Award nominee Imelda Staunton and is due sometime in 2014. No word on who plays the Buxom Strumpet. Hope it's McKellen.

**Romeo San Vicente has known his fair share of strumpets. Good people, all. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.*

It's tweet of you to follow us... thanks!

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Latin Vision from Page 11

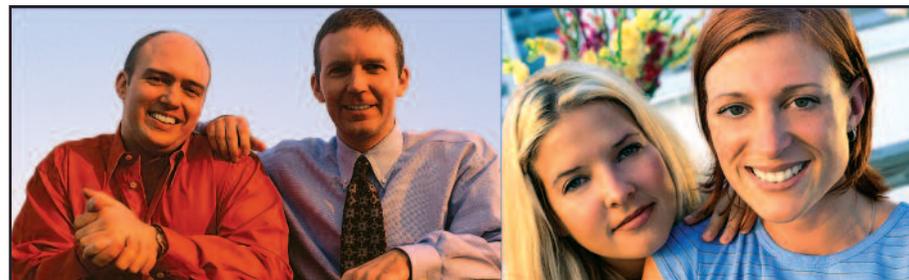
escucharon mi presentación sobre el trabajo que ha ocurrido y que se sigue haciendo en Cuba con la comunidad LGBT y todos/as se asombran de el mismo por el tipo de gobierno que existe. Reconocen que si se puede hacer en ese gobierno, entonces puede ocurrir en Uganda después de que se arregle el problema de corrupción que existe entre personas en el parlamento y gobierno. A todos/as ellos/as les mencioné al hablarle que en mi tiempo allí reconocí que es un tópico (todavía) tabú por el gran numero de religiosos fanáticos que existen en Uganda pero dado su tiempo, espacio y respeto las cosas pueden cambiar. También mencioné que aunque las personas no estén abiertamente hablando de su propia orientación sexual, hay personas LGBT en todos los ámbitos sociales incluyendo el parlamento, la comunidad artística, negocios y sociedad en general. Les recalqué que esta póliza presentada en el parlamento del 2010-12 fue demostrada por personas corruptas y fanáticos religiosos usando tácticas de miedo y violencia que Uganda quiere cambiar. El embajador, Hon. Alitwala Kadaga y otros reconocen esta variable y que el problema de corrupción es uno muy alto y difícil de corregir.

Lamentablemente mucho trabajo queda por hacer en África para la aceptación de la comunidad LGBT pero también hay que reconocer que están trabajando con problemas como el alto índice de VIH/SIDA, malaria, ETS, niños huérfanos en las calles, la falta de agua potable, etcétera. Espero que la comunidad LGBT en Tanzania y Uganda mantenga la esperanza viva para un mejor mañana. A todos los que conocí, les doy gra-

cias por haberme hablado abiertamente al respecto y por darme la bienvenida a su patria. Les deseo a ellos/as todo lo mejor y espero que los/as aliados/as sigan luchando no sólo con palabras sino con acciones. A todos/as en Uganda, "Fuga Taraja Hai (Keep Hope Alive)".

**Escrito por Wilfred W. Labiosa, trabajador social y activista comunitario. Wilfred le quiere agradecer a la organización ICSD, Dr Kamya y Simmons College por su apoyo y por rendirle esta oportunidad.*

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TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. Cloudburst
2. Mosquita & Mari
3. The Lovers & Friends Show Season 5: The Final Season
4. Breaking the Girls
5. Face 2 Face
6. Molly's Girl
7. Strange Frame
8. Young and Wild
9. Jack & Diane
10. A Perfect Ending

GAY TOP 10

1. Petunia
2. Cloudburst
3. White Frog
4. A Portrait of James Dean: Joshua Tree, 1951
5. I Do
6. Beyond The Walls
7. I Want Your Love
8. Any Day Now
9. Gayby
10. Yossi



Back row (L-to-R): Matthew Town, Jules Przedworski, Andrew Bauerband, Brian Feinstein, Peter Martini, Jorge Soler, Russell Spiker, Kyler Sherman-Wilkins, Michelle Johns. Middle row: Lixian Cui, Gilbert Gonzalez, Maurice Gattis, Jason Park, Natalie Alizaga, Jennifer Raymond, Sammy Sass (staff). Front row: Mollie Ruben, Francisco Surace, Kerith Conron (instructor), Trang Nguyen, Judith Bradford (instructor), Allegra Gordon (instructor).

Fenway's LGBT Population Health program

The 2013 Summer Institute in LGBT Population Health hosted by The Fenway Institute and Department of Community Health Sciences of the Boston University School of Public Health has begun. This intensive 4-week training program has drawn 18 participants from Boston and across the country. The trainees have come together to learn how best to research and improve the health of sexual and gender minority populations.

The program includes a seminar on LGBT health and social life, short courses in quantitative analysis, and a data lab. Each participant will complete an independent quantitative analysis project on an LGBT health topic of interest, using computerized

data.

This year's instructors are: Judith Bradford, Kerith Conron, and Allegra Gordon (of Fenway Health), Katherine Masyn (of the Harvard Graduate School of Education), Amanda Fairchild (of the University of South Carolina Department of Psychology) and Tenko Raykov (Professor of Measurement and Quantitative Methods at Michigan State University). The Program is funded by a grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health.

For more information about the Fenway Institute and more of Fenway Health's programs, visit www.fenwayhealth.org.



(Left) Amaad Rivera, President of Springfield Mass Pride (left) with Rob Quinn, a member of the Board of Trustee for the AIDS Foundation of Western Mass (right).



(Right) RuPaul's Drag Race star contestant Jujubee was a headliner at ICMA-WD's Imperial Crown Prince and Princess Ball.

Imperial Court from Page 5

Andres Torres, an ICMA-WD Board Member with the title Imperial Crown Princess. "All of the entertainers were impeccable. It was great to see Courts from other states there as well to help support the AFWM and Springfield Pride. I believe when the common goal of a group of people is as noteworthy as this was, everything will always end up being amazing."

For more information about ICMA-WD and upcoming events, please contact imperialcourtwesternmass@gmail.com or call 413-777-6411. *The Rainbow Times* was a proud sponsor and supporter of the Ball.



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Poverty from Page 2

assistance, compared to .8% of women in different sex couples; 1.2% of men in same-sex couples, compared to .6% of men in different-sex couples, receive cash assistance.

There is a larger issue here. How well does the LGBTQ community take care of its own? Judaism teaches the poor are "akhoyot" (sisters) and "akhikha" (brothers). We are not supposed to judge those with less, yet, sadly, we do. The Creator does not love those on an A-list more than the poor or struggling working class.

Being aware of LGBTQ economic injustice and making society more sensitive to it is an important step in addressing it. The Williams Institute has done the quantitative work to document this injustice. The question of what to do about it remains.

Consider at least three things:

- Ask LGBTQ advocacy groups, especially those you donate to, about how the issue of LGBTQ poverty is or can be included in a broader lobbying agenda. Highlight the issue.
- Show kindness (<http://tiny.cc/gwqq0w>) and compassion (<http://tiny.cc/1wqq0w>). If you can't donate to LGBTQ-friendly religious ministries helping the poor individuals or working LGBTQ families struggling financially, then volunteer at a Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) food pantry or other group. It's your chance to affirm the personhood of another. It underscores that these individuals are not alone nor judged because of their economic status.
- Identify opportunities to help a struggling LGBTQ person. Many elderly LGBTQ persons especially need help. Getting rides to doctor's appointments or help with grocery shopping are real needs.

In responding to injustice, you are truer to your Creation as the Creator intended. You become more spiritual and encounter mystical, transcendental experiences by loving more, judging less and building a stronger community where all feel wanted. This energy nourishes the cosmos in a healthy way.

* Paul, an author, attorney and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY, does spiritual health and wellness counseling for LGBTQ persons of faith. Reach him through www.CorporateChaplaincy.biz.

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The OutField: 'No homo,' no way - Male athletes & gay slurs

By: Dan Woog*/Special to TRT

Q SPORTS



Outsports – the go-to website for all things gay and sporting – has compiled an astonishing list of athletes' anti-gay comments.

They fill several pages. And – especially because this is 2013, The Year of the LGBT Jock – they fill readers with a variety of emotions. There's anger that people – popular role models, which is what athletes are – feel the need to put other people down. There is disgust, that some folks express bigoted beliefs so openly. But there is also amusement, because such anti-gay sentiments seem so out of touch with the world today.

For years, sports was called The Last Closet. The idea was that although the rest of society was moving rapidly toward acceptance of gays and lesbians, the athletic world lagged far behind.

This year, though, has seen a sea change in attitudes. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender athletes have burst out of the closet. Coaches, owners and top executives have embraced the cause. Teams are reaching out to the LGBT community, offering discounts on Pride Day and sponsoring Pride floats.

So now, when an athlete makes an anti-gay slur, he – and it is almost always a male – is seen as an outsider. The outpouring of support that greeted the coming-out announcements of soccer athlete Robbie Rogers and basketball player Jason Collins makes homophobic comments seem out-

dated, juvenile, and even comical. It's as if the athletes who say these things are cowering in their own closet. Where once athletes and coaches feared coming out, now the cleats are on the other foot. The fear today is expressed by athletes and coaches who realize the world is changing. And – probably subconsciously – they realize they don't have the skills, insights or real-world experience to deal with it.

So now, when an athlete makes an anti-gay slur, he – and it is almost always a male – is seen as an outsider.

They're the ones who still think "fa&ot" is the worst insult you can hurl at someone. That's what San Jose Earthquake Alan Gordon called Portland Timbers captain Will Johnson during a Major League Soccer game. (Actually, he called him a "f%\$#@ng fa&ot," though he did not specify "top" or "bottom.")

MLS responded swiftly, slapping Gordon with a three-game suspension. His equally

swift apology included this: "That is not in my character, but there is still no excuse for saying what I said. I made a mistake and I accept full responsibility for my actions."

Gordon showed a lot more – well, character – than Bully Ray. The pro wrestler lived up to his nickname, calling a fan a "fag" and a "queer." Bully said he meant no harm and was "careless" in his use of slurs.

Far less "careless" was San Francisco 49er Chris Culliver. In the run-up to the Super Bowl – with media attention heaped on the pro-gay activism of players like Chris Kluwe and Brandon Ayanbadejo – Culliver proclaimed, "I don't do the gay guys man. I don't do that. No, we don't got no gay people on the team, they gotta get up out of here if they do. Can't be with that sweet stuff. Nah...can't be...in the locker room man. Nah."

Besides the absurdity of a player in San Francisco – of all places – saying such not-so-sweet stuff, Culliver's remarks revealed how far the gays-in-sports issue has evolved. The football player stood virtually alone fearing that, if he had a gay teammate, locker room issues would inevitably follow. Culliver's threat that any gay player would have to leave sounded antediluvian. And while there are no openly gay current NFL players – yet – his assertion that there are none on his team makes one wonder what else he doesn't know about life in the real world.

The most recent head-scratching, is-this-really-2013 example of homo-ignorant be-

havior came a few weeks ago. Describing the way he played physical defense against LeBron James, Indiana Pacers center Roy Hibbert quickly added, "no homo."

Perhaps he thought he was back on the elementary school playground. Maybe he worried that reporters (who, in the same press conference, he referred to as "motherf&rs") would actually think that, by guarding another player closely in a nationally televised playoff game, Hibbert was really trying to cop a feel. Or maybe – no, the mind boggles. There is no rational explanation for why a well-paid professional athlete would trot out such a tired term.

Unless he is so removed from the world in 2013, he just doesn't understand how society is changing. But that doesn't explain it either. Because so many NBA, NFL, MLS and other pro athletes do get it.

Like Kobe Bryant. Two years ago, he called a referee a "f\$#@%g fa&ot." Reaction was swift.

And when Jason Collins came out, the Los Angeles Lakers superstar was one of the first to react. He tweeted: "Proud of @jasoncollins34. Don't suffocate who u r because of the ignorance of others."

** Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is "We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars." He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.*

To cook is to love: A foodie's journal—Beat the heat with delicious cool food choices

By: John Verlinden*/Special to TRT

¡MUCHO GUSTO!



Boy, it's hot out there! I try never to complain about the heat in New England. After our long, cold and snowy winter, I was really looking forward to a little natural heat. However, when the thermometer reaches 90 degrees or higher, I start looking for ways to cool down. One of the best ways is a cold summer meal. Here are a couple of my favorites.

For breakfast or for a snack after working outside, try a tropical fruit smoothie.

Tropical Fruit Smoothie

- Ingredients:
- 1 fresh mango (peeled and pitted)
 - 1 ripe banana
 - 1 cup orange juice
 - ½ cup fresh or frozen berries

Ice

Directions:
1. Combine the fruit and juice in blender pitcher. 2. Fill pitcher with ice. 3. Blend on high speed until smooth, and serve in a tall glass garnished with fresh fruit. 4. Enjoy, but drink slowly to avoid a brain freeze.

For lunch or dinner, I recommend a bowl of delicious Avocado and Cucumber Soup. Just add a salad and a cold cut sandwich for a complete meal without having to turn on the stove.

Avocado and Cucumber Soup

- Ingredients:
- 2 small avocados (cut in chunks)
 - 1 large cucumber (peeled, seeded and cut in chunks)
 - 3 cups plain yogurt
 - ¼ cup lime juice
 - 1 tablespoon cilantro leaves (finely chopped)
 - ½ tablespoon salt
 - 1 pinch cayenne pepper
 - 1 small tomato (finely diced)
 - Fresh herbs (finely chopped) for garnish

Directions:

1. In a food processor bowl fitted with a steel blade, puree the avocado chunks. 2. Add the remaining ingredients, except the tomato and herbs, and process until smooth. 3. Refrigerate for at least two hours. 4. Serve in chilled bowls topped with a dollop of garnish. For the garnish, toss the diced tomato with finely chopped fresh herbs.

To share one of your family's hot weather favorites, ask a question or suggest a topic for the future article, contact me at john@muchogusto.com or visit www.muchogusto.com and join our Latin food forum.

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

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