

# The Rainbow Times

Your LGBT News in Western MA, the Capital District of NY, Northern CT, & Southern VT

Year 2, Vol. 19 • Feb. 7 - March 5, 2008

[www.rainbowtimesnews.com](http://www.rainbowtimesnews.com)

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# TRT's 1st Year Anniversary: \$ for you

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

**T**RT's 1-Year Anniversary is here and to celebrate it, we want to get you involved in it. We want to publish your videos, photos and more. The official 1-Year Anniversary happened on February 1, 2008. However, we want more of it than just a one-month celebration.

With enormous PRIDE, your support and lots of hard work from our family, friends and allies, we are proud to say that we have made it! This year, we want more from you! What is in it for you? Let me explain.

We want you to submit your LGBTIQI photos (only photos with permission, that you have taken) and videos\* along throughout the next 3 months; March 2008 through May 2008. If your photo is selected, we will pay you \$25 and publish it with appropriate credit in TRT, on TRT's website, in our electronic e-newsletter, The Pony Express, etc. If your video is selected, you will receive \$50 and be given video credit as it is played on our website.

All photo submissions must be large, high

resolution pictures of anything LGBTQ related. Photos or videos could come from a variety of sources such as an event, an LGBT couple, yourself, your trans life in transition—before and after pictures—a special moment, a moment in which you captured discrimination, a rally, your coming out story, your trans journey, your story as the mother, father, daughter or an LGBT member, etc. If you have a story, we want to let our readers know about it! It is how we will help connect with our community that surrounds us. We are seeking photos and videos from our quad-state area of coverage (Western MA, the Capital District of NY, Northern CT and Southern VT). Simply tell us what makes your story unique! Let the contest begin.

*\* All photos and videos should be sent to editor@therainbowtimesnews.com. Once you submit your photos and videos, you waive all of the rights to it/them and they will become the property of The Rainbow Times, LLC. Please understand that we can run the photos, videos, etc., anytime we may choose, and that you will always receive credit for your work.*

**Read more Trans Opinions on Page 12 & 19**

## Love, Rights ... and the Course of our country

By: **JM Sorrell**/TRT Columnist

**B**y the time you read this, our presidential primary will have taken place. Perhaps there are clear nominees for November in the Democrat and Republican parties. With the time lapse from my column submission to print to distribution, I am writing this one week prior to the February 5th primary. Kucinich is out, and I hope the Party finds a role for him as a moral leader within their ranks ala Howard Dean.

Clinton or Obama (one seems to be the likely candidate) will have challenges in a general election. The Republicans will really enjoy skewering Clinton every chance they get, and they will tiptoe more softly by saying that Obama is a great guy but has no experience.



J.M. the JP

two should run together, but it is unlikely. S/he will make a strategic choice, no doubt. Someone conservative. White. Male. I'm already mad about it. Gore chose Lieberman! John McCain would have been a less Republican choice. Kerry should have chosen Howard Dean to put some life and bones into his campaign.

Think about the dream team (okay, at least relative to what we have). She has the experience, the proven resilience, the diplomatic savvy. He has the youth and the openness of someone who has not yet been dragged down into the sell-your-soul vortex.

Both candidates have made mostly support-

**Misogyny is alive and well in politics. When Clinton makes definitive statements, she is seen as harsh, and when she responds to the boys about what they are up to, she is seen as weak. Even Obama seems to do the man-to-man thing by responding more to Bill than to the actual can-**

Misogyny is alive and well in politics. When Clinton makes definitive statements, she is seen as harsh, and when she responds to the boys about what they are up to, she is seen as weak. Even Obama seems to do the man-to-man thing by responding more to Bill than to the actual candidate. Of course, who knows about the strategy on either end of that? It does not feel right.

Racist attacks are no longer an acceptable social norm, but the Republican marketing people will find ways to feed the fears of white Americans about the possibility of a black president. It will all be subliminal as much of the corporate advertising we experience.

I have moved on to wondering who will be the VP running mate. Given the split, these

ive statements about a variety of LGBT rights (notably believing in federal legislation for social security for partners, health insurance, and job protection). Marriage is a sticking point, but neither wants to be part of preventing progress on this front. They still have their heterosexist lens with the paradox of real belief systems about fairness. Time and exposure would move them along, I hope.

Keep your passports up to date in case of emergency (any of the Republicans winning). Media coverage of the Republican primary in South Carolina lithely pointed to Huckabee v. McCain as those voters choosing between fundamentalist beliefs and pro-war sentiments. Am I the only person who thinks these are insane choices?!

# The Controversial Couch

*Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something*

By: **Suzan Ambrose**/TRT Columnist



**I** never wanted to be a wife. A partner, a girlfriend? Sure. Lover, better half (and a few other loose terms) are all better descriptions, for me anyhow, of what 'relationship' means. And you wouldn't believe the grief I catch for it.

"She's your wife! Why don't you call her your wife?" they bellow, friends and strangers alike. Disbelieving I won't jump at the opportunity to assimilate.

It appears now that gay people are allowed to marry in Massachusetts; we are somehow also expected to conform to the exact same stereotypical labeling as well. To which I say: "please don't rush me." If you're over 30, it's not like you ever thought being married to someone (gay) you loved was ever going to be an option in your lifetime. So you never went there in your mind. Hardly. Perhaps as much as you thought wishing on a star would actually give you your wish. You know what I'm saying.

And as a result of that, certain parameters were formed about the type of relationship gays and lesbians were "allowed" to have. And yet, we still went to support our hetero friends as they did the deed, solemnly swearing to be wedded wives or husbands forever and ever, Amen.

It only took that simple oath of wed lock (is that a double entendre?) to turn some of my favorite wild and crazy, independent-thinking, freedom-loving friends into W.I.V.E.S. Never

to be without the other half; property of husbands; 'till death do us part—and it seemed they took that part literally, upon the mere utterance of the phrase!

The American Heritage dictionary defines 'wife' as a woman married to a man. And with that sort of definition, you can see why some of us were never hip to using the word. For so long, too many women stayed home, giving up their careers, taking care of the children, waiting for their Kings of the Castle to come home and complete them. They were nothing without their man.

"Wife" can conjure up feelings of being nothing more than property, subservient, someone having dominance over another; something many of my straight friends seemed to submit too eagerly, casually. Many of us don't want it to be like that, so eager to be so casual; giving up your last name, your identity, and the very thing that defined who you were, all the years of your existence.

Poof, you're a wife now.

But what's in a name, anyhow? In our community, we've gone through quite a few name changes in labeling. First, we were referred to just as gay, then gay and lesbian, then came the bisexuals. Now it's the GLBT community, with straight allies, and a few extra consonants added on every year that even the most politically-correct activists can be unaware of! Maybe we should be called the alphabet soup group ... "Mmm, mmm, good ...!"

Being categorized verbally as dykes on bikes, fags in drag and lots of other labels, can seem comical to us now, but these same words were often deadly in years gone by. We've fought against what some of these labels have made us feel like, the boxes

[See Couch on Page 23](#)

## Letters to the Editor

*Dear Editor,*  
I didn't like the Colton Ford pictures because I thought they were too provocative. I felt offended by them.  
Joanne L., Northampton, MA

*Dear Editor,*  
Kudos on a great interview with Colton Ford! I enjoyed the issue. It really called our attention because of the photos.  
Rob M., Albany, NY

*Dear Editor,*  
The Colton Ford photo on the cover was hot! The interview was good, but I wish that your writer would've asked him more questions. Thanks and great job on TRT.  
Tyrone M., Hartford, CT

*Dear Editor,*  
Who in their right mind would write something positive about Ron Paul? Has Suzan Ambrose done her homework about this guy? I found her column obnoxious and lacking.  
John C., Northampton, MA

*Dear Editor,*  
Loved the article by Lindsay Wilson, "Standards of Care: A witty view of a transformation. What a great job of Tobias Davis.  
Martha S., Easthampton, MA

*Dear Editor,*  
I liked reading something about straight allies and how they can help with our struggle. The article's content helped me explain things better to my sister who supports me, but didn't have a clue about what things to do as an LGBT ally.  
Vivianne R., Pittsfield, MA

## The Rainbow Times

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# The Legacy Lives On: Oscar Nominee Freeheld Cynthia Wade's film with a Purpose

By: **JM Sorrell/TRT Writer**

Thanks to TRT, I had the unique privilege to watch and review an advance copy of Freeheld last April. I spoke with the filmmaker and met with her when she held a screening at Pleasant Street Theatre for her northeast premiere (see TRT, May 2007). We met again in November at the Northampton Independent Film Festival, NIFF, where the film was shown and we exchanged emails while Wade was at Sundance in January waiting for the news.

From the beginning, I knew this film was powerful on many levels. In 38 minutes, Wade shows us the lives of Laurel Hester and Stacie Andree. Hester was a retired New Jersey police lieutenant who, upon learning she was dying of lung cancer, wanted to ensure that her partner would receive her pension benefits. The Documentary Short gives us an insider's look into the last 10 weeks of Hester's life, the struggle for equal treatment under the law, and the supporting characters who provide us with hope that most people want to do what is right.

I interviewed Wade by phone on January 28, 2008.

**JM:** Congratulations on your Oscar nomination! You worked very hard for this. When we spoke last spring, you were beginning to premiere the film across the country. Describe this process.

**CW:** It's been really just a testament to everyone not getting distracted from what the film would mean in terms of the election year timing and the necessity of setting this stage. Many states will have same-sex ballot measures this year. I feel really satisfied that I followed up on everything I told Laurel I would do.

**Q:** What was the first thing you did when you heard the news?

**A:** I squealed and gave my husband a HIGH FIVE. He was with me taking care of the girls [Wade's daughters]. It was 2:30 a.m. in Utah at the Sundance Film Festival.

**Q:** How did Stacie and Dana and others close to Laurel take the news?

**A:** Everyone was on pins and needles. They all said they had restless sleep. Stacie was one of the first people I called, and she was happy and proud. The night before she re-found something of Laurel's in the house that she had forgotten about. A body chill went through her and she realized it [the Oscar nomination] would happen.

**Q:** What does the nomination mean for you as a filmmaker and for the content and intention of the film?

**A:** I'd like to address the content and intention first. I always envisioned this as a short documentary, and that is not always as counted by the industry as full-length documentaries. I experienced some disbelief from the industry. I knew it was much more effective in the ten weeks I spent with Laurel to edit for the 38 minute length rather than padding it to be a longer film. It can so easily be used for educational purposes.

I have shown this film in 26 states and seven countries for a total of 50 screenings, and I have faithfully used it to talk about issues of equality. People are too exhausted after 75-90 minutes for a good Q&A. Honoring the short film has been important. It was a long shot. I had to be willing to take the financial risk. This Oscar nomination is to fully realize Laurel's dream. Every film has its own path, and a film such as this has tremendous potential.

For me, having passed 20 years of filmmaking, it has been incredibly difficult to raise money. It is often very lonely with your own vision and a long road to realize it. I have been just a loner out there. This nomination is an amazing nod from the industry. It's an enormous honor and a dream. My life is the same. I am still sending out PR, figuring out how to pay staff, etc.

**Q:** Your day to day life is still the same?! Are you in shock?

**A:** Yes, it has not really sunk in. A week from today [on February 4], there will be an Oscar luncheon for all nominees in LA. I know this sounds weird, but I'm really worried about what to wear. This is not something I am used to. Not to stereotype, but I am very grateful that so many gay men have been helping me with this.

**Q:** How does this help you to fulfill Laurel Hester's dreams?

**A:** The election year timing was by design. I made a promise to Laurel to use the film as a way to leverage the awareness. With the Oscar nomination, we can do this exponentially. On nomination day, we got 6,000 hits [on our web site] from 47 countries. We cannot underestimate the power of it.

**Q:** Art can change social norms. How can and will this film serve in this way?

**A:** Individual communities take small steps. A woman from Kansas just e-mailed me; she did not realize that, as a heterosexual, she had so many more rights than lesbians and gay men. With an ordinary couple such as Stacie



CYNTHIA WADE

Photo by: Heidi Gutman and Laurel, people can understand the issue of equality. It is helpful in opening other people's eyes.

**Q:** Why are you raising money and how will it be used?

**A:** I have been working with several leading groups and foundations to understand major votes, and I have learned that there will be eight to nine breakthrough states during this election year. Issues range from domestic partnerships to marriage equality. If we can win the Oscar, there will be many more events. I have deferred my own salary for two years. I have to keep the staff going and pay myself. We need to do targeted screenings in these states. Right now, staff is here without benefits because they believe in the story. It would be a missed opportunity not to be able to fully realize this film's impact and potential.

This is not just for the gay community. There needs to be a hybrid audience. I worked with the Mormon community last summer. The woman who underwrote the Salt Lake City release had left the church and come out as lesbian. She saw the film in California, and felt it was important to bring it to Salt Lake City. I had three days of screenings there. Domestic benefit rights are a huge issue. The mayor is for it; others are against it. Most of the underwriter's friends came. Couples stayed for discussion.

See Freeheld on Page 4



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**Mark Casey, MD**

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## In 'The Name of God'

# Court upholds dismissal of suit over schools' same-sex teaching

BOSTON (AP)—A federal appeals court on Thursday upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit filed by Lexington parents who objected to same-sex families being discussed in their

children's elementary school classrooms.

Tonia and David Parker of Lexington sued school officials in April 2006 after their son brought home a book from kindergarten that

depicted a gay family. Joseph and Robin Wirthlin joined the suit after a second-grade teacher read the class a story about two

when the school imposes no requirement that the student agree with or affirm those ideas, or even participate in discussions about them."

**"Public schools are not obliged to shield individual students from ideas which potentially are religiously offensive, particularly when the school imposes no requirement that the student agree with or affirm those ideas, or even participate in discussions about them," the court said in its ruling.**

### Freeheld from page 3

The national public radio affiliate held an hour-long interview with me.

Also, the chaplain at DePaul University was moved. This is a very Catholic place. Other Catholic universities were invited to come because the chaplain thought it was important.

**Q:** Have you experienced any negative feedback?

**A:** No, and I have been waiting for it. Shelter Dogs [Wade's HBO documentary about an animal rescue shelter that both places and euthanizes dogs] slammed me with animal activists. I had to get a security guard for some of the screenings. I thought this would be the same. It has not happened.

**Q:** What did you like at Sundance?

**A:** I only saw two films because I was so busy preparing for the Academy Award nominee announcement. I met with potential funders. I saw a film called American Soldier: A Recruiter. I had shot some of the film [Wade teaches advanced cinematography courses at the New School]. I liked that it was a non-judgmental way to show how the world's best sales person does this with high school students.

Also, I saw a Boston-based film called Secrecy. It is about the movement towards a secretive government in this country. My friend is the filmmaker.

**Q:** Have you seen the other Doc-Short contenders?

**A:** Yes, I have seen the doc-short contenders. They are all beautifully-shot films.

I am friends with the filmmakers who are in competition with me. Ours has the strongest ties to immediate social issues in this country.

**Q:** Will you attend the Academy Awards ceremony? [believing that the writers' strike will be over]

**A:** Yes, I will attend.

**Q:** What are you working on now?

**A:** Nothing right at this moment since we have morphed into a PR agency from a film company. I just directed a commissioned documentary for a pediatric hospital in Phoenix.

I am considering two themes for my next film. Death row-based is possible, or it could be an immigration-themed film.

**Q:** How can we—as leaders and activists—help you?

**A:** By blogging and having a presence on the Internet. A donation towards our election outreach is much appreciated. Go to our web site: www.freeheld.com. You can sign up for a future DVD that will be released this summer. It will have extras and additional footage. On the drop-down menu under "Contact," there are instructions for tax-deductible donations through our fiscal sponsor, Women Make Movies. Also, you can help by keeping the awareness and buzz alive.

**Note:** The conversation ended when I told Cynthia that in my 25+ years of activism, she is the ally I am most moved by. Her journey is far from over in terms of commitment to

full equality, knowing the power of her film, and spending her own resources to raise awareness about LGBT rights. Support her and the film, every-one.

princes falling in love.

In a ruling last week, the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with a judge who ruled in February 2007 that parents' rights to exercise their religious beliefs are not violated when their children are exposed to contrary ideas in school.

"Public schools are not obliged to shield individual students from ideas which potentially are religiously offensive, particularly

the court said in its ruling.

Jeffrey Denner, an attorney for the parents, said they were disappointed with the ruling and are considering appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Normally, when kids are taught certain things, they believe it to come from on high," Denner said. "I think this influences the way they think in very, very direct ways and becomes functionally indoctrinating to them."

## N.H. lawmaker withdraws bill to curb civil unions

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—A bill to bar New Hampshire from recognizing same-sex unions outside the state has been unexpectedly withdrawn.

State Rep. Maureen Baxley—who opposed the bill—told the House Judiciary Committee at the start of a hearing recently that the sponsors had asked her to request that the House kill the bill. The Legislature had fought over the same issue last year and rejected it in

favor of adopting a civil unions law that just took effect.

The civil unions law recognizes civil unions and same-sex marriages contracted outside New Hampshire as civil unions under the state's law. The bill would have prohibited that. The bill faced long odds of passing this year.

The Catholic Diocese of Manchester submitted testimony supporting the ban.

### Country from page 2

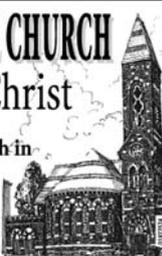
Finally, who in their right heart would vote for Ron Paul? He is anti-choice (refers to fetus murders and overturning Roe), anti-immigration (secure the borders now!), believes in church and state (noting that the secular Left is anti-Christian), he "seeks Jesus Christ's guidance in all that he does (sound too familiar?)," he believes that all Americans have a right to bear any arms (including assault weapons, and not restricted by psychiatric assessment), he is against all stem-cell research, and he is against any measure of affirmative action as it applies to race and gender.

Paul is yet another extreme example of exploiting religion without a true spiritual practice. He claims to want government out of our private lives, but if you review my short list, it is obvious that he picks and

chooses based on his own bias. See his web site. Much of his rhetoric is about the needs of individuals rather than groups. As a privileged white heterosexual male, perhaps he does not have to worry about group affiliation since he is de facto in the power group. His principles are counter to any form of cooperative existence. This is so bad that I can hardly think about it. To express support for Ron Paul is irresponsible when our country and the world are in such precarious states. The course of history and the health, liberty and lives of many are on the line. This is serious business.

*\* J.M. Sorrell is a Justice of the Peace and an elder advocate. She uses humor as a defense mechanism regularly, but she finds it particularly challenging as applied to global politics these days. Vote, please. Change is necessary.*

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# Green Street Café: Rising like the Phoenix

By: Nicole C. Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

Initially launching in 1991 and temporarily closing for 8-months during 2007, Green Street Café has been born again, according to the restaurant's founder and co-owner.

"We closed down on Feb 28, 2007 and reopened in October of that same year, renovated some, and added a wine and cheese bar that sits 20 people. It runs every night from 5-midnight, no reservations needed," said John Sielski, Co-owner, Green Street Café, Northampton, Mass.

Sielski and Jim Dozmati, co-owner and life-long partner of 31 years, husband of 3 years, claim that the most important service they offer is the quality of their products.

"The quality of the food is the most important thing here," said Sielski. "Everything that we do here is because of the food. We grow our own vegetables; we're organic. We're well staffed in the kitchen. Everything that we do emanates from the kitchen, which emanates from the garden."

A 40-year veteran of the restaurant industry, Sielski says that the flavor of the food is what continues to keep him excited about this business. Food selections at the Green Street Café range from Root Vegetable Rinaldo to Steak, Duck and Lamb. In addition to the food selection, a wide variety of wines are also available, the wine list offering 23 options.



Photo by: N. Lashomb

Green St. Café continues to have a very successful Wine and Cheese Bar that sits 20 people and goes on all night long. The Green St. Café is located at 64 Green St., Northampton, Mass.

According to Sielski, Green Street Café caters to private functions for the business community and general public too.

"At times, small groups of professionals will have meetings and presentations here or people reserve different rooms for parties," said Sielski.

Private dining rooms are available for par-

ties with 8 - 50 guests. Accommodations to reserve the entire restaurant, which seats 90, can also be arranged.

"We have great flexibility because we have a large space," said Sielski.

The hours of operation for the Green Street Café are as follows: Lunch: Monday-Friday 12 p.m. - 2 p.m., Dinner: Every night from 5

p.m., and Sunday brunch from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. No reservations are needed.

The Green Street Café is located at 64 Green Street in Northampton, Mass. For more information or to arrange your private reservation, call 413-586-5650.

"Wear jeans or dress up, everything goes," said Sielski.

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### ADAM RUDOLPH'S MOVING PICTURES

**Thursday, February 28, 7:30 pm  
Bowker Auditorium**

A "pioneer of world music" Adam Rudolph brings his Moving Picture Octet to the Fine Arts Center featuring Hamid Drake, Graham Haynes, Steve Gorn, Ned Rothenberg, Shani Blumenkrantz, Kenny Wessel, Brahim Fribgane. \$15; Five College Students \$7; Youth 17 and under \$7



### DAN ZANES AND FRIENDS, PAJAMA PARTY

**Friday, February 29, 7:30 pm, Concert Hall**

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Please come at 6:30 for our annual pre-show party for families. Join the staff from FamilyFun Magazine for some hands-on craft activities and free milk and cookies for everyone while they last.



### MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

**Tuesday, March 4, 7:30 pm, Concert Hall**

The Monterey Jazz Festival celebrates its 50th anniversary with a national tour featuring Terence Blanchard, James Moody, Benny Green, Nnenna Freelon, Derrick Hodge and Kendrick Scott.

\$35, \$25, \$15; Five College Students \$15, \$10, \$7; Youth 17 and under \$12

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## Queer News: Take Action

### Lambda Legal Announces Fellowship for African-American LGBT Civil Rights

Lambda Legal announces the Garner Fellowship as it prepares to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Lawrence and Garner v. Texas, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, in June 2008.

New York—Lambda Legal is proud to announce the establishment of the Tyron Garner Memorial Fellowship for African-American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Civil Rights, named for one of the men in Lambda Legal's landmark lawsuit that overturned existing sodomy laws across the United States.

Through the program, Lambda Legal hopes to extend its current work serving people of

color, and to increase the diversity of attorneys working in the movement for LGBT rights by mentoring law students who intend to focus on those issues within the African-American community. The Garner Fellowship will address the intersection of LGBT discrimination and racism, sexism, and poverty that affects African-American LGBT communities.

The fellowship committee is looking for candidates who have first-hand understanding of the issues that affect communities of color and have experience working with LGBT and HIV issues within the African-American communities.

"Tyron Garner didn't set out to be an activist," said Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart. "But he had the courage and conviction to stand up to an unjust law. Because of his challenge to the Texas sodomy law, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that love, sexuality, and family play the same role in gay people's lives as they do for everyone else. His struggle will have a lasting impact for all of us, gay or straight, who value our constitutional rights."

The fellowship is a tribute to Garner, an African-American man, who died in 2006 at the age of 39.

Lawrence and Garner v. Texas Background:

In September 1998, sheriff's deputies burst into a Houston, Texas, apartment where Garner was having sex with John Lawrence. Both men were arrested and charged with violating the Texas Homosexual Conduct Law. They eventually appealed their case, Lawrence and Garner v. Texas, to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Lambda Legal's victory swept away sodomy laws remaining in 13 states, and vindicated the constitutional right to privacy between consenting adults.

To apply to the Tyron Garner Memorial Fellowship please visit: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/about-us/jobs/attorney/tyron-garner-memorial-fellow.html>

### NY Post runs offensive lesbian headline, newspaper has history of anti-gay slurs

The New York Post today ran a story about an ongoing criminal trial with the outrageous and offensive headline "Evil Lesbian Mom Left Toddler to Die Slow Death: DA."

The Post's decision to describe the subject of this article using the phrase "evil lesbian"—when it clearly would not highlight the orientation of a heterosexual suspect—is the latest incident in the paper's long, documented history of anti-gay slurs.

"The Post does it again," said Rashad Robinson, GLAAD's Senior Director of Media Programs. "Yet another inflammatory irresponsible headline designed to defame an entire community rather than inform the story."

**The Post's decision to describe the subject of this article using the phrase "evil lesbian"—when it clearly would not highlight the orientation of a heterosexual suspect—is the latest incident in the paper's long, documented history of anti-gay slurs.**

In addition, the story used the gratuitous and sensationalistic term "lesbian lovers."

After GLAAD contacted editors at the New York Post, its representatives refused to change the offensive headline on its website.

GLAAD strongly urges you to contact the New York Post and demand that it change the

online version of the headline to reflect the reality that the suspect's sexual orientation is irrelevant to the facts of the case. Tell the Post you will not tolerate its continued disrespect

### Film in Contention for "Best Documentary Short Subject" Oscar

Los Angeles—The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) recently congratulated director Cynthia Wade and producer Vanessa Roth on the nomination of their film, *Freeheld*, for an Academy Award® in the category of "Best Documentary Short Subject." This is the first Oscar® nomination for Wade and Roth.

*Freeheld* documents the struggle of New Jersey Detective Lieutenant Laurel Hester in her effort to transfer her pension to her domestic partner, Stacie Andree. With less than six months to live as cancer spreads to her brain, Laurel battles the Ocean County Freeholders, her elected officials, to give to Stacie what heterosexual married couples receive automatically. The film captures both the very public and urgent dispute with the Freeholders, as well as Laurel and Stacie's intensely private struggle as they come to

terms with losing one another.

"Freeheld shows the power that personal stories have to change hearts and minds and to move a community to action," said GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano. "Though the film's impetus was the discrimination gay and lesbian couples face, it is ultimately about the triumph of spirit and how a community came together to do the right thing."

The telecast of the 80th Annual Academy Awards® is scheduled for Sunday, February 24 on ABC.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. For more information, please visit [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org).



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## Local Business Events & Accomplishments

### For the love of Women: Feb. 9th Winter Gala for Lesbians & friends

*The area's premiere event for lesbians benefiting the Women's Fund of Western MA*

Easthampton, MA— This year's *For The Love of Women* benefit gala will be held on Saturday, February 9, at 8:00 p.m., at The Clarion Hotel in Northampton, MA. An estimated 350 lesbian women and friends will come together to celebrate the lesbian community's commitment to creating social change for women and girls. Last year this premiere event for lesbians sold out so we've gone to a larger venue to accommodate the numbers expected.

Invitations are in the mail for this spectacular evening that will feature sweets and savories, mix and mingle, cash bar, a raffle, and two dance floors with hot tunes spun by DJ Thonsey Keopanya. There will also be a quieter "down tempo" room with couches for those seeking relaxing conversation. One of the most popular raffle prizes this year is a Caribbean cruise vacation for two, donated by Olivia, a cruise and travel organization catering to lesbians. Also on the raffle docket is a weekend getaway at an inn, a spa indulgence, and more. A downloadable version of the invitation is also available at [www.womensfund.net](http://www.womensfund.net). The event is wheelchair accessible.

The event is a benefit for the Women's

Fund of Western Massachusetts (WFWM), a foundation that supports women and girls throughout the four counties. To date the gala has raised more than \$100,000 from over 1,000 lesbians and their allies to benefit the Women's Fund, which is dedicated to advancing philanthropy that promotes social and economic equality for all women and girls in Western Massachusetts. "The funds raised support grantees and programs that help create a world where all women and girls can thrive. When the lives of women and girls improve, entire communities are lifted up," comments Executive Director Carla Oleska.

The event is generously underwritten by area business sponsors whose support for the For the Love of Women gala demonstrates their commitment to creating a community celebration while also promoting the mission of the Women's Fund.

Event admission is \$40 per person by pre-registration only, which can be made by contacting Julie Holt, Office Manager, WFWM, at 413-529-0087 x 10. Call by February 1st. Special room rates are available at the Clarion Hotel upon reservation.

### Local roofer gains recognition for Roof Recycling Program

*Adam Quenneville Roofing keeps the environment in mind on every job*

Springfield, MA—Adam Quenneville, of Adam Quenneville Roofing, was recently featured in a national publication for his unique environmentally-friendly recycling program.

With his unique recycling program, Quenneville purchased a dedicated dump truck that his team fills on each job. His dedicated recycling driver then hauls the thousands of pounds of waste to a recycling center in Connecticut.

"With my own truck, I figured I could take

**The materials that Quenneville recycles are used as a base for asphalt roads and as filling in sewer and pipe lines. "In the end, it costs a little more for the company to recycle all the waste, but I just felt like it was the right thing to do for my customers and for our environment," Quenneville said.**

With the program, Quenneville recycling the thousands of pounds of debris created by every roof replacement his company performs.

"Your average home has about 10,000 pounds of roofing come off when you replace a roof," Quenneville said. "I knew there had to be a better solution to get rid of that waste than just dumping it in a landfill."

Quenneville found a "green" solution and his company has been gaining attention for it ever since. Recently, he was featured in *The Compass*, the official magazine of Success Group International, an organization of successful business owners across the United States and Canada of which Quenneville is a member.

this trash anywhere I wanted, and with all the focus on the environment, I thought we could use it to make a difference. Last year alone, we recycled over three million pounds of roofing," Quenneville said.

The materials that Quenneville recycles are used as a base for asphalt roads and as filling in sewer and pipe lines. "In the end, it costs a little more for the company to recycle all the waste, but I just felt like it was the right thing to do for my customers and for our environment," Quenneville added.

Customers interested in recycling their existing roof and having a brand new roof installed with Adam Quenneville Roofing can contact Quenneville at 413-536-5955.

## ATTENTION: Homeowners

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## Queer Valentine Ideas

# Cupid Ain't Stupid: Valentine's gifts that'll getcha some

By: Mikey Rox\*

### Rio Grande

Let his package shine like the midday sun in swimwear by BoyRio (\$39.99-\$54.99, www.boyrio.com). Pairing daring prints with flattering fits, this Arizona-based company's concept draws on the exuberance of South American style, inspired by Brazil's breathtaking beaches, to create fresh, distinctive designs that'll make a splash

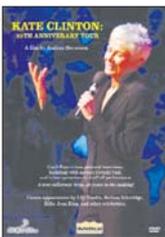


no matter where he touts his tan. Aptly providing more coverage than the bemoaned bikini while leaving less to the imagination than standard square-cuts, these "sungla" style suits—like the scorching Carmen Racer in red—combine the spirit of summer with an athletic aesthetic guaranteed to turn up your temperature. The added bonus? What goes on, must come off.

### Live, Love, Laugh

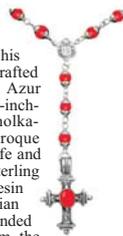
Add more dandy to your domestic partnership with side-splitting DVDs from Arizental Entertainment (www.arizental.com). On Kate Clinton: 25th Anniversary (\$19.95), the veteran performer celebrates a quarter-century of queer comedy with political satire, witty one-liners, and celeb cameos by Lily Tomlin, Melissa Etheridge and Billie Jean King. Extras include one-on-one chats with the legendary lesbian comedienne; "Kate on Katrina"; "Bushes and Dykes"; a backstage pass with Clinton and her partner of 19 years,

Urvashi; and "25 years of Hairstyles." For that gregarious guy, the third installment in Andrea Meyerson's series on gay comics, Laughing Matters... The Men (\$24.95), combines stand-up with candid interviews of today's most fagulous funny-men, including Bruce Vilanch, Alec Mapa, Bob Smith, Scott Kennedy, Andre Kelly and Eddy Sarfaty.



### He So Horny

Set his heart—or at least his neck—on fire with handcrafted jewelry by Cruz Azur (www.cruzazur.com). At 16-inches long, the Austin Smolka-designed rosary with baroque cross (\$75), symbolizing life and health, is made of 925 sterling silver, accented by a red resin stone at its center. The Italian horn or "cornu" (\$90), intended to protect the wearer from the evil eye and bring good luck, is 1.5-inches long by 1.2-inches wide and die cast in red resin topped with 925 sterling silver. True, this isn't what he picked out from Cartier, but what does he expect? Homo shouldn't have Manuhanted behind your back.



### Baskit Case

They say you shouldn't put all your eggs in

one basket, but what about your b@(((\$? An amalgamation of the all-over body tattoos worn by Japanese organized-crime syndicate, The Yakuza, Baskit's new Body Art line features low-rise briefs (\$21) constructed of 180gram cotton, while the Baskit Beauties boxer brief collection (\$22-\$24), crafted from the same quality material, pays homage to World War II-era U.S. Air Force bombers and their pinup girl-painted fuselages. Also available in '08: A bronze-green boxer brief with contrasting vermilion orange trim (\$18); a low-rise brief with white cotton body and mesh pouch (\$20); and the Lucky 7s swim bikini, inspired by LeMans' race cars (\$34). Gentleman, start your engines!



### Spread Your Seed

Enhance the environment and impress your sweetie by having a redwood seedling planted in his or her honor. For a donation of \$50 or more to Save-the-Redwoods League (www.savetheredwoods.org), you can give a gift that'll last more than 2,500 years as the League collaborates with California State Parks to cultivate and plant your seedling. Once germinated, the saplings are then returned to the same forest from which the seed originated. Save-the-Redwoods League delivers a commemorative card and photograph of an ancient redwood forest to the recipient to showcase the gift, and dedicated trees will support reforestation efforts in California. Until, of course, they all go up in flames. But, as Janet Jackson would say, "That's the way love goes."



er flies in the domestic United States. Savings include \$300 on companion travel (flight savings are \$75 per ticket with the required purchased of two tickets; members have access to this savings twice); 2,500 AAdvantage bonus miles; and discounts and special offers from program participants, such as Budget and Alamo rental cars, Samsonite, SkyMall, Ticketmaster, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, and more. Just remember to pack lightly. You'll want to preserve your energy for the many ways he'll thank you.



### Heart Songs

Pour some wine and snuggle up to singer-songwriter Ron Morris' "Boyfriend and Other Sides of Love" (www.ronmorrismusic.com), an intimate pop-folk EP that covers the five facets of amore: loving, longing, laughing, loneliness and, of course, murder. The album's eponymous first single hinges on the edge of hopeless romanticism while capturing the playful waiting for a lover's return with several incarnations, including remixes by The Freemans, People Theatre, and V \* I \* R \* G \* O. Along with the title track, the disc also includes "Masterpiece of Why," a preview track from Morris' upcoming full-length CD, True Stained Lies; a boys-will-be-boys version of the late composer Hughie Cannon's classic "Frankie and Johnny," and a cover of "We All Sleep Alone," made famous by the incomparable Cher. Which you probably know by heart.



\* Who is Mikey Rox? Who gives a #@&! But you can visit him at www.myspace.com/rox-mikey.

## WANTED: LOCAL ENTERTAINERS

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## Queer Health News & More

# Sleep: The most important Cure for other problems

By: Dr. Renee Lang/TRT Health Columnist

Most of us experience a bout of insomnia at some point in our lives. Whether caused by an acute stress or done deliberately to cram for an exam, insomnia affects our state of health the next day. Individual episodes of insomnia don't appear to cause long-term health problems.

However, frequent episodes of insomnia do contribute to multiple negative effects on the body. Insomnia is defined as an inability to fall asleep, inability to maintain sleep, waking up too early (less than 7 hours), or restless or poor quality sleep. The optimal amount of sleep per night falls between 7-9 hours.

Chronic insomnia, insomnia lasting longer than 30 days, causes or contributes to weight gain, hormone imbalance, fatigue, mood disorders, and decreased ability to deal with stress. In addition, insomnia may contribute to thyroid dysfunction, increased blood pressure, cancer, diabetes, and pain.

A recent study demonstrated that women who slept 5 hours or less per night weighed almost 5.5 lbs more than women who slept more than 7 hours. Individuals getting fewer than 7 hours of sleep per night have an

increased risk of obesity. Obesity in turn increases an individual's risk for diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, high blood pressure, cancer and respiratory problems. Obesity itself causes 17% of cancer deaths.

Chronic insomnia also causes hormone imbalances that cause or contribute to PMS, menopause symptoms, fatigue, depression and anxiety, irritability, decreased sex drive, and thyroid disorders. During a typical health night, levels of melatonin, growth hormone, and serotonin increase in the body. These hormones promote restoration and regeneration. Insomnia often increases levels of the stress hormone cortisol and high cortisol levels, stimulated by stress and thoughts of the day, cause insomnia.

The release of cortisol decreases or inhibits the release of serotonin, melatonin, and growth hormone. Serotonin is one of the key hormones that regulate mood, appetite, pain, and the sense of well-being. Decreased levels due to insomnia cause depression, anxiety, fatigue, irritability, and contribute to PMS and menopause.

Consistent, adequate, and restful sleep must be obtained for optimal well-being and health.



DR. RENEE LANG

Prescription medications for insomnia allow an individual to fall asleep but may interfere with deep, restorative sleep. In addition, many of them may be addictive physically or emotionally. None of them treat the underlying causes of

insomnia. Instead I recommend seeking help from a naturopathic doctor or qualified holistic practitioner.

The following diet and lifestyle suggestions promote proper sleep.

- Get regular exercise 5 days per week including weight bearing and cardio.
- Learn stress management techniques including deep breathing, reframing, or meditation.
- Avoid smoking and alcohol consumption in general and especially within two hours of bed.
- Avoid caffeine and sugar before bed.
- Check prescription medication for side effects and caffeine.
- Avoid taking stimulating nutrients after 4 or 5 p.m. including carnitine and B vitamins.

In addition to the above diet and lifestyle recommendations, multiple natural remedies

exist. Commonly used supplements include magnesium, calcium, melatonin and 5HTP. If taking magnesium or calcium use the citrate or glycinate forms. 5HTP and melatonin should be used under the guidance of a qualified practitioner.

Common herbal remedies include valerian, passionflower, skullcap, and lemon balm. Some individuals experience a paradoxical effect from valerian resulting in increased anxiety or insomnia. Take a trial dose initially during the day on a day when you're not required to operate machinery. Lemon balm may cause a negative effect on thyroid hormone levels and should not be used in those with hypothyroid except under the supervision of a qualified practitioner.

As always, when using herbal remedies use only the highest quality herbs from reputable companies and get dosage advice from a qualified practitioner.

Insomnia affects millions of people each year. If you experience insomnia do not ignore it. Seek help from your doctor or a local naturopathic doctor. When treated you will experience a much more rewarding and enjoyable life.

\* Dr. Renee Lang is the owner of Pioneer Naturopathic Medicine in Northampton and in Brattleboro, Vermont. Submit your question to Dr. Lang at TRT's website (Health Section).

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## Pride & Joy Celebrates 16 Years

NORTHAMPTON, MA—On Saturday, February 16th, *Pride & Joy* will celebrate 16 years of serving the LGBT community with a "Sweet 16" party all day long. There will be free gifts, in-store



discounts, surprise author appearances and more—come say hello and grab a piece of birthday cake! The store is located at 20 Crafts Avenue in downtown Northampton. For directions, go to [www.nohoprideandjoy.com](http://www.nohoprideandjoy.com).

## Queer Cinema You Can't Miss!

### Vivere (Lesbian)

Genre: Drama, Romance; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release  
Director: Angelina Maccarone  
Starring: Hannelore Elsner, Esther Zimmering, Kim Schnitzer, Egbert-Jan Weeber, Tygo Gernand; Release Date: 02/29/08  
Notes: Premiered at 2008 Palm Springs International Film Festival

Synopsis: The lives of three troubled women intersect one fateful Christmas Eve and become inextricably linked in this touching exploration of Francesca, Eva and Gerlinde—three lost souls on the run.

### Shelter (Gay)

Genre: Drama, Romance; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release  
Director: Jonah Markowitz  
Starring: Trevor Wright, Brad Rowe, Tina Holmes, Jackson Wurth, Ross Thomas  
Release Date: 03/21/08  
Notes: Premiered at 2008 Palm Springs International Film Festival

Synopsis: An unexpected attraction to his best friend's older brother forces Zach, a handsome artist and surfer, to reconcile his own desires with

the needs of his family in first-time director Jonah Markowitz's sentimental and well-acted gay surfer romance.

### Filthy Gorgeous: The Trannyshack Story (TRANS)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release  
Director: Sean Mullens  
Release Date: 00/00/00

Synopsis: This documentary looks at the "gender delusionists" of San Francisco's infamous club Trannyshack.

### Four Letter Word, A (Lesbian, Gay)

Genre: Comedy, Romance; Rating: Not yet rated  
Limited Release; Director: Casper Andreas; Distributor: Embrem Entertainment  
Release Date: 03/01/08

Notes: Premiered at 2007 Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival; Synopsis: Luke (Archer) is always looking for the next hot guy -- until he meets Stephen (David), who makes him consider monogamy for the first time. Meanwhile, Marilyn (Virginia Bryan) is busy planning her wedding -- until her female AA sponsor confesses her feelings for her.

# The Rainbow Times

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"A rare opportunity to witness the courage and grace of everyday families."

Join WGBY and Producer Agnes Chu for an advance screening and discussion of *Anyone and Everyone*, an unforgettable film about the parents of gay children. Coming from a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds, they share intimate accounts of how their children revealed their sexual orientation, discuss their responses and reveal the personal struggles of dealing with the pain suffered by their children when they were not accepted by friends, family and places of worship.

"It should be seen by anyone and everyone."

"Eye-opening, riveting, wrenching and inspiring; it will touch the hearts of all who see it."

"Truly an amazing film."

**Thursday, March 6 at 7pm**  
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**WGBY**



This event is **FREE** and open to the public.  
Television premiere March 10 at 8pm on WGBY.

## QPolitics & More Opinions

# Some gay activists frustrated as issues linger on sideline of 2008 campaign

By: David Crary/AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Few constituencies are as eager for the Republican Party to falter this political season as gay-rights activists. Yet as they observe the Democratic presidential campaign and the rest of the electoral landscape, their high hopes often are mixed with frustration.

Even as they expect to support whichever Democrat gets the presidential nomination, many activists are disappointed that the three leading contenders rarely mention gay-rights topics unless responding to a question.

"They don't want to broach civil unions, marriage, equalizing benefits for same-sex couples," said Jennifer Chrisler, head of the Family Equality Council, which supports gay and lesbian families. "The vast majority of politicians don't lead, they follow."

Debra Chasnoff, a San Francisco filmmaker whose documentaries often explore gay-

rights themes, said the gay community's votes are up for grabs—to any candidate who seeks them boldly.

"They're all saying they're the ones for change—and one thing this country needs change on is having a president who's for marriage equality," Chasnoff said. "Instead, there's silence."

Kerry Eleveid, news editor of The Advocate, a prominent gay-oriented news magazine, drew a distinction between activists with major national gay-rights groups and local activists without ties to Washington power-brokers.

"The grass-roots activists are upset that the candidates haven't been more out there, especially on the issue of same-sex marriage," she said. "The lobbyist activists think in terms of electability. They're always going to be a little more practical and give more leeway to the candidates."

The president of the largest national gay-rights organization, Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign, is upbeat about the campaign. His group co-sponsored a televised forum last August in which the Democratic candidates addressed gay-rights topics, and he believes most gays and lesbians remain enthusiastic about the Democratic field despite some impatience.

Solmonese also sees an easing of anti-gay rhetoric across the political scene—a contrast to 2004 and 2006 when voters in more than 20 states approved measures to ban gay marriage.

"Among those people who use the politics of fear, there's typically an element of American society that's put forward as a wedge issue, and in this election it's illegal immigrants," Solmonese said. "It doesn't seem to be us." Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, noted

that the campaign rhetoric is dominated by overarching issues—the economy, Iraq, health care—that virtually all voters, including gays, agree are paramount.

"These campaigns are driven by polling data," he said.

Beyond presidential politics and the Florida ballot measure, some activists point to other developments as reasons for optimism. For example, a grass-roots group, the National Stonewall Democrats, is working to boost the number of gay and lesbian delegates at the Democratic National Convention. Spokesman John Marble said the goal is to have more than 320 such delegates out of a total of 4,049; that would be up from 282 gay delegates in 2004.

The long-term hope is that these gay delegates stay active in politics.

## Realistic New Year Resolutions: It is what I intend to do this year, unlike before

By: Deja Greenlaw/ITRT Columnist

It's February already. It seems like New Year's Eve was just a couple of weeks or so ago. I'm glad that the winter period is going fast, but I hope it slows down as the warmer weather finally starts arriving. Time sure does fly and we have been recently entertained by the Presidential race and the football playoffs but we are still in the currently tender, young life of year 2008. And, speaking of which, I have a question for all of you. How are you doing with keeping up with your New Year's resolutions? Broke any? Broke them

all? Or, have you been good?

Looking back at past New Year's, I remember making my New Year's resolutions. When I was a child every year my number one resolution every single year was to not wear women's clothes. Yes, every year I was going to "straighten out" and be a boy/man and this compulsion to wear pretty dresses and makeup was getting in the way—After all, I was a boy and I rejected the idea of being a "sissy" and later on of being a "girlie man". Yes, every year was the year that I would stop this crazy, embarrassing "habit" and start becoming a man. Yes, this was the year that I would

finally do it!

Of course I never kept that resolution. Year after year, I would break it in a matter of days, sometimes hours. I just couldn't go on without my "girl fix." I was inexplicably addicted to dressing and being a girl and I was confused and ashamed and mad at myself for once more breaking my #1 resolution. I knew I was in over my head, I just didn't know how deep.

Now I look back and I see how wrong I was



DEJA NICOLE GREENLAW

ter with it. I'm not sure exactly how I dealt with it except for slowly accepting that I was "different" from the other children.

I imagine that some Gays and Lesbians just might have had similar resolutions trying to "straighten out" their lives. And I know how lonely and confusing that can be. And, to make a New Year's resolution to "correct" it just sets your self up for certain failure year after year. To experience failure so early, year after year, just adds to the low self esteem. What a way to start the New Year!

Now I make kinder, gentler resolutions or none at all. If I do make them, I think to see if they are attainable.

This year, I didn't really make any, but, I will try to watch my weight, to take good care

**I imagine that some Gays and Lesbians just might have had similar resolutions trying to "straighten out" their lives. I know how lonely and confusing that can be.**

to even think that I could "straighten out" but I had no information or support back then. I thought that I was all alone with this problem and that there was no one like me in the whole world. I didn't dare ask anyone or tell anyone about my "problem," because I was afraid what might have happened. I envisioned my parents being ashamed and my friends and relatives looking at me funny. And for a boy to admit that he really is a girl was just simply out of the question back then. It was not easy dealing with this "problem" especially when you are starting school and you are learning about society and the gender expectations. I admit that it was pretty tough trying to deal with this at the tender age of 5 years old. As the years went by, I got a little better and bet-

of myself, to treat myself well, and to further explore and teach non-trans people about transgender people. Even if all I do is to have them [non-trans people] see me doing all the "normal" things that everyone does ... go to the market, run errands, go to shows, concerts, dinners, clubs etc. Just being an active part in society. I don't have to change everyone's mind. I would be happy if I can change just a few.

*\* Deja Nicole Greenlaw is an active member of UniTy, a Springfield, MA Transgender group. She is now female and has transitioned in her job at 3M after working there for 15 years as male. She is a father of three adult children and believes in being out and visible as Transgender.*



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## The Enchantress: Idina Menzel casts another spell on queers with her new CD

By B. Voss

She defied gravity in *Wicked*, but now Tony-winning Broadway belter Idina Menzel is defying expectations with her intimate and heartfelt pop album, *I Stand*. Still floating from the previous night's surprise appearance at *Splash*, New York's premiere gay dance club, the Long Island-born Enchanted star examined her queer career path and explained why she's over the moon for her gay fans.

**Q:** When did you first feel love from the gay community?

**A:** When I played a sexy gay performance artist in *Rent*, I got a lot of letters from young people coming out who liked being portrayed in a very fierce and strong way.

**Q:** Were you concerned about being typecast as a hypersexual lesbian?

**A:** I never worried about that at all. I just wanted to do good material. This week we found out *Rent* was closing in June, and it's been pretty emotional. I've been looking back, thinking about how it touched my life. That's where I met my husband [Taye Diggs]. I got to spend time with Jonathan Larson before he passed away. It set a tone for how I want to be and how I want to experience life. It taught me to embrace every moment and appreciate what's given to me. That show was a real gift.

**Q:** Coincidentally, your first film role was as a bridesmaid in the lesbian comedy *Kissing Jessica Stein*.

**A:** I only had one line: "Are you a lesbian?" But yeah, Taye thinks there's something to it.

**Q:** Did you anticipate how much your character Elphaba in *Wicked* would resonate with the gay community?

**A:** No, I just knew it was something special that I wanted to be a part of, but I totally understand why. That's what I love so much about the gay community: They're outspoken and not afraid to celebrate their individuality, and that's what Elphaba is searching for.

**Q:** Just when one thought *Wicked* couldn't get any gayer, Tracy Young came out with a killer club remix of "Defying Gravity."

**A:** Defying gravity—I mean, what better words to describe partying in a club till two in the morning? Like the dance remixes of "Gorgeous"—I love the fact that my music can take on a different incarnation in the clubs. The idea of people dancing to my music is really unbelievable to me.

**Q:** Last year you performed "Defying Gravity" at New York's Heritage of Pride Dance on the Pier and at the White Party in Palm Springs.

**A:** It's very important to me to connect to my gay audience because they're the most supportive—and they also have the best taste. [Laughs] So it was an honor.

**Q:** Your costar and fan Amy Adams said that she had to pester you quite a bit before you finally sang "Defying Gravity" with her on the set of *Enchanted*. Why did it take you so long to give in?

**A:** I loved *Wicked*, but I was excited to be in a movie, finally doing something else for a change! [Laughs] It was also six in the morning while we were getting our makeup done, and she's fluttering around me singing the Glinda lines!

**Q:** Does the backlash against the *Rent* film make you hesitant to be involved with the inevitable *Wicked* film?

**A:** I would love to play Elphaba on film, but I don't think they're even close to making it.

Hopefully, by the time they do, I won't be playing Elphaba's grandmother. But it was such a coup to be asked to do the *Rent* movie, having been in the original cast 10 years earlier. I never expected that to happen, so I struck gold. I'm proud of what we did, but you can't please everyone.

**Q:** What made you want to work with producer Glen Ballard on your new album?

**A:** Well, he co-wrote "Man in the Mirror," you know. I was also a huge Alanis Morissette fan, but it was about more than her music; I loved hearing about their process of working together. Like me, she came from a different world—the young pop scene in Canada—but she really wanted to write her own music. He was patient and worked with her a long time. Likewise, he wasn't threatened by my versatility, which often happens when people want to pick one road, one direction. We found a cohesive style, but he allowed all my influences to come into play.

**Q:** How does it feel to perform your own material?

**A:** It's a nice change, but it's scarier to sing your own songs. You can't hide behind green makeup—it's just you out there.

**Q:** You named the album after the track "I Stand." What exactly do you stand for?

**A:** When I was writing that song I thought, Who am I? What do I believe? What do I contribute? I'm not the type of person who gets up on her soapbox and preaches about politics. Would I like to be eventually? Sure, and I hope that I can help change the world in some important way. And I don't really know how I feel about God and spirituality, but I still pray every day. I guess I stand for people who are lonely, because I have a good life and I know I still feel lonely a lot. I feel really awkward and strange in my body sometimes, and I wanted people to know that.

**Q:** Tell me about "Gorgeous," which is shaping up to be another gay anthem.

**A:** For me, "Gorgeous" is about Romeo and Juliet. It's about Taye and Idina—a Black man with a White woman. It's about two lovers of the same sex. It's about loving who you want to love despite what anyone may think.

**Q:** How does Taye feel about you releasing love songs based on your relationship?

**A:** He knows as an actor and an artist that we always take little germs of ideas from our personal lives and then embellish them. It's a very intimate and personal album, yet I also use my imagination.

**Q:** Does coming home to that hunk ever get old?

**A:** [Laughs] No. Especially because we're always traveling, so being home together is really rare.

**Q:** It must get old to always have your gay friends drooling over him.

**A:** Oh, that's okay, because let's just say that we've seen each other at our best and our worst. But what I love about him is that he's a really good morning person. He's not grouchy. I've had boyfriend in the past who needed their alone time in the morning, but Taye always wakes up happy.

**Q:** Your new single "Brave" begs the question: What are you afraid of?

**A:** I'm ashamed of this, but I'm afraid of people not liking me. I so want to be liked. I put my heart and soul into this album, and hopefully my core audience will take this leap with me.

For more information on Idina Menzel visit: [www.idinamenzel.com](http://www.idinamenzel.com). Idina Menzel's *I Stand* (Warner Bros.) is out now.

### TransAmerican Love Story

LOGO's new trans dating reality show is on! The lovely trans entertainer actress and activist Calpernia Addams will choose from eight eligible men to finally stay with the man of her dreams.

Alec Mapa hosts this groundbreaking and frolicsome elimination dating show. The transgender bachelorette, Calpernia, finds herself in a modern day fairytale as she's being wooed by the dashing men. With the help of her trans best friend Andrea and a parade of challenges and dates, Calpernia whittles down her group of suitors in hopes of finding her prince charming.

For more information about the show: [www.logoonline.com/shows/dyn/transamerican\\_love\\_story/series.jhtml](http://www.logoonline.com/shows/dyn/transamerican_love_story/series.jhtml)



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## Gay Traveling

## Out of Town: Visit Hong Kong, China



By: Andrew Collins\*

Comprising an archipelago of mountainous islands and a similarly precipitous peninsula extending from the China mainland, Hong Kong is one of the world's most spectacularly beautiful cities. It's also one of the Pacific Rim's hottest destinations for gays and lesbians, fans of fashion and gourmet dining, free-wheeling investors and entrepreneurs, and devotees of luxury hotels. Nearly all of the world's leading hotel chains have outposts in this famous trading port at the mouth of the Pearl River Delta.

From 1842 through 1997, Hong Kong was a British colony. In the decade since the United Kingdom handed this prosperous territory back to China, Hong Kong has continued to enjoy great popularity as a center of business and trade as well as retaining its status as a major tourist destination.

Now one of two "special administrative regions" of China (the other being the nearby island of Macau, which until 1999 had been a colony of Portugal), Hong Kong nevertheless maintains its own distinct identity. This territory of about 7 million people has its own currency (\$1 U.S. equals about 7.80 Hong Kong dollars as of this writing), law enforcement, legal system, and customs and immigration policies. Automobile traffic follows British road rules, and even though Hong Kong is technically part of China, North American and British citizens do not require visas for entry, as they do when they cross the border into China.

Although the overwhelming majority of Hong Kong residents are of Chinese descent, visitors to Hong Kong will encounter a large population of Westerners - not just Brits but also other Europeans, as well as Americans and Australians. In the major commercial and tourism-driven neighborhoods, most signs and menus are written in English and Cantonese (the territory's official language), and most residents and employees speak at least some English. In fact, there are parts of Hong Kong that appear so heavily influenced by the West that, for better or for worse, you may feel as though you're not in Asia at all.

In comparison with other Asian cities, Hong Kong has a fairly visible and well-organized gay community, with an LGBT social and cultural scene that has grown steadily in recent years. This is in part because the city is such an international business and leisure hub, but also because attitudes toward gays and lesbians are steadily becoming more favorable throughout the Pacific Rim. Still, the tradi-

tional attitudes of China and even old-school Britain largely prevail. In this sense, gays and lesbians in Hong Kong tend to be more discreet and, in many cases, closeted, than in most major Western cities.

For visitors, shopping and dining rank among the favorite local pastimes. Hong Kong isn't quite the bargain retail destination it was years ago, but the territory is still rife with both sleek upscale shopping centers and quirky, discount and specialty markets. It's quite fascinating to stroll through the Flower Market in Kowloon, or to explore the clothing stalls of Stanley Market on the south side of Hong Kong Island.

In terms of sightseeing, there's quite a lot to see and do, and Hong Kong is an easy place to navigate (by cheap and efficient subway lines, ferry boats, taxis, and buses). Hong Kong Island is laced with sculpted bays and beautiful beaches, some of them with gay facilities - notably Gold Coast Beach, off Castle Peak Road, and Middle Bay, off South Bay Road. No visit here is complete without taking the tram to Victoria Peak, which rises nearly 2,000 feet above the city center and on clear days affords panoramic views of the territory and surrounding waters. Also set aside time to visit the massive Tian Tan Buddha statue, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, and - if you're a fan of amusement parks - Hong Kong's own giddy outpost of Disneyland.

Just keep in mind Hong Kong's sometimes sultry, semi-tropical climate when planning a visit. The territory can be wet and even stormy. Fall through winter is the best time to visit, as temperatures run from the 60s to the 70s, and the air is drier and fresher. From about May through early September, however, the region becomes inundated by excruciatingly humid and wet weather, with highs near 90 degrees and day after day of heavy rainfall.



Central Hong Kong's modern skyscrapers soar above one of the world's busiest harbors. Photo by: Andrew Collins

Kong that's depicted most often on postcards - its gleaming skyscrapers fringe the harbor front and are set against the backdrop of lush Victoria Peak. It's here that you'll find most of the city's top hotels and restaurants. Lan Kwai Fong and Soho are on the western side of Central and can be easily reached from most hotels on foot or by quick and inexpensive cab rides. This hip and trendy area abounds with gay and gay-friendly bars, discos, tapas restaurants, late-night cafes, fashion boutiques, and the like. It's a hilly area laced with narrow streets, but it's perfectly safe for exploring even if you're unsure exactly where to go (if in doubt, take a cab to the intersection of Hollywood Road and Wyndham Street, the heart of Soho).

The neighborhood's top gay club is Propaganda, which is hidden down an alley just off a stairwell below Hollywood Road. This is a hot spot for tourists and moneyed locals who don't mind the exorbitant cover charge and steep drink prices. Also popular for late-night clubbing is Drop, which pulls in a mostly under-30 crowd. Opened in early 2007, the gay video lounge Volume is a must on the gay nightlife circuit. It's a sleek, modern space with colorful and cushy lounge seating, and DJs spin some of the best music in the city. Another good bet is Works, whose black walls and dim lighting feel a bit dated. Nevertheless, this is actually a quite trendy gay's hangout. Other worthwhile gay establishments include 2M Bar, an intimate gay and lesbian cocktail bar just down the hill from Hollywood Road, and New Wally Matt Lounge, a long-running pub in Kowloon just a block off Nathan Road.

Club 97 is a snazzy mixed gay/straight spot with more of a "family" following early in the evening, especially on Fridays, for happy hour. Straight and gay hipsters also mingle at Solas, a sleek lounge, and at Finds, an ultra-trendy spot in SoHo with outstanding Asian-cum-Scandinavian food and a smartly dressed crowd.

Kowloon. Neighborhoods of significance to gay visitors include the fast-paced, if somewhat tawdry, neon-lit streets of Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon, where you'll find a number of gay saunas and karaoke bars; and the neighboring Lan Kwai Fong and Soho sections of Hong Kong Island's city center (an area commonly referred to as "Central" by locals).

The Central district is the part of Hong Kong that's depicted most often on postcards - its gleaming skyscrapers fringe the harbor front and are set against the backdrop of lush Victoria Peak. It's here that you'll find most of the city's top hotels and restaurants. Lan Kwai Fong and Soho are on the western side of Central and can be easily reached from most hotels on foot or by quick and inexpensive cab rides. This hip and trendy area abounds with gay and gay-friendly bars, discos, tapas restaurants, late-night cafes, fashion boutiques, and the like. It's a hilly area laced with narrow streets, but it's perfectly safe for exploring even if you're unsure exactly where to go (if in doubt, take a cab to the intersection of Hollywood Road and Wyndham Street, the heart of Soho).

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Hotels in Hong Kong can be expensive, as many of the high-end properties cater largely to free-spending business travelers, but if you're willing to spend a few hundred dollars per night, you'll find some astoundingly fabulous properties. Leading the pack is the magnificent Mandarin Oriental, whose plush rooms and suites are outfitted with every imaginable creature comfort. Try to book an upper floor with a harbor view, although those facing the city's colorful skyscrapers are perfectly wonderful. Restaurants such as Pierre (helmed by 3-star Michelin chef Pierre Gagnaire) and the Mandarin Grill attract foodies, while scenesters couldn't possibly visit Hong Kong without stopping for a martini at the swank M Bar, a 25th-floor lounge with incomparable skyline vistas.

The nearby Ritz-Carlton is a clubby, low-keyed, and intimate property with just 216 rooms and a cloistered, serene pool and sun-deck with great views of downtown skyscrapers. Enjoy the lavish high tea presented daily in the swank cafe just off the lobby, or plan a dinner here at Toscana, which serves superb contemporary Italian food.

On the east edge of Central Hong Kong, in the Wan Chai district, the Grand Hyatt is distinct for its magnificent setting on the edge of the harbor. There are few tall buildings around it, which means that rooms enjoy knockout views of the water and Kowloon as well as the city center. This is a star in the gay-popular Hyatt brand, with some of the most lavishly decorated rooms imaginable. Don't miss the 11th-floor outdoor pool, which is the city's largest - it adjoins the beautiful Plateau Spa, which is an exceptional choice if you're seeking a spa treatment while in town. On the Kowloon side, top upscale hotels include The Peninsula, a grand dame dating from the 1930s, and the Island Shangra-La, a regal, centrally located beauty with fine views of the harbor and several excellent restaurants.

Unfortunately, it can be challenging to find truly memorable accommodations for under \$200 a night here, and Hong Kong is without any gay-oriented guest houses or B&Bs. In Kowloon, the Eaton Hotel is a perfectly respectable option - it's affordable and centrally located, right by the Temple Street Night Market and close to gay nightlife. On Hong Kong Island, a decent mid-priced option is the Metropark, a pleasant hotel near Victoria Park, a 10-minute cab ride from Soho.

One mid-priced option close to Central's gay nightlife action does truly stand out, however. The fashionable Ice House apartment-hotel - whose rooms have kitchens, free high-speed Internet, and sizable sitting areas - is a wonderful little find. There are just 30 units, which are available on a nightly, weekly, or monthly basis. This is the perfect choice if you're planning an extended stay, which can make good sense given all there is to see and do in this dynamic, emerging gay hub of East Asia.

\* Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

(To see the Complete Black book, see www.rainbowtimesnews.com).

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## NY: Lambda Legal Seeks to Strike Down Decision Disrespecting Canadian Marriage of Same-Sex Couple

*"For the sake of clarity and this couple of 45 years, it's important for the court to reverse the lower court decision in accordance with New York state law and overwhelming public policy respecting out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples."*

New York, NY — In oral arguments recently, Lambda Legal urged the New York Supreme Court, Second Department, to follow the marriage recognition rule and reverse a lower court ruling denying recognition of Duke Funderburke's Canadian marriage to his partner of over four decades, Brad Davis.

"In the midst of this lawsuit the Department of Civil Service came into line with New York state law by changing its policy and recognizing Mr. Funderburke's marriage," said Susan Sommer, Senior Counsel at Lambda Legal. "The lower court's decision in this case is an outlier, out of synch with other court decisions on the issue and the policies of State and local government officials.

For the sake of clarity, and this couple of 45 years, it's important for the court to reverse

the lower court decision in accordance with New York state law and overwhelming public policy respecting out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples." Governor Spitzer, Comptroller DiNapoli, Attorney General Cuomo and many other state officials and private entities respect marriages of same-sex couples that are validly performed elsewhere in accordance with well-established New York law.

Duke Funderburke was a teacher in the Uniondale Union Free School District in Nassau County for 25 years before retiring in 1986. He married his life partner in a ceremony in Ontario, Canada. *When Funderburke requested that his retirement health benefits be extended to his spouse, just as benefits are extended to other married retirees, the school district refused.*

In 2006 Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit on his behalf arguing that New York law requires government entities to respect valid marriages performed out-of-state, including marriages of same-sex couples performed in Canada.

The New York Supreme Court, which is the first level court in New York, ruled against Funderburke. Lambda Legal immediately filed an appeal. During the appeals process, the Department of Civil Service agreed to extend benefits to same-sex spouses of public employees under the New York State Health Insurance Program, citing "legal and policy concerns" with its prior policy denying recognition.

The argument seeks to reverse the court's prior decision against Funderburke because, while the benefits issue has been resolved, the lower court's decision creates confusion about the status of the couple's marriage and of State law and should be wiped from the law books.

Susan L. Sommer, Senior Counsel, is Lambda Legal's lead attorney on the case, Funderburke v. The New York Department of Civil Service, Uniondale Union Free School District et al. Jeffrey S. Trachtman and Norman C. Simon of the law firm, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP are co-counsel on the case.

## HRC urges participation in diversity initiative: "Equality Forward," first step to learn more about the lives of African American, Latino and Asian Pacific GLBT people

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the nation's largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization highlighted recently a nationwide survey, "Equality Forward," part of a comprehensive listening project to learn more about the lives of African American, Latino and Asian Pacific Islander GLBT people. The launch of Equality Forward by HRC's Diversity Department includes qualitative and quantitative research, community events and diversity workshops, already underway.

"The GLBT community is as diverse as America—this is an opportunity to reach out

and listen to a wide range of opinions from people throughout the country," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "The information collected in this survey will be used as a resource by GLBT organizations nationwide."

In 2007, the Human Rights Campaign created the chief diversity officer position and introduced Cue Vu to lead the department. As chief diversity officer, Vu reports directly to HRC president, Joe Solmonese.

### Nurse practitioner joins cardiology practice of Dr. Mark Casey

NORTHAMPTON—Casey Fowler, a nurse practitioner who holds certification in acute care nursing, has joined the cardiology practice of Mark Casey, M.D.

As a nurse practitioner, Fowler assists in the management of patients with coronary artery disease, valvular



CASEY FOWLER  
Nurse Practitioner

disease and heart failure. She says she "works closely with Dr. Casey to provide optimal supervision of patients who are taking medications to control blood pressure, heart failure and coronary artery disease to ensure appropriate assessment, referral and follow-up."

"Whether we are black, Latino/a, Asian Pacific Islander, Native American, Arab, mixed race, or white, we all should be respected and valued for who we are," said Vu, chief diversity officer. "We come from many different backgrounds, but are stronger when we all come together to fight discrimination based on our skin color, gender identity, or who we love. Together, we can move equality forward."

To make sure the survey reaches deep into communities nationwide, HRC is organizing a grassroots effort led by the organization's volunteers and members to engage face-to-face with African American, Latino and Asian

"We need people to participate and make sure gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning people of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds are heard," said Vu.

To participate in the Equality Forward initiative, visit [www.hrc.org/issues/equality-forward.asp](http://www.hrc.org/issues/equality-forward.asp) For a Spanish language version, visit: [www.hrc.org/issues/8356.htm](http://www.hrc.org/issues/8356.htm). To learn more about Chief Diversity Officer Cue Vu, visit: [www.hrc.org/about\\_us/6090.htm](http://www.hrc.org/about_us/6090.htm).

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation respects the privacy of survey participants. All survey responses are strictly confidential. No individually-identifiable information will be sold or shared with outside individuals or entities. You must be at

least 18 years old to participate. For the latest updates visit the HRC blog, [www.HRCBackStory.org](http://www.HRCBackStory.org). The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.



On January 28th, Senator Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y. made an appearance at Springfield College, Springfield, MA to address the nation's economy. Clinton entered the stage as full-house of students, faculty and visitors, from throughout the region, welcomed her to campaign theme songs, "Taking Care of Business," "Working Nine to Five," and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." Photo by: Gus Noffke (Read more about Noffke, p. 18)

**1 in 4 GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER adults say they have switched products or service providers BECAUSE they found a competing company that SUPPORTS CAUSES that BENEFIT the GLBT community.**

Source: Wittek-Combs Communications/HarrisInteractive, Sept. 2007

## The Night Owl

The best LGBTQ Clubs in our Gayborhoods! Check 'em out!

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105 Water Street  
Worcester, MA

**Club Car**  
64 Water Street  
Worcester, MA

**DIVA'S**  
492 Pleasant St.  
Northampton, MA

**Hob Knob**  
234 Chestnut Street  
Springfield, MA

**The Pub**  
382 Dwight Street  
Springfield, MA

**MB**  
40 Grafton Street  
Worcester, MA

**Sin City**  
350 Worthington Street  
Springfield, MA

### Connecticut

**Triangles**  
66 Sugar Hollow Road  
Danbury, Connecticut

**Chez Est**  
458 Wethersfield Ave.  
Hartford, CT

**Polo Club**  
678 Maple Avenue  
Hartford, CT

168 York Street Cafe

168 York Street  
New Haven, CT

**Bar**  
254 Crown Street  
New Haven, CT

**Gotham Citi Cafe**  
Church & Crown Streets  
New Haven, CT

**Partners Cafe**  
365 Crown Street  
New Haven, CT

### New York Clubs

**Water Works Pub**  
76 Central Ave.  
Albany, NY

**Club Phoenix**  
348 Central Ave.,  
Albany, NY 12206

**Joey's Bar**  
664 2nd Ave., Troy, NY  
518-237-4846

**Oh Bar**  
304 Lark Street,  
Albany, NY  
(518) 463-9004

**Fuze Box Bar**  
12 Central Avenue,  
Albany, NY  
(518) 432-4472

**Clinton St. Pub**  
159 Clinton St.,  
Schenectady, NY 12305  
518-377-8555

## LGBT Announcements

## TRT PRIDE Calendar from MA, NY, CT &amp; VT!

(MA) **UNITY** is a Transgender support group which meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Baystate Hospital, 3300 Main Street in Springfield, MA.; and on the 4th Thursday at the Blue Moon Coffee Roaster located at 715 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA. FMI: Deja 860-604-6343 or Keri 413-364-1749.

(MA) **SOCIAL GROUP FOR LESBIANS**; We always meet on the first and third Friday's of the month. For information call 413-687-2065

(MA) **EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC)** is NOW available without a prescription at all Tapestry Health Services sites. (413) 586-2539.

(MA) **MATURE LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP**; Group for women 55+ meets monthly at the Northampton Council on Aging at 240 Main St., at 6 p.m.; second Monday of each month.

(MA) **DISCUSSION GROUP FOR LESBIANS 40+** meets every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Stonewall Center at UMass. This is a warm and welcoming group of intelligent women. Information email to: [JBGreenize@aol.com](mailto:JBGreenize@aol.com)

(MA) **OLDER LESBIAN DISCUSSION GROUPS**; Amherst/NoHo Area. New members accepted on space-available basis. If enough interest, new groups may form. FMI: 413-247-3257 or 413-253-3049.

(VT) **MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP**; Any male 18 or older; Support group not a therapy group. Free. Every Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brattleboro, VT. FMI: 802-258-3914.

(MA) **JOIN EMAIL GROUP FOR LGBT PARENTS** in the Pioneer Valley area at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lgbt\\_parents\\_pioneer\\_valley/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lgbt_parents_pioneer_valley/) for exchanging information, chatting about our families, and organizing get-togethers and play-dates.

(MA, NY, CT & VT) **DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE YOU ARE QUEER?** Call *The Rainbow Times*, 413-204-8959; 518-391-2617.

(NY) **Bisexual Brunch**; First and third Sundays of the month, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(NY) **Bagel Bunch**; Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m.; Older gay men's social and discussion group. Bruegger's, Hannaford Plaza, Central Ave., Albany.

(NY) **Capital Pride Singers**; Mondays @ 7 p.m.; LGBT/LGBTaffirming; mixed chorus; St. Andrew's, Episcopal Church, 10 No. Main St., Albany, 12203; FMI: 435-4636.

(NY) **Capital District Prime Timers**; Provides social, cultural, and recreational opportunities for mature gay and bisexual men. 21+. FMI: [jallison2@nycap.r.com](mailto:jallison2@nycap.r.com) or CDPST 595 New Loudon Rd #202 Latham NY 12110

(NY) **Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Men Support Group**; Mondays; 7 p.m.; Support group forGBT men; CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138 or [qdiamond@cdglcc.org](mailto:qdiamond@cdglcc.org).

(NY) **Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Support Group**; every other Tuesday; 7 p.m.; Meet at CDGLCC at 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Youth Group**; Friday nights; 7 p.m.; 332 Hudson Ave. in Albany; Group offers peer support to LGBT& questioning individuals ages 13-19. A supportive environment for LGBTQ youth and their straight allies. FMI: Q Diamond (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Confidential HIV Testing**; first Wednesday

of each month; 6-8:30 p.m.; Provided by Project H.O.P.E., a program of the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York. Testing offered at the CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: 518-462-6138.

LGBTQ TEADANCE AT DANCE NORTHAMPTON. Second Sunday of every month; 3-6 PM; \$8 (includes lesson at 3:00) FMI: [www.dancenorthampton.com](http://www.dancenorthampton.com).

(NY) **OUT DANCING** (for the LGBTQ community); every Wednesday evening; 7 to 8 p.m.; Saratoga SAVOY, 7 Wells St, Saratoga Springs, NY. FMI: 518-587-5132. <http://saratogasavoy.homestead.com/files/outdancing.html>

(CT) Every Sunday; **ALL LGBT YOUTH to the Rainbow Room**; at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective; from 3-6 p.m.; 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT; for LGBT youth and allies. 21 & younger.

(MA) **TransForming Families** - Transgender Support Group; Parents, partners, children and their transgender loved ones. Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m. in Hadley. FMI: [www.transformingfamilies.org](http://www.transformingfamilies.org) or 413-522-0522

(MA) **Free Breast Cancer Services**; Cooley Dickinson; Women can select therapy services such as acupuncture, aromatherapy, therapeutic touch, healing music, healing touch, Reiki, Reiki, Peggy Huddleston's Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster™, self-hypnosis/guided imagery and therapeutic massage by CD employees that hold certifications in these therapy techniques. FMI 413-582-2424.

(MA) **EAST COAST FEMALE-TO-MALE GROUP (ECFTMG)**; 2nd Sunday of every month from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. FMI: 413.584.7616 or email: [betpower@yahoo.com](mailto:betpower@yahoo.com). FTMs or SOFFAs who have never come to one of the meetings should call and introduce themselves to Bet before attending. Meetings are open to ALL masculine-identified, female-born persons, our significant others, family, and allies.

(VT) Third Sunday of Every Month; in Brattleboro. **Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary**, including transpeople of all genders and sexual orientations. FMI: Benjamin Robin: [robin@benjaminrobin.net](mailto:robin@benjaminrobin.net)

(NY) **Ask-A-Lawyer Legal Clinic**: Serving the LGBT community Geri Pomerantz, Esq. and Anne Reynolds Copps, Esq.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.; FREE legal consultations to the LGBT community. Appointment only. FMI: 518.432.4188.

(VT) **February 7; CORE GROUP**: 6 p.m. Potluck, 6:30pm Group Discussion, at the Menspace. Help guide the Men's Program. Join us for potluck and then conversation about the program. We're actively seeking new members.

(CT) **Feb 7 & 8; VAGINA MONOLOGUES** featuring Janie Nicole Dunn (GNO Executive Director) and Deja Nicole Greenlaw (UniTy and COS Board Member and GNO Moderator)!! Chater Oak Cultural Center, Hartford, CT. Benefit for women's issues. \$15.00 per ticket. Limited seating. Sells out quickly.

(MA) **BENEFIT EVENT FEATURING THE ILLUSTRIOUS KATE BORNSTEIN**; Feb. 8, 2008; 7 p.m.; Weinstein Auditorium at Smith College; Tickets: \$5/Smith College students, \$7/ students, \$10/general public. Benefit for Bet Power, founder and facilitator of the East Coast Female to Male Group. FMI: [alexcielo@comcast.net](mailto:alexcielo@comcast.net)

(CT) **Feb. 8; MARRIAGE MAKES A WORD OF DIFFERENCE**; 6:30 p.m.; New Heaven @ ACES Center for the Arts, Arts Hall, 55 Audubon Street. Join us for a reception, view the 43-minute film, and meet the director and featured couples in the

film! FMI: [www.lmfct.org/](http://www.lmfct.org/). RSVP to [charmane@lmfct.org](mailto:charmane@lmfct.org) or 860-525-7777. FREE admission!

(NY) **Feb. 8; MOVIE NIGHT** showing: "Get On the Bus"; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 7:00 PM, FREE! Get on the Bus follows several Black men on a cross country bus trip to the Million Man March.

(VT) **February 8; POTLUCK OPEN HOUSE**: 6 p.m. Potluck, Jason & Jade's new place in Bellows Falls. FMI: [jason@ghostmediaonline.com](mailto:jason@ghostmediaonline.com); (802) 579-9447.

(VT) **February 9; LGBT CONTRA DANCE**: 7-10 p.m., Montague Grange, Montague MA. This is not a Men's Program event, but local men carpool and attend. FMI: [www.lcdf.org](http://www.lcdf.org) and click on Western Massachusetts Dances, or call Arlene at 860-749-3863 or Eleanor at 413-247-9604.

(MA) **Feb. 9; LGBTQ CONTRA DANCE** at the Montague Grange; Caller: Tim Van Egmond; Music by Brendan Taaffe and Karen Alexelrod. 7:00-10:00 p.m.; Cost: \$10-\$7 (\$5 with student ID) FMI: Call 413-247-9604 or 413-586-9610 or [www.lcdf.org/westma](http://www.lcdf.org/westma)

(CT) **Feb. 9, 2008, GAY BINGO**; 7:30 p.m.; Hartford Marriott Rocky Hill, 100 Capital Boulevard; Rocky Hill, CT; \$20; Over \$500 in cash and prizes; 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour; Cash Bar/Concessions

(CT) **Feb. 10; MARRIAGE MAKES A WORD OF DIFFERENCE**; 6:30 p.m.; @ New Britain; CCSU Founders Hall in the Davidson Administration Bldg. Join us for a reception, view the 43-minute film, and meet the director and featured couples in the film! It will be an evening you won't soon forget. For all information go to [www.lmfct.org](http://www.lmfct.org). RSVP to [charmane@lmfct.org](mailto:charmane@lmfct.org) or 860-525-7777. FREE admission!

(MA) **Feb. 10; LGBTQ TEA DANCE AT DANCE NORTHAMPTON**; also held the second Sunday of every month; 3-6 p.m.; \$8 (includes lesson at 3:00) FMI: [www.dancenorthampton.com](http://www.dancenorthampton.com) The February lesson will be Cha-cha.

(MA) **February 10. "TRANSCEND" MEETING**. 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.; South Congregational Church, Pittsfield, MA. Monthly support/social group meeting for the Trans community. Sponsored by BSCC. FMI call the Infoline: 413-822-7268 (new number!).

(VT) **February 10; CANDLEPIN BOWLING**: 2 p.m., at the Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley, Memorial Drive, Shelburne Falls, MA. Visit [www.shelburnefallsbowling.com](http://www.shelburnefallsbowling.com) for directions. No 'net access? Give Alex a call at 802-254-4444.

(MA) **February 11; FREE LIGHT TECH WORKSHOP**: 7-9 p.m.; Greene Room Productions. Memorial Hall, 198 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057, FMI: (413)668-7284.

(VT) **February 12; OUR FUTURES**: 7 p.m., at the Menspace. This is an ongoing discussion group for men who are interested in talking about the various aspects of our future lives as gay men. All welcome. FMI: Alex at [eflash@sover.net](mailto:eflash@sover.net) to join our \_futures Google listserve.

(VT) **February 13; BEAR NIGHT**: Doors open at 5 p.m., the Ceilidh House, Westmoreland NH. Doors open at 5pm, DJ music begins at 7:30pm, and the pub will be open until midnight. Not a Men's Program event.

(VT) **February 15; SPIRITUALITY**: 7 p.m., the Menspace. This month we will be discussing the topic of SPIRITUALITY & THE BRAIN. Open discussion group, all welcome. If you would like to receive a copy of the SPIRITUALITY & THE BRAIN article, contact Alex at [eflash@sover.net](mailto:eflash@sover.net) or 254-4444.

(MA) **February 16, GLBT INSPIRATIONAL SEMINARS**: Inspirational seminars honoring our community. Join us on February 16th for our one day "reclaiming your connection" seminar in Sherborn, MA. FMI: Sue Call 978-257-8003 or e-mail [saeshagene@gmail.com](mailto:saeshagene@gmail.com)

(NY) **Feb. 16; PROGRESSIONS CONCERT SERIES: ADRIANNE**; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave, Albany, NY, 8 PM, 7:30 Doors; \$12, \$10 students with ID. For reservations or information please call 518.462.6138, x.11 or email [progressionsconcertseries@cdglcc.org](mailto:progressionsconcertseries@cdglcc.org).

(VT) **February 16; BEAR POTLUCK**: 6:30 p.m.; the Menspace. Potluck for bears and fanciers! Bring a dish to share. Call Alex for details, 802-254-4444.

(VT) **Feb. 16; FEARLESS PUPPY ON AMERICAN ROAD** is a true story so amazing that it reads like a fantasy; Everyone's Books on Elliot St. 3-5 pm; Book signing.

(VT) **February 17; TRANSGENDER SUPPORT**: 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.; Meeting in Brattleboro the third Sunday of every month. Not a Men's Program event. FMI contact Benjamin Robin: [robin@benjaminrobin.net](mailto:robin@benjaminrobin.net)

(CT) **February 17; MARRIAGE MAKES A WORD OF DIFFERENCE**; 6:30 p.m.; @ Norwalk; Triangle Community Center; 16 River Street. FMI: <http://www.lmfct.org/>. RSVP to [charmane@lmfct.org](mailto:charmane@lmfct.org) or 860-525-7777. FREE admission!

(VT) **February 18; FEARLESS PUPPY ON AMERICAN ROAD** is a true story so amazing that it reads like a fantasy; Kipling's on Elliot St. 8-10 p.m. book signing/reading, and the music of Kathleen Simms!

(VT) **February 20; FEARLESS PUPPY ON AMERICAN ROAD** is a true story so amazing that it reads like a fantasy; The Book Cellar on Main St. 5 p.m. book signing.

(VT) **February 20; FEARLESS PUPPY ON AMERICAN ROAD** is a true story so amazing that it reads like a fantasy; The Mole's Eye Café 8-probably @ 11 p.m. BENEFIT for CAN (Citizen's Awareness Network) book signing, short reading, more.

(VT) **February 21; BOOK CLUB**: 7 p.m.; Menspace. Book is THIS THING CALLED COURAGE, short stories by J.G. Hayes. Call Curtis at 254-2400

(MA) **February 23; HIKE/CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, SNOWSHOE TREK**; Noon. Meet at back of Price Chopper parking lot in Lee, and car pool to hike in Monterey. Dress for the weather and conditions. This is not a strenuous hike.

(MA) **February 23; CONCERT OF BACH, HANDEL AND TELEMAN**; UMass Concert Hall; FMI: 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511.

(VT) **February 23; QUEER CARNIVALE**; Dance Party for the LGBTQ Community; 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Red Roof Inn (formerly Quality Inn), Putney Road, Brattleboro VT. \$5 Admission.

(MA) **February 25; NORTHAMPTON PRIDE MEETING**; 6 p.m. Come and check out how you can get involved with this year's Pride March and Rally. FMI: [info@northamptonpride.org](mailto:info@northamptonpride.org) or call 413.586.5602.

(MA) **February 25-28; OPEN AUDITION FOR "HOLES" BY LOUIS SACHAR**; Casting for 2 Women 40-70's; 1 Man 40-70's; Appointment only. Call 413-668-7284; [greeneroomproductions@yahoo.com](http://greeneroomproductions@yahoo.com)

(VT) **February 29; GAYME NIGHT**: 7 p.m., Howie's in Chesterfield, NH. Bring your favorite game, and a snack to share if you'd like. Gayme night is always lots of fun!

Submit your non-profit calendar event/s\* to [calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com](mailto:calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com) or [calendar@therainbowtimesnews.com](mailto:calendar@therainbowtimesnews.com)

\*Certain restrictions apply. Small for-profit events/groups, 35 words or less, are considered for a small fee. Large-for-profit events are not considered. All submissions appear online.

## Marriage Makes a Word of Difference:

*New Film on Marriage Equality Premieres Across CT*

Emmy award-winning filmmaker Fran Rzeznik of Guilford, Connecticut has created a compelling film, *Marriage Makes a Word of Difference*, which portrays the personal struggles and political challenges of Connecticut's same-sex couples and their families who are fighting for the freedom to marry. The film, a project of the *Love Makes a Family Foundation*, will premiere in New Haven, New Britain, and Norwalk beginning on February 8th, coinciding with *National Freedom to Marry Week*.

The film chronicles the stories of six Connecticut couples and their families—several have been in committed relationships for more than a decade. But, despite their dedication to each other, they continue to be denied the respect, dignity, and legal protections that marriage provides. Through compelling interviews and archival and "slice of life" footage, *Marriage Makes a Word of Difference* celebrates our common humanity, and shows why marriage equality is a fundamental civil right.

Fran Rzeznik is an Emmy award-winning filmmaker who has written, directed and produced a wide variety of commercial projects including social commentary documentaries, reality television series, and feature films. She has worked in both the New York and Los Angeles markets.

Fran's awards include three Cable Ace Awards for original programming, two Emmy Awards from NBC Sports for her editing on NFL Live and the '92 Barcelona Olympics, and three Los Angeles Local Emmy Award nominations for original programming. She

co-produced and co-directed *One Nation Under God*, a feature length documentary that challenges the reparative therapy movement and the assertions that homosexuality is a curable disease.

Anne Stanback, Executive Director of Love Makes a Family, said, "Fran is a remarkably gifted filmmaker who is deeply committed to marriage equality for same-sex couples. She has created a film that will profoundly impact anyone who sees it. The film will contribute significantly to the public discussion on marriage equality in Connecticut."

*Marriage Makes a Word of Difference* Premieres:

NEW HAVEN: Friday, February 8th at 6:30 p.m. at ACES Center for the Arts, Arts Hall, 55 Audubon Street

NEW BRITAIN: Sunday, February 10th at 6:30 p.m. at Central Connecticut State University, Founders Hall in the Davidson Administration Building

NORWALK: Sunday, February 17th at 6:30 p.m., Triangle Community Center, 16 River Street

Come to the reception, view the 43-minute film, and a discussion will follow. Meet the director, Fran Rzeznik, and the couples featured in the film. For all information go to [www.lmfct.org](http://www.lmfct.org). Free admission.

To schedule a screening of *Marriage Makes a Word of Difference* at your school, organization, church/synagogue or civic group, contact Carol Buckheit at [LoveMakesaFamilyatcarol@lmfct.org](mailto:LoveMakesaFamilyatcarol@lmfct.org) or 860-525-7777, x313.

## HELP WANTED IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

**Employment Opportunities**  
**Connecticut Nightclub**  
**Day and Evening Bartenders- Experience REQUIRED**  
**Barbacks**  
**Door Staff**  
**Inside and Outside Security**  
**Male Dancers and Go-Go Boys**  
**Asst. Manager- Restaurant or Bar Experience REQUIRED**  
**Website Maintenance**  
**Advertising/Email Design**  
**Leave Message- 860-216-1351**

Looking for LOVE? Turn to the PERSONALS on page 23

## CT Neighborhood Organizations

**AIDS Testing:** [www.guardinhealth.org](http://www.guardinhealth.org)

**Gay Father's Group:** (203) 938-2881 Hartford

**Community Center:** (860) 724-5542 CT Freedom to **Marry**

**Coalition:** (203) 791-9553 Love Makes a **Family:** [www.lmf-ct.org](http://www.lmf-ct.org) (860) 525-7777 Married **Lesbian Support Group:**

[trucolor@aol.com](mailto:trucolor@aol.com) (203) 430-9227

**Married Men's Bisexual Support Group of Hartford:**

(860) 264-5605 Metropolitan Community **Church of New**

**Haven:** (203) 397-2312 New Haven **Gay & Lesbian**

**Center:** [www.nhlgcc.org](http://www.nhlgcc.org); (203) 387-2252

**PFLAG Danbury:** [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org); (203) 797-

4743 Connecticut's Kids: (203) 256-8414

**Senior Lesbians Happily at Play (SLAPHAPS):** Kathy

(203) 929-8113

**True Colors CT:** [www.ourtruecolors.org](http://www.ourtruecolors.org); (888) 565-

5551 National

**Runaway Switchboard:** (773) 880-9860 Connecticut

**Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF):** 135

Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 - 860.247.6090 **Info. and**

**Referral program:** (800) 479-2949 or Greater Hartford

524-0601 - Statewide women's rights organization working

to end discrimination and hate crimes; provides free legal

information and referral to the LGBT community.

**XX Club (Twenty Club):** Rev. Cannon Jones - 45 Church

Street Hartford, CT 06141-0387 - (860) 646-8651 - Provides

knowledgeable info., and ongoing peer support to trans-

sexuals. 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, 2-5 p.m.

**connectUT View (ctView):** A Transgender social and

support club, for the TV, TG, TS, CD, both male and

female. Monthly meeting in New Haven as well as e-mem-

bership, and more. A no dues club, with all the frills;

[www.transgender.org/ct/](http://www.transgender.org/ct/)

Meet new friends in CT, have a great time, see page 24

*It's Postmodern Gender 101 with a comic twist!*

# KATE BORNSTEIN:

On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us

Friday, February 8 at 7 pm  
 Weinstein Auditorium

Reception and Book Signing to follow  
 in 103/101 of the Smith College Campus Center

\$3 for Smith Students  
 \$7 with a Five-College Student ID  
 \$10 for the General Public

Tickets will be sold in advance at the Smith College Campus Center  
 Main Office, at Pride and Joy in the Gateway Northampton, and at the door.

Sponsors include: The Smith College Center for Sexuality and Gender  
 and the East Coast Lesbian to Male Group

*This event is a benefit for Bet Power*

Bet Power is the Director and Curator of the Sexual  
 Minorities Archive, a national collection of LGBT  
 history, history, and art since 1974, located in  
 Northampton, MA. He is also the founder of the East Coast  
 FTM Group (ECFTMG), monthly peer support for the full  
 spectrum of masculine persons in the transgender community.  
 Meeting continuously since 1992, ECFTMG was the first  
 all-FTM organization on the East Coast.

Neer guy that he is, in June 2007, Bet suffered a broken leg  
 and multiple knee injuries from a fall while trying to help an  
 abandoned baby animal. Despite a long recuperation in  
 employment, Bet continues to recover and is very grateful for  
 supportive friends and community.



[www.ecftm.org](http://www.ecftm.org)

# CONNECTICUT PRIDE HARTFORD



# SATURDAY JUNE 6TH ELIZABETH PARK 06.07.08

**QReviews**

# Pride '08: Northampton Pride & Trans Pride unite

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

It is that time of year again and Northampton Pride is getting ready to bring what could be the best Pride March and Rally since its commencement 27 years ago. However, this Pride season also calls upon the community to reflect upon the struggles of all members of our LGBT community as the first annual Trans Pride Rally is also launched, according to a Northampton Pride Committee member.

"The Pride Committee has been working diligently over the past several months to assemble a March and Rally that will hopefully supersede last year's Pride events," said Grisel M. Ocasio, Northampton Pride Committee Member and Publisher of *The Rainbow Times*, Northampton, Mass. "Northampton Pride seeks to bring out and unify our LGBT family in Western Mass. and beyond. However, there is an urgent need for information and education about our Trans family members and their struggles going into this Pride season as the first Trans Pride event gears to kick off."

Northampton Pride is working cooperatively with the Trans Pride steering committee to help them promote their event, according to Melinda Shaw, Chairperson, Northampton Pride, Northampton, Mass. Shaw said that a liaison who attends both committee meetings will communicate with Northampton Pride

about any assistance or collaboration that may be offered to Trans Pride.

At this point in time, Northampton Pride is on schedule with its operations, but is still seeking local entertainment submissions.

"We are now taking vendor applications and ads for our Official Pride Program & Resource Guide," said Shaw. "We are also in the process of choosing our entertainment and speakers for the rally, so we're open for more submissions of interested performers, comedy, drag, slam poetry, etc."

According to Shaw, each year the stage line up is different and this year Pride hopes to expand the kid's area by having the stage programmed the entire time. Major sponsors are currently being solicited.

"There may be parts of the adult stage that will be rated for parents so that they can decide whether they want their children present at that area. We'll have adequate warning if that is the case," said Shaw.

Northampton Pride is seeking volunteers for the day of the event as well as prior to the festivities.

"We are always open to welcoming more help," Shaw said. "Some tasks are specific and can be done with minimal time. Other [tasks] require more commitment and time. Anyone interested in volunteering in whatever capacity can contact me at [info@northamptonpride.org](mailto:info@northamptonpride.org). I can tell you that we definitely



Northampton Pride's Dykes on Bikes. This year, Northampton Pride takes place on May 3, 2008.

would like more folks to volunteer as peace keepers for the parade!"

Shaw said that Downtown Northampton businesses have already been solicited to have more involvement and tables at the vendor area.

"If you have a business and want to market to our community, a vendor space is a great way to do so!" said Shaw.

Any groups who would like to participate in this year's March need to register to be able to participate.

"This will be the last year that we accept groups in the parade who have not pre-registered," she said. "Our website has a contingency form [and] folks can download it and print it out."

Shaw urges those who are not on the Northampton Pride mailing list to sign up for a free subscription on their website, [www.northamptonpride.org](http://www.northamptonpride.org), to stay up-to-date on Pride news.

For more information about Northampton Pride or how you can get involved, call 413-586-5602 or 877-743-3627 or visit its website online at [www.northamptonpride.org](http://www.northamptonpride.org).

## Photographer finalist in Best College Photo Contest

Gus Noffke, a 21-year-old from Wisconsin Rapids, WI, is now a contract photographer with *The Rainbow Times*. Noffke attends the *Hallmark Institute of Photography* and is a finalist in the *Best College Photography Contest*. He also works part time at Okemo Mountain Resort on the week-



GUS NOFFKE

ends. When he graduates in June 2008, Noffke plans to move back to Minneapolis, MN, to establish his own wedding and portrait business while attending graphic design school.

We welcome Gus to The Rainbow Times and wish him good luck in the upcoming contest.



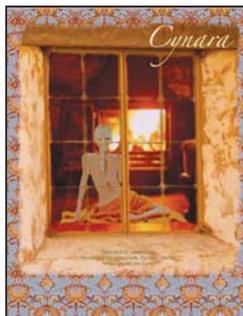
Spaces that we inhabit—be they spaces where we live or work—should elicit an **intensely personal, positive feeling**. These spaces should reflect who we are and allow us to be who we want to be. They should give us **conscious satisfaction** when we walk into them, work in them, converse, dine or wake up in them.

LDV's aim is to bring a level of **sophistication**, design **restraint** and quality materials and **workmanship** to every project.



**Lynn Dunning-Vaughn** *Principal*  
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"Everything changes the minute we kiss."  
 Clarence Patton, NYC Gay and Lesbian  
 Anti-Violence Project .

**LESBIAN ROMANCE  
 SEEKS FUNDERS**

FilmMcQueen ([www.filmmcqueen.com](http://www.filmmcqueen.com))  
 We are seeking financing for a  
 wildly romantic, sweeping film set in  
 the early 1930's, called "Cynara."

The film was written by Nicole Conn ("Claire of the Moon," "Little Man".) We plan to shoot in Woods Hole, MA. It is budgeted at \$3M. We are looking for 20 increments of \$150,000.

People can tend to dislike or fear what they don't know or understand. We hope, that by making a traditional love story with lesbian characters we can, through identifiable images, change straight perceptions of lgbt love.

You or anyone you know might be interested in investing please contact: Jane Clark, director/producer  
[jane@filmmcqueen.com](mailto:jane@filmmcqueen.com)  
 Jane recently screened her new short, "The Touch," at NIFF  
 You can check out a trailer and more info on the feature project at [www.myspace.com/cynara](http://www.myspace.com/cynara)

# Power: It's time for Trans Pride 2008

By: **Bet Power\***

I am a transman and one of the founders on the steering committee of the first-ever New England Transgender Pride March and Rally, to be held in Northampton, MA on June 7, 2008. Some have asked why we need another march and rally a month after Noho Pride and wonder why the transgender community is starting a march of its own.

Speaking for myself, I also had to, at first, consider the importance of not appearing to "secede" from Noho Pride. Certainly, as the person who first got Noho Pride in 1993 to include our T community in the title of the march and in the rally programming, I have been an integral part of Noho Pride over the years. I have marched in every Noho Pride march, including the first in 1982. I have been a speaker at Noho Pride four times, I have served twice on the Noho Pride steering committee, and I developed with Lisa Downing the LGBT history exhibit shown at Historic Northampton in 2006 for the 25th Noho Pride. Even more, I have collected and preserved the literature, history, and art of LGBTs since 1977 and make it accessible to the community at the Sexual Minorities Archives, a national collection that I house and which I am honored to curate.

However, for the last two or three years of experiencing our trans community only coming together every November to observe the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), I increasingly had the sense that we transgenders may be getting mired in a sense of victimhood rather than empowerment and activism for change – including legislative, social, and economic change. I started speaking up at the TDORs about the need for Transgender Pride, knowing that in San Francisco and New York City, Transgender Pride marches and rallies have been held for the past nearly five years. So, I believe it is time for Transgender Pride in New England and I hope that we can help spark a new national Transgender Civil Rights Movement.

This march is not a separation from Noho Pride at all. All of us working on Trans Pride support Noho Pride. The trans community

will be participating in full force at Noho Pride and, in fact, Trans Pride has been in communication with Noho Pride about several matters. We are encouraging transpeople to march in Noho Pride and transpeople and LGBTIQ allies to march in Trans Pride.

Yet, in my heart I know that Noho Pride has not been "enough" in the sense that the trans

apart or competitive with Noho Pride. We are not separatists. Trans Pride is needed as an addition to the primarily L and G Pride because we now find ourselves in a position of fighting for our lives. What I mean is that, at this point in U.S. history, at the highest level of gay and lesbian leadership – the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and its front

at the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969. Even though one in three lesbians and gays are gender-nonconforming and experience discrimination in the workplace, housing, and public accommodations not because of who they sleep with but because of how they appear and behave, the Gay Rights Movement formed in the early 1970s largely disenfranchised queers whose gender expression/identity differed from normative "straight looking/acting." Even today, we who have taken on the new term "transgender" but who have been active participants in "Gay Rights" from the start witness the pressure to assimilate, as gender-normative lesbians and gays achieve more acceptance in white, mainstream society.

One argument heard from HRC supporters is that "transgenders" are too new a community—or that we have nothing to do with lesbians and gays—and that we can be left behind and, at some future point, still win our rights. Untrue—and how ironic and sad. This is a total denial of our leadership role in sparking the "Gay Rights Movement" to begin with, and an erasure of our value within and without the lesbian, gay, bisexual communities, as well as our worth as human beings deserving of equal rights now. *This type of oppression by a powerful segment of the gay community has gone on since Stonewall – nearly 40 years – far too long! We must stand up against this now.*

See Trans Pride on Page 21

**"What I mean is that, at this point in U.S. history, at the highest level of gay and lesbian leadership—the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and its front man Barney Frank—it is a fact that transgenders have been devalued and thrown off the Rainbow freedom train; this despite the over 300 LGBT organizations that form United ENDA."**

—Bet Power

community's agenda and needs have been peripheral at Noho Pride rallies. This is not so much a criticism of our local Pride rally but a reflection of how transgender needs have been relegated marginal status nationally – not just symbolically are we the last initial in the "LGBT" Movement.

Our pending transgender civil rights legislation in MA, CT, and federally (ENDA, Hate Crimes bill) has not been a central focus at LGBT Prides. Our consistent problems in getting hired and keeping employment without suffering the financial consequences of discrimination have not been voiced enough, much less solved. Our difficult access to vital healthcare has not been addressed. The murderous violence against us has not been considered enough to effect its resolution through Hate Crimes legislation. The list of our crucial needs as transpeople goes on and on.

Equal marriage has taken center stage, not only at Noho Pride but also at many Prides around the country. Of course, I wholeheartedly support equal marriage, but transgenders have survival needs across the board that are not getting aired to the extent where we are demanding (and by "we" I mean the LGBTIQ Movement as well as Ts) that real progress be made for us in this state and nationally.

We simply need more "air time."  
Trans Pride is in addition to Noho Pride, not

man Barney Frank—it is a fact that transgenders have been devalued and thrown off the Rainbow freedom train; this despite the over 300 LGBT organizations that form United ENDA. In the end, HRC will have the most clout in whose civil rights are won because of the way it turns the wheels in moving and manipulating US Congresspersons and Senators, led through Rep. Frank.

Gender non-conforming queens were the first "queers" to rebel in the U.S. when we stood up to police at Compton's Cafeteria in San Francisco in 1966. Drag queens, cross-dressers, transsexuals, and gender non-conforming lesbians and gays played the lead role

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**QueerWood**

# Deep Inside Hollywood: Where are they now?



By: Romeo San Vicente\*  
**Kath and Kim Try Out an American Accent**

Translating a hit show from another country can be tricky. For every hit like *Queer as Folk* or *Ugly Betty*, there's a *Coupling* or a failed *Absolutely Fabulous* pilot that no one ever sees. But the hit Australian comedy *Kath & Kim* (a sort of down-market *Ab Fab*) has proven popular on U.S. cable and is a cult hit with queer audiences, so an American remake is on the way. Its pedigree is solid: Cool indie star Selma Blair (*A Dirty Shame*) and *Saturday Night Live* alum Molly Shannon will play the off-kilter pair, and the pilot's being directed by *Freaky and Geeks'* Paul Feig. With the right creative tone and marketing (aka pandering to queer audiences), the finished product could be, like *Betty*, another gay household staple.

**Kathy Griffin: The Show Remains the Same**  
What happens when a Hollywood D-lister's career rises to the level of a C- or B-lister?



SELMA BLAIR

That's the burning issue at stake as Bravo greenlights a fourth season of *Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List*. Not to worry, however—the self-and-everyone-else-deprecating comedian hasn't suddenly started lunching with Renee Zellweger. But she's seen her stock go way up since *D-List* began airing (even as her controversial Emmy win speech angered people who never watched the show

in the first place), and has become the comic of choice among many queer fans. According to Griffin, the only thing that may change in the new season is the introduction of uniforms for her staff; otherwise, it'll be open season on Hollywood, as usual. No matter what happens, expect hilarity to ensue when the new episodes air later this year.

**Driving Cross-Country in the Fagbug**

A documentary film can spring up from the oddest of circumstances. Take Erin Davies' experience. An Albany, N.Y., college student with a rainbow sticker on her late-model VW Beetle, she discovered that the car had been vandalized with the words "fag" and "u r gay" in red spray paint. Instead of having it repainted, she instead decided to hit the road and document her experiences on a 58-day cross-country tour. Called simply *Fagbug*, the resulting documentary does what more formal studies could never do—expose the enemies and allies of gay America by presenting everyday homophobia to random strangers and recording their reactions. The movie should hit the film-festival circuit sometime later this year, but don't expect a coinciding trend in vandalized cars to gain much traction.

**Where Are They Now? Chad Allen Knows...**

**Gay men are known**—sometimes correctly, sometimes wrongly so—for their love of actresses of a certain age. And while the cultural reasons for that connection are deep and plentiful enough for a book or five on the subject, the fact remains that the actors in question still need to work. So what better place for them to do their job than in a gay-themed project? Enter Margot Kidder (*Superman*), Sean Young (*Bladerunner*), and Morgan Fairchild (*Flamingo Road*), all of whom will have a new opportunity to entertain their devoted queer followings when they guest in two upcoming Donald Strachey mysteries, *Ice Blues* and *On the Other Hand, Death*. The films, starring Chad Allen as Strachey, have both wrapped and will feature at least one of the women—Kidder—in a lesbian role. Look for both to air later in 2008 on Here TV.

\* Romeo San Vicente recently solved the mystery of his own popularity with men: It turns out that he's devastatingly handsome. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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## Diva Las Vegas 2008: AIDS Foundation of Western Mass.'11th Annual Masquerade Ball

On January 25th, the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts (AFWM), celebrated its 2008 Masquerade Ball at the Log Cabin. Hundreds of attendees showed to support the Foundation's mission and to be the spectators of a grand entertainment show whose proceeds went to HIV/AIDS.

Besides the great show by a cast of wonderful performers, those present could enjoy the wonderful food by the *Log Cabin*, the cash bar, entering a 50/50 raffle, and bid on a Silent and Live Auctions.



Health, the Log Cabin and New England

At the end of the night, as Kevin Leeman was passing on the Chair "tiara" to Michael Kusek, he announced next year's theme for the event, which will be: Fire and Desire. The announcement that Baystate



Photos by: Tim Palmioli

Pathology Associates each were donating \$10,000.00 to next year's event was the highlight of the night.

The Masquerade Ball was created in 1997 to raise money for people with HIV and AIDS. In 1999 was the first year that the Masquerade Ball became affiliated with the AIDS Foundation of Western MA.

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## Rough Gods: An evening with photographer Michael Alago

New York based photographer Michael Alago will present photographs depicted in his recently released book rough gods on Friday, February 15, at Pride & Joy, 20 Crafts Avenue, Northampton. The reception will begin at 7pm, and is free to the public. Due to the mature themes of his photography, this event will be limited to those who are age 18 and older.

Michael Alago has worked in the music industry for nearly two decades as producer and talent scout. Known and respected by most of the major labels for his expertise in a variety of musical genres, Alago discovered Metallica and worked with a diverse group of artists that includes Michael Feinstein, Johnny Rotten, White Zombie and Nina Simone. Alago left the music business in the summer of 2003 to concentrate on another life-long passion—photography. Working initially with a Polaroid camera, Michael began

a series of stark male portraits that is still ongoing. This collection of friends, models and bodybuilders indeed boast the muscularity, tattoos, and attitude that define this particular male subset, but the images also bear Alago's distinctive stamp of irreverent heat.

For more information on this event, call Pride & Joy at 585-0683.



**MICHAEL ALAGO**  
Photo by: Michael Alago

### Trans Pride from Page 19

For too long transgenders have been looking to lesbians and gays to carry forward our trans agenda for equal rights in the workplace, housing, healthcare, education, and in the public/social arena. But HRC and Barney Frank have perhaps recently taught us a real life, real hard, stinging lesson: that no one will hand us our rights. Transpeople must demand our rights ourselves.

In addition, there is a real need to educate the general public in Northampton, New England, and nationally about who we transpeople are as human beings. We are valuable, worthy and interesting, talented humans – not freaks or stereotypes. This is the work that a public Transgender Pride march will do. It will show us as humans, as speakers, as entertainers in our own right. We will not be hidden from view to the extent that we are, as a community, at Noho Pride. With new, heightened visibility at Transgender Pride, the local community will get to learn, see, hear, and know who we are.

I still want to believe in a united LGBTIQ rainbow community. This is at the soul of the Sexual Minorities Archives I continue to create every day. However, it has become increasingly clear to me that transgenders must rise up more visibly now, that we need a vehicle to lift up our transpeople: a protest of being discarded by HRC, an outcry against the injustice of being publicly tossed out of ENDA, an outcry against dehumanizing stereotypes about us, an end to being diagnosed as mentally ill instead of being acknowledged for the worthy true selves we are, and an end to the murderous violence against us.

How will we ever get statewide legislation passed to protect us without a march dedicated specifically to this issue and others? We transpeople sit back too much and wait for the gays to sweep us along with them in ENDA and then are surprised when transphobia rears

its ugly head at the very height of the national Washington, DC-belt gay and lesbian movement. How painful it was to watch the congressional session on ENDA, on C-SPAN. I sat there literally in tears and alternately yelled at the television.

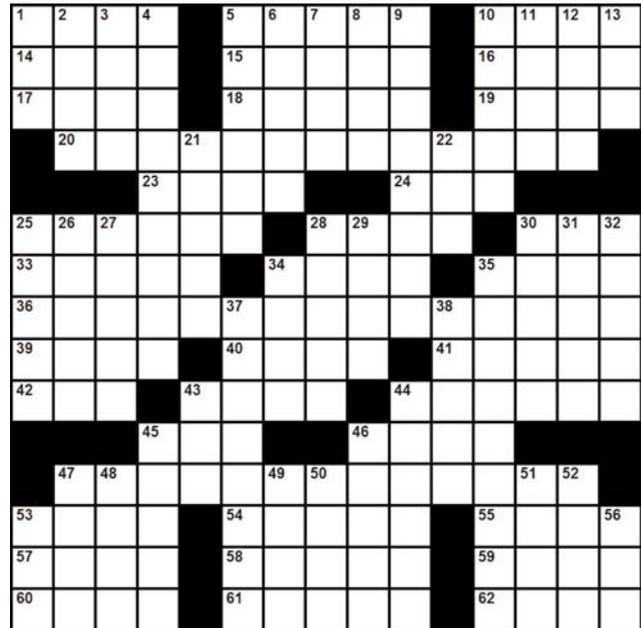
HRC and Barney Frank do not surprise me; I've seen this coming for many years. Still, it hurts like hell. It does teach me though, that I must hold my head up and FINALLY speak up for my own human rights instead of waiting for gays and lesbians to do so. Somehow, because I have personally given over 30 years of my energy to lesbian and gay history and causes, I thought they would reciprocate and do the same for us Ts ... but alas, not really the case or not enough for what we truly need. Power is never given to an oppressed group; rather, it is seized.

It's an interesting time in queer history. Yes, the rainbow movement will proceed united, I believe—LGBTIQ—at the same time that T rises up and strengthens itself and works like hell for its own progress and civil rights. This is what is coming for us in the decade ahead. At least, I truly hope so.

I hope you will join us in supporting Trans Pride and voicing our needs for trans civil rights, equal justice, respect, and acceptance by the national LGBT Movement and locally/regionally by the general public. It's time to emerge as a proud, valuable, important part of the community. Visit [www.transpridemarch.org](http://www.transpridemarch.org), live on February 1.

\* *Bet Power is the Director and Curator of the Sexual Minorities Archives, a national collection of LGBTIQ literature, history, and art since 1974, located in Northampton, MA. He is also the founder of the East Coast FTM Group (ECFTMG). Meeting since 1992, ECFTMG was the first all-FTM organization on the East Coast.*

## Q Puzzle: "HOT, HOT, HOT"



### Across

- 1 Inflated phone sex
- 5 Haul ass
- 10 Salty white stuff from the Greeks
- 14 Wife in Rilke's homeland
- 15 Top-notch
- 16 Shape of George Frenn's track
- 17 Hamlet, for one
- 18 Screenwriter John, of *The Aviator*
- 19 Do-overs for Billie Jean
- 20 Hot lust for 47-Across?
- 23 Daily fee at the Boatslip Resort
- 24 "\_\_\_-hoo! Fellas!"
- 25 Prospectors may jump them
- 28 Where truckers park their bottoms
- 30 Sometime label of David Bowie
- 33 Controversial path for same-sex partners
- 34 *Aida* solo
- 35 Goal for Sheryl Swoopes
- 36 Hot glances from 47-Across?
- 39 Fey of 30 Rock
- 40 Pain in the derriere
- 41 Any song by Johnny Mathis
- 42 Hot time for Colette
- 43 Gather, after spilling one's seed
- 44 Acts like Albert, in *The Birdcage*
- 45 West of Hollywood
- 46 James Dean's \_\_\_ of *Eden*
- 47 Hot cross-dressers?
- 53 Sounds from the *Giant* set
- 54 Capital of Margaret Cho's ancestral home
- 55 What Edith Piaf regretted
- 57 Doesn't feel up
- 58 Words to a shy partner
- 59 Drag queen's stocking shade
- 60 Prefix with tubbies
- 61 Straight men fear to drop them in the shower
- 62 Good with the hands

### Down

- 1 Gomer's mail service
- 2 Gaza Stripper, e.g.
- 3 When doubled, Mork's good-byed
- 4 Theater type
- 5 Dairy Queen orders
- 6 Fairy tale hag
- 7 Diana of *The Avengers*
- 8 Tyler Perry's *Diary of \_\_\_ Black Woman*
- 9 Scrotum of a porn star?
- 10 Shakespearean manuscript
- 11 "If \_\_\_ I Would Leave You"
- 12 Jodie Foster's *Little Man* \_\_\_
- 13 *South Park*'s Big Gay and others
- 21 A Streetcar \_\_\_ Desire
- 22 Signal that goes either way
- 25 *Oh! Calcutta!* group of actors?
- 26 The sky, for some
- 27 How two hearts may beat
- 28 Pitthy, like Quentin?
- 29 Melissa Etheridge's "\_\_\_ It Heavy"
- 30 Crucifixes
- 31 Newswoman Roberts
- 32 Recesses for Rev. Spahr
- 34 Architecture, to Philip Johnson
- 35 Like a gun you don't want to shoot off
- 37 Some swordsmen
- 38 Screw (up)
- 43 Butt
- 44 Mauresmo's serves that are out
- 45 Stroke with an upright stick
- 46 Fit out
- 47 Baudelaire's liver
- 48 Hang out
- 49 Charles Laughton played this emperor
- 50 *Naked Maja* painter
- 51 Easy partner
- 52 Feudal slave
- 53 Where wrestlers lie together
- 56 Fruitcake



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Queer Voices from NY

# Lesbian Notions: What we already know, what they need to learn



By: Libby Post\*

I've always known that we same-sex couples were happier than our opposite-sex counterparts.

Maybe it has something to do with us living up to that "gay" moniker. Maybe it's because we come together with such a strong bond that as couples we can weather the possibility of our family, friends, and neighbors rejecting us. Maybe it's because as youngsters we all played nicely in the sandbox, and as adults we know how to share.

A slew of new studies have come out of late that don't use my precise analytic reasoning, but they do show the brighter side of lesbian and gay male relationships.

Studies done by academics at UC Berkeley, University of Washington, Colorado State University, and Alliant International University in California were reviewed by Robert-Jay Green, Ph.D., executive director of the Rockway Institute, a national center for LGBT research and public policy based at Alliant.

He concludes that there are two key factors that promote healthier lesbian and gay relationships and that even show straights how to do it better.

1. We're flexible about our gender roles. (I might be butch, but I certainly don't mind being a femme in bed and hitting the sheets first.); and 2. We divide parenting and household tasks equally. (My partner Lynn cooks, I do the dishes. She does the laundry, I clean the cat boxes. We both tear our hair out trying

to reason with our independent-minded 22-year-old, who has it in his mind that we should go back to the medieval barter system and forgo our present monetary system.)

"It all comes down to greater equality in the relationship," said Green, who is also a nationally recognized researcher in both family issues and LGBT relationships. "Research shows that lesbian and gay couples - by virtue of being composed of two partners of the same gender - have a head start in escaping the traditional gender-role divisions that make for power imbalances and dissatisfaction in many heterosexual relationships."

Over at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, a study comparing same-sex couples with opposite-sex couples was also done. It found that we were similar to straight couples in many ways. All the couples, straight and gay, had positive views of their relationships, but those in more committed relationships (gay or straight) resolved conflict better than straights who were just dating. And, for just a little Sapphic icing on the cake, lesbian couples worked together especially well.

According to the study's lead author, Glenn I. Roisman, Ph.D., same-sex relationships are not "atypical, psychologically immature, or malevolent. Compared with married individuals, committed gay males and lesbians were not less satisfied with their relationships."

OK, so we have a leg up because we gender-flex, don't mind doing tasks that traditionally the other gender might do, and are generally happy in our relationships. We cherish our families just like straights. We want to protect each other. We value our partners.

Using these studies as context for the presidential race, we definitely see our lives being drawn down party lines.

The Democrats, while not quite ready to say "yes" to same-sex marriage, do recognize our relationships, our families, and our children, and want to give us the same protections that they enjoy as married straights.

The Republicans? Well, even Rudy Giuliani (who may not even be in the race by the time you read this) is rolling back on his commitment to LGBT rights and domestic-partner protections.

Tell Mike Huckabee that our relationships are just like his marriage and you'll get the hyperbole of a Southern Baptist minister wrapped in a presidential candidate's rhetoric. They're fighting words to Mike, who has built his political career demonizing us, trashing our relationships, denying our families, and signing legislation that refuses us our rights.

When asked in a recent Beliefnet interview about imposing a biblical interpretation on the U.S. Constitution, Huckabee said, "Well, I don't think that's a radical view, to say we're going to affirm marriage. I think the radical view is to say that we're going to change the definition of marriage so that it can mean two men, two women, a man and three women, a man and a child, a man and an animal."

There you have it—Huckabee thinks our lives and love are the same as polygamy, pedophilia, and bestiality.

Show Mitt Romney these studies, and he'll flip-flop so many times trying to get a positive, negative, and middle-of-the-road take on them that no one will know what he's talking about—which actually just may be his campaign strategy.

These studies show us in a positive light - perhaps, at times, more positive than our straight counterparts. Our candidates and culture can either learn from these findings and

better themselves, or they can be threatened by them and try to clamp down on personal freedom even more.

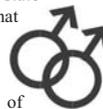
In the end, it all comes down to how well we will all play in the sandbox that is our nation. Will we throw sand at each other for generations to come, or work together to build something new that shows just how loving, committed, and caring we all can be?

\* Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

## NY: Out-of-state same-sex marriages valid, court says

The Associated Press

Rochester, NY—A state appeals court has ruled that a gay couple's marriage in Canada should be recognized in New York.



The Appellate Division of state Supreme Court last week reversed a judge's ruling in 2006 that Monroe Community College did not have to extend health benefits to an employee's lesbian partner.

Patricia Martinez, a word processing supervisor, sued the school in 2005, arguing that it granted benefits to heterosexual married couples but denied them to Martinez and her partner, Lisa Ann Golden.

The couple formalized their relationship through a civil union ceremony in Vermont in 2001. They were married in Canada in 2004.

The college refused to add Golden to the health care benefits because its contract with the Civil Service Employees Association did not address benefits for same-sex partners. Since then, the contract has been enhanced to extend benefits to an employee's domestic partner.

State Supreme Court Justice Harold Galloway dismissed Martinez's lawsuit in August 2006, saying that the state does not recognize same-sex marriages. However, the appellate judges determined that there is no legal impediment in New York to the recognition of a same-sex marriage.

The New York Civil Liberties Union called Friday's ruling a victory for families, justice and human rights.

### Q Puzzle Solution from P. 21

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

## Workplace Discrimination: NYC asks companies to end sexual orientation discrimination

By: Clare Trapasso  
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)— City officials on recently called on two dozen companies that have collectively received billions of dollars of local pension investments to ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identification.

City Comptroller William Thompson and the New York City Pension Funds asked these companies to amend their policies, but have no plans to withdraw investments if the companies do not comply.

"This is a huge message for the rest of corporate America that companies need to begin to talk about non-discrimination policies for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community," said Daryl Herrschaft, director of the Workplace Project at the Human Rights Campaign. "You can't foster an inclusive work environment without having basic protections in place for every employee to feel that they're protected from discrimination on the job."

New York City's five pension plans, which

include the Employees' Retirement System, Police Pension Fund, Fire Department Pension Fund, Teachers' Retirement System and Board of Education Retirement System, have more than \$110 billion in holdings. About \$2.2 billion of that is invested in the targeted companies.

Several of the companies targeted by the comptroller said they already have policies in place that bar discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identification. The companies named by Thompson included ExxonMobil Corp. and AK Steel Corp.

"It's never been our policy to discriminate in regard to sexual orientation or gender identity," said AK Steel spokesman Alan McCoy. "It was simply not specifically spelled out in our equal opportunity policy statement."

ExxonMobil strongly believes that it is a fair policy in place when it comes to workplace discrimination.

"We have policies that have zero tolerance for discrimination or harassment specifically referencing sexual orientation," said ExxonMobil Corp. spokesman Alan Jeffers.

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**Singles NY?**  
NY Local Listings!  
Check out p. 15

# The OutField: Sweating, and Seeking Bliss



By: Dan Woog\*

Bliss. Some people seek it through meditation; others through chemicals or sex. Christopher Bergland finds bliss through sweat.

Bergland sweats a lot. He has won three Ironman competitions. Each Ironman includes a 7.2-mile swim, 336-mile bike run, and 78.6-mile run. That's equivalent to swimming the Hudson River from Ground Zero all the way north to Grant's Tomb; hopping on a bike and pedaling down to the old Confederate capital of Richmond; then running all the way out to the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, two hours by car.

Bergland has also completed three Badwater Ultramarathons. Covering 135 miles and three mountain ranges from the depths of California's Death Valley to the heights of Mt. Whitney, in temperatures—we're talking July—of up to 130 degrees, the Badwater is the most demanding and extreme running race on the planet.

Just reading his accomplishments makes you want a massage. But there's more: Bergland holds the Guinness world record for most distance covered on a 24-hour treadmill: 153.76 miles. That's equal to running six marathons in a day. He did it as a fundraiser for a youth AIDS organization, but the effort almost killed him.

Soon after, Bergland spent four days in a hospital. His muscles were breaking down; he

suffered kidney failure, and his heart was eating away at itself.

Nearing 40 years old, Bergland made a deal with himself. He would never again push his body that hard. But he wanted to share his experiences—to show others how to use exercise, strength training, stretching, nutrition, sleep, behavioral modeling, and neurobiology to attain the blissful state he had luxuriated in for so long. Thankfully, we mortals don't have to run up mountains or bike like Lance Armstrong to do it.

A man of extremes, Bergland sequestered himself in a Provincetown cottage to write his book. "The first four months were romantic," he says. "I wrote 4,000 pages, and had three feet of manuscript. Then everyone left for the winter. I had been so consumed with what I was doing, but finally I realized I had to be plugged in to people. I was so isolated, as an athlete and a person."

So he changed direction. Revising *The Athlete's Way: Sweat and the Biology of Bliss*, he added an emphasis on the importance of connecting with people in everything we do. He realized that "people who exercise all the time disconnect from the world. My goal is to be in the trenches with humanity. The whole idea behind this book is to help people find bliss as both individuals and part of a collective society. There's a strong spiritual component to it, but it's very practical. It's a way to gain the optimism, resilience, and intensity of an athlete, while making exercise a sense of joy. Sweat becomes a symbol of striving for excellence. It can be applied to any dream or goal you aspire to achieve."

Bergland—who battled depression as a teenager, drank heavily for two years at



CHRISTOPHER BERGLAND

boarding school, and felt asexual all through college—owes a lot to exercise. "It gave me confidence and strength," he says. "It can do the same for anyone. All animals seek pleasure and avoid pain. If you make fitness pleasurable, you'll seek it more."

He is particularly adamant at what physical activity can do for gay men. "We are very

resilient," he notes. "We go through so much in our lives. It takes a lot to come through it all optimistic and determined. But if we exercise daily, we'll have great stamina, tenacity, stress reduction, sense of purpose, kinship, and drive."

Bergland says *The Athlete's Way* was not written for a gay audience. However, it was also not written with straight readers in mind. "That's part of the problem with marketing this," he says. "I tried to make the message universal, but people who are struggling with sexuality issues will definitely understand what I'm trying to say."

Bergland says he was pressured not to come out in the book. "I was going to de-gay it - to write in a 'don't ask, don't tell' kind of way. I was being really cautious about pronoun use. Then I just said, 'Screw it.' I ended up with quotes I'm really proud of. I'd call it 'post-gay.'"

Meanwhile, Bergland has more things on his mind than helping sedentary people find bliss through exercise and positive attitudes. He recently had a daughter, with a female friend who is also an Ironman athlete.

"Mirabel is beautiful and thriving," he says of his daughter. "Fatherhood is the most amazing thing. I can't even begin to describe it. It's just incredible."

Christopher Bergland has discovered one more path to bliss.

\* 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](http://www.danwoog.com). He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutField@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).

## Couch from Page 2

they've put us in, because they didn't describe us, or who we were. And I'd like to make the same argument for how we refer to our partners, wedded or not.

Many of us love using the word "wife" or "husband" to describe our other halves. I know it gives a great many couples such joy, perhaps a deeper sense of pride and commitment, to publicly proclaim their bond. I truly

don't have any qualms about that. I believe we should be able to express ourselves however we wish.

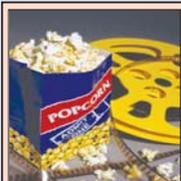
Because, dear reader, we are

different. And although we are granted (most of) the same rights and protections under the Constitution, and we may be very, very similar to our hetero brothers and sisters, we are still a tribe unto ourselves. The things we have experienced, suffered, or kept hidden for so long, give us a unique perspective. And perhaps a deeper understanding of the language we do (or don't) use.

So what's in a name? Maybe nothing, or everything.

But I'll be sure to ask my girlfriend—ugh, my partner—OK, the woman I'm married to, when I get home.

\* Suzan Ambrose can be heard on her radio program, *The Naked Truth*, Monday evenings at 8 p.m., and at 2 a.m. Tuesdays, on 103.3FM, Northampton, or streaming on the web at [www.valleyfeeradio.org](http://www.valleyfeeradio.org). For more of Suz's thoughts, check out her website at: [www.nakedtruthshow.com](http://www.nakedtruthshow.com)



## Lesbian Best Sellers\*

1. She Likes Girls 2
2. When Night is Falling
3. The Gymnast
4. Loving Annabelle
5. The L Word: Season 4
6. Tick Tock Lullaby
7. Sonja
8. Desert Hearts 2-Disc...
9. Personal Best
10. A Love To Keep

\* By wolfevideo.com

## Gay Best Sellers\*

1. East Side Story
2. Surveillance 24/7
3. Boy Crush
4. Coffee Date
5. The Bubble
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7. A Very Serious Person
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Source: Witeck-Combs Communications/Harris Interactive, Feb. 2007

## PERSONALS

### Women 4 women

Looking to meet women in the Springfield/Northampton MA area for friendship and fun! Diva's, Oz, dinner/coffee/drinks in NoHo or Springfield. Movies, the beach, you name it let's get together and do it! Contact Kris at [dolphinstarnight@yahoo.com](mailto:dolphinstarnight@yahoo.com)

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

**Hey, just checking it out** - I am new to boston and looking to meet some friends who like to have fun!

Maybe more. Contact: Ashley at [natwonder@gmail.com](mailto:natwonder@gmail.com)

### Men 4 Men

GWM, 37, seeks companionship in the Northampton area. Contact: Martin at 413-527-1533.

**Hey, 18 yo looking** for a man in Western MA, for romantic relationship... under 20 ONLY. Thanks. Contact: Josh at [PrynceShybo@gmail.com](mailto:PrynceShybo@gmail.com)

### BiCurious

SWBIF looking for friendship and possibly more in Springfield/Noho area. Very new to scene and testing the waters. Great sense of humor and kind heart. College educated and intelligent. Contact Ashley at [honour\\_huston@hotmail.com](mailto:honour_huston@hotmail.com) or call

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