

# The Rainbow Times

Your LGBTQ News in MA, RI, North Central CT & Southern VT

Vol. 12 • Feb. 4, 2010 - March 3, 2010  
[www.therainbowtimesnews.com](http://www.therainbowtimesnews.com)

**FREE!**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF UMASS FAC



**Black Grace:**  
NZ's All-Male Dance Company  
to perform at UMASS **p15**

PHOTO: COURTESY ZIP RECORDS



**a balladeer:**  
A bit of a drama queen rocks  
without front man **pB8**



**HOT**  
Valentine's Day  
**GIFT IDEAS**  
by Mikey Rox **p20**

**Polymorphous**  
**Margaret Cho**  
dives into the big screen, again **pB6**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ASYNCHRONIC



# No convictions?

From the Publisher

By: Gricel M. Ocasio/TRT Publisher

Although it is the month of love, I believe that love relationships, in general, would last longer and be better nurtured if perhaps more love went into them. Of course, it is nice to do something special for your loved one (parent, partner, wife, husband, sibling, etc.) on the 14th, but doing something on any other day is, perhaps, nicer—not to mention unexpected.

Maybe the rumors that President Obama will ask Congress to repeal DADT are leaving very positive thoughts on my mind. Perhaps, it could be that many of us feel that DADT should have happened early on, as our “fierce advocate” promised before he was elected. I think President Obama has had to deal with many other pressing matters, don’t take me wrong. However, my lack of rights places me in a very disadvantageous position. No human should have to worry about not being treated equal under the law. However, we do. I do.

Even if Congress repealed DADT,

when would our LGBT-serving members of the military fight for our country “out in the open?” Could it take as long as it has taken women to receive equal pay from the one-year-old Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act? Or, must we continue to, as the National Women’s Law Center states, carefully “monitor the courts to ensure that the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is properly applied and to ensure that courts are using both Title VII and the Equal Pay Act proactively to combat the still pervasive problem of unfairly reduced wages” for women. This is what is laughable about these laws, acts, passages, etc. They are passed, written, talked about in the news, but once the news becomes old, there is no enforcement of them. Are they not enforceable because women do not hold as many powerful positions in politics? Or, are they not because it is beneficial for companies to continue to pay women less for something they really need—a safe job at dismal time. So, when I hear a rumor about DADT, I realistically know that I may pass away before I see any change. You could too. Happy Valentine’s Day!

Best,

Gricel M. Ocasio

Publisher

# Don’t stop thinking about Haiti, but look deeper than what meets the eye

Opinion

By: Jason Lydon/TRT Opinion Writer

As queer and trans people we need to be ready to open our eyes wider and be suspicious about what we are being told about the disaster in Haiti. We should know, because of our own experience with being lied about, blamed, and shamed, that what we are hearing about Haiti in mainstream media outlets is not the whole story. Certainly we all have a strong reaction to the disgusting comments by Pat Robertson, his racist mouth needs more than just soap to shut him up. However, how suspicious are we being when we hear that the United States is sending far more soldiers than we are sending health care professionals, translators, or aid? As queer and trans people we are rightfully suspicious of the *Red Cross*. How many times have we all gone to donate blood yet discovered that our blood is not good enough for their system? The International *Red Cross* has its own shame-

ful history as well. In an *LA Times* article Richard Walden writes of the *Red Cross*, “Its fundraising vastly outruns its programs because it does very little or nothing to rescue survivors, provide direct medical care or rebuild houses.” When giving money to support the people in Haiti we should continue to wear our queer lenses and give our money elsewhere, prioritizing organizations that are run by the Haitian people and that serve those most marginalized in Haiti’s communities.

We also need to remember to learn our history. The people of Haiti have been blamed for



Jason Lydon

See Haiti on page 18

# C’m on Out – Just Ask! Advice Column

By: Tetty Gorfine\*/TRT Columnist

Dear Tetty,  
I recently met a really hot woman on an Olivia Cruise. We had a fling on the ship, and decided afterwards to stay in touch. Well, we are starting to fall for each other, which creates lots of complications because we are both professionals with deep roots in our respective communities. We are trying to be “reasonable” but neither of us wants to stop what is developing between us. Help! She’s 3000 miles away!  
—Thanks, Nancy

Dear Nancy:  
The fact that neither of you want to stop seeing one another is key. Unless one or both of you have some substantial issue keeping you from seeing one another, I think you may be hooked. I often wonder whether we chose

love or love chooses us. You and your new sweetie get a chance to explore this question! If each of you can swing the financial burden of flying across country and have jobs that will allow for it, go for it. Otherwise, see if you can “choose” to not pursue what is happening between you two.

Of course you both will feel the pressures to decide what to do about this long distance affair especially if you continue to fall in love.



Tetty Gorfine

See C’m on Out on page 8

# The Controversial Couch

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

By: Suzan Ambrose\*/TRT Columnist

The Shady Lady, a nice, little licensed brothel in Nevada, just popped up in the news. They are recruiting male prostitutes to service an under-served female populace. I guess with all the sudden media interest in “cougars” (older women interested in much younger men) there appears a need for young, fresh male ... cubs.

“Markus” is the first ‘prostitute’ to sign on to be, in his own words, “a surrogate lover” to women. What a nice ring that has. How many of us can sleep now that we can self-identify? It would have saved me years of therapy!

While unemployment is on the rise all across America, the Shady Lady has been hiring “a few good men who are service-minded and willing to please.” But the definition of pleasing is ...? It’s not like men can fake an orgasm, so this might be a job for Superman on Viagra. (This really gives new meaning to Man of Steel!)

Prices start at \$200 for a 40 minute session. Forty minutes? I’m still unwinding, talking about my day and asking my sweetie for a little rub at that point in the foreplay ... how many women can be ready to perform as soon as they walk in the door? Grrr, grrr Tigress...

Brothel lobbyist George Flint, in the Las Vegas Review-Journal, predicts the whole idea is doomed. “Women won’t come in for a quickie. They’re not jackrabbits like men are.” I have



to agree. Perhaps if they threw in an all-night cuddle or a pedicure afterwards ... hmmm ...

But the larger question looms still: will women actually pay for sex? And why, indeed, when you can get it for free almost anywhere? Heidi Fleiss, Hollywood’s notorious Madame to the Stars, tried to get something like this up (and coming) a few years ago, only to see her idea fizzle out like an erection in the pool.

Fleiss went on record saying this small effort to give women equal access to paid sex would fail: “Why would you drive out there when you can go on Craigslist? No woman wants to get it that bad.”

And isn’t this still just a bit taboo for Puritanical America? To imagine our women heading over to the Shady Lady, the Macho Man Stud Farm or the Delicious Dyke Inn for a little something-something before they head home to serve up dinner or head out to the hairdresser? Just look at what’s happening in Northern Ireland with the First Minister and his wife, (ironically named Mrs. Robinson) and the cougar-esque affair she had with a young man 40 years her junior. Peter Robinson has had to step down over the scandal, involving money, power, sex and greed. Now, if it had just been him, and not his wife, the world would have had a chuckle over it, and it would

See Brothel on page 4

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Controversial Couch was really great, especially truthful to how we all try to revive the youthful years and can’t. I see so many of my younger friends now living the crazy life, filled with booze, smokes and doing so many daring things. I did the same and now looking back, wish I hadn’t. Was good to read others feel the same too.

—Candice M., Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

Jason Lydon rocks! I laughed my a\$\$ off reading “Genitals can be Deceiving.” His style appeals to me and my friends. It’s great to see another White gay guy who’s not afraid to say it as he sees it.

—Ray J., Jamaica Plains, MA

Dear Editor,

Paul Jesep’s stories are really inspirational and he poses ideas or queries that touch deeply into our Queer lives, from his perspective. Thank you for giving us such a great column!

—Martha K., Greenfield, MA

Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed the coverage of the RI gubernatorial race by Joe Siegel. It really helped me get to know the candidates better and I was happy to see a GLBT paper cover it. I’m so happy that the Times covers our events and politics.

—Renee G., Providence, RI

Dear Editor,

Adam Lambert!! Adam Lambert!! Oh my God, he’s so Hot! Thanks for a great cover. Now he’s on my wall!

—Jason O., Cambridge, MA

See Letters on page 23

## The Rainbow Times

351 Pleasant St., #322  
Northampton, MA 01060

www.therainbowtimesmass.com

editor@therainbowtimesnews.com

sales@therainbowtimesnews.com

papersales47@mac.com

MA: 413.204.8959 & 518.391.2617

Boston & RI: 617.438.4364

Fax: 617.987.0059

Publisher <b>Gricel M. Ocasio</b>	Columnists <b>Suzan Ambrose</b>
Editor-In-Chief <b>Nicole Lashomb</b>	<b>Paul P. Jesep</b>
Sales Manager <b>Bill Berggren</b>	<b>Deja N. Greenlaw</b>
Distribution Manager <b>SJ Seymour</b>	<b>Tetty Gorfine</b>
Sales Associates <b>Liz Johnson</b>	<b>J.M. Sorrell</b>
Webmaster <b>Chris Gilmore</b>	<b>Lorelei Erisis</b>
<b>Jarred Johnson</b>	Reporters <b>Lisa A. Eramo</b>
	<b>Tynan Power</b>
	<b>Joel Siegel</b>
	Lead Designer <b>Jim Curran</b>

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



**Escape the cold to warm and sunny Miami Beach - All Tickets and Passes on Sale Now**



**Winter Party Festival®**

**National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**



# WPF'10

**March 3 - 8, 2010 | Miami Beach, FL**

**A six-day celebration bursting with world-class DJ's, award-winning dance parties and fun-filled social events in Miami and Miami Beach's most spectacular settings**



**Featuring World-Famous DJ's: Alexander, Roland Belmares, Boris, Alyson Calagna, Charlmix, Chus & Ceballos, Hector Fonseca, Brett Henrichsen, Oren Nizri, the Perry Twins, Ana Paula, Pride, Rosabel (Abel & Ralph Rosario) & Tracy Young**

[www.winterparty.com/rt](http://www.winterparty.com/rt)

National Gay and Lesbian  
**Task Force**



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

Premier Marketing Partner  
**MIAMI BEACH** VISITOR AND CONVENTION AUTHORITY

[AA.com/rainbow](http://AA.com/rainbow)



gaydar.net

IGLTA

MARKS LIST

masterbeat.com

My Gay Times.com

NEXT



outlook

PASSPORT magazine

SHOWTIME



# Faith, Family, and God – We are all interconnected

In the Name of God

By: Paul P. Jesepe\* / TRT Columnist

People, even those who annoy, offend or irritate, can change you for the better. You also can change them for the better as well. Desmond Tutu, an Anglican bishop of South Africa, observed, “We are bound up in a delicate network of interdependence because, as we say in our African idiom, a person is a person through other persons.”

Put another way it's similar to throwing a pebble into a pond. The pebble starts the process causing a chain of events one leading to another. Former relationships, for example, are not failures. They are invaluable perspective about life and who you are as an individual.

I was especially reminded of interdependence when recently listening to the Russian composer Igor Stravinsky. There were pieces that had a George Gershwin-like sound to them.

A friend, a bit of a Renaissance man, pointed out that in the case of both gents; they were influenced by African-American Jazz as developed in Chicago and New Orleans. In addition, he noted that many of the first white Jazz musicians were Jews, which would explain their appreciation for this form of music. If you've ever heard Klezmer music you'll understand. I'm not a musician or music historian, but I suspect Klezmer left its mark on Jazz.

Getting fired from a job because you didn't

fit in may have a humbling impact. It's good to remember that there is always someone brighter, better educated, or more successful. That's life. It doesn't make you less of a person, but it keeps things in balance when it comes to what's important – love, family, friendship. God won't care if you die penniless, wrote a New York Times best-seller, or lived a quiet life. The Creator will care whether you lived it with integrity and respect toward others.

A neurotic colleague (we've all worked with them) may end up teaching you about patience. Sometimes it takes patience, not to mention the several pounds of chocolate you need for medicinal purposes, to help manage a difficult personality. These folks are generally clueless as to how they come across to others. The person no doubt wrestles with some kind of personal demon that unfortunately gets projected onto others or into the work place.

The challenge comes by finding something beneficial from the relationship. What can it teach you? How can it make you more empathetic or compassionate?

Global events can change us too. In tragedy we're reminded that our personhood can develop because of tragic events. It's impossible not to hear or read about the conditions in Haiti after the recent earthquake.

Why not sacrifice a portion of the money you were planning to spend for Valentine's Day toward Haiti or another charity? Instead of a pound of Lindt or Godiva perhaps get you're significant other a half pound? No need to contribute to any more love-handles. In place of silk boxers or a teddy, which they won't be wearing for long anyway, why not something less expensive, but just as sexy?

According to legend, St. Valentine for whom the day is named violated Roman law by marrying young couples. The emperor had outlawed nuptials for young lovers since single soldiers made for a better, stronger, more cohesive army. Perhaps it had something to do with stored-up energy. Valentine prematurely met his maker with a death sentence for breaking the law.

Although the hopeless romantic believed in

love, he also cherished the importance of relationships of couples, or individuals regardless of being in a relationship, have to the world and community around them. We are all interconnected. Try to take and leave behind something positive. Happy Valentine's Day!

\* Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He may be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.

## Brothel from page 2

have disappeared.

Just politics as usual, we would have said. The world isn't as forgiving when it involves women and sex; we are subject to higher scrutiny and judgment from all arenas.

But ultimately, beyond specific health risks, the main worry in this story seems to be that male brothel workers will sell sex to men, which might result in a backlash, endangering Nevada's regulated sex industry. So, let's be clear here: the sex industry is an acceptable business, unless homo sex is being offered legitimately. Houston, we have a problem. And it will be a big one, if my gay brothers have anything to say about it!

Bottom line? Very few male prostitutes can earn a living servicing women exclusively. That appears to be a thing of the movies. Men are just more determined consumers of professional sex. Women—much less inclination.

So why exactly should introducing male prostitutes to Nevada's legal brothels be a problem, when every major city already has male escorts? Male sex workers in Nevada will earn more if they're gay-for-pay, and probably be more safety-conscious. There'll be more standards concerning personal safety, as well.

It always comes down to the same thing: what's ok for heteros isn't always so for gay folks. We're always relegated to second-class citizens in our struggle for equality: marriage, health insurance, property rights and yes, even brothel sex!

Our movement must never forget the obstacles we face. Find your inner cougar ... and help keep “Markus” employed.

\* Suzan Ambrose has been known to play fondly with kitties and other wild creatures when she's not writing diligently for The Rainbow Times.

therainbowtimesnews.com



**HOPE TAKES ACTION**

Call 617.927.6450 or visit [www.HopeTakesAction.org](http://www.HopeTakesAction.org)

**Join us in the effort to stop HIV.**

Men who are between 18-45 years old and HIV negative can take action by volunteering in an HIV vaccine study. Volunteers receive reimbursement for time and travel. You can't get HIV from the vaccine.

FENWAY  HEALTH

TEL 617.927.6450 WEB [fenwayhealth.org](http://fenwayhealth.org)



# NoHo Pride aims to celebrate the LGBT community year round

Western MA News

By: Lisa A Eramo/TRT Reporter

When you think of colorful pride parades, the first place that may come to mind is Boston; however, this popular pride venue isn't the only city in Massachusetts that puts on a fun-filled celebration each spring.

For the past 29 years, Northampton—a liberal mecca tucked away in the western part of the state—hosts its own popular event that draws nearly 10,000 people annually.

The pride celebration that draws a packed crowd into the parking lot behind Thornes Marketplace where the event takes place would not be possible without the help of nearly 65 volunteers and a core team of 15 individuals who serve on various committees, says Bear White, director of NoHo Pride, Inc. (formerly Northampton Pride). NoHo Pride is a nonprofit organization that oversees this and several other LGBT events in the Northampton community.

White, along with four other members of the newly-formed board of directors of NoHo Pride, will orchestrate the 2010 event that will include live entertainment, food and craft vendors, a drag king and queen contest, and a parade to march through downtown Northampton. Last year, more than 1,200 people marched in the parade, and as many as 60 groups were represented.

"We were honored to have been offered the opportunity to run pride and we enjoy the work involved to make an event like this hap-

pen. We are grateful for our LGBT community and wanted to show our appreciation by doing hands-on work," says White.

The event is a huge undertaking and something that requires several months of planning, says White. Members of the board, each of whom has significant community event planning and business experience, lend their expertise to make the celebration as diverse and all-encompassing as possible. The 2010 NoHo Pride organizers include Bear White, Board President and Director, Karen Howerly, Board Secretary and Vendor Chair, Pat Haber, Board Member and Parade Co-Chair, Cid White, Board Treasurer and Marketing Chair, Lorelei Erisis, Board Member, Entertainment Co-Chair and Trans Liaison, Candy Cruccio, Volunteer Chair, JC Calcaño, Entertainment Co-Chair, Kelli Ashlaw, Communications Chair and Aydin Brannon, Parade Co-Chair.

This year, NoHo Pride will include greater representative of the transgender community as well as the LGBT deaf community. This year's pride will include live performances by Ayisha Knight-Shaw, a deaf lesbian multi-media artist, and Leslie-Anne Rios, a local transsexual musician.

"We are determined, and I personally am driven, to include all the folks who fall under the pride umbrella," says Lorelei Erisis, transgender liaison for NoHo Pride. Erisis, who recently spoke during Trans Lobby Day in Boston, says she also hopes to reach out to the polyamorous and bisexual communities.

It's important to keep in mind that the pride festivities could not take place without the support of the community, says White. NoHo Pride is currently seeking volunteers to serve

in a variety of capacities, including selling t-shirts, soliciting donations, providing security, and rendering cleanup services.

Volunteers are especially needed to organize and staff a children's area. "If somebody in the community wants to step up and work on this, we would love that," says White. For a more comprehensive list of volunteer opportunities and to fill out an online application form, visit [www.site.nohopride.org/Volunteer.html](http://www.site.nohopride.org/Volunteer.html).

In addition to volunteering at the actual pride event, there are a host of other ways community members can get involved year round to spread the message of honoring the integrity, history, and diversity of the LGBT community. "We want to encourage our community to be more prideful during the whole year," says White. She encourages people to contact her with ideas for events and other ways NoHo Pride can reach out to the community. The or-



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOHO PRIDE

**The Face of Pride: (L-R, front row)** Bear White, Board President and Director; Karen Howerly, Board Secretary and Vendor Chair; Pat Haber, Board Member and Parade Co-Chair; Cid White, Board Treasurer and Marketing Chair; **(L-R, back row)**, Candy Cruccio, Volunteer Chair; Lorelei Erisis, Board Member, Entertainment Co-Chair and Trans Liaison; and JC Calcaño, Entertainment Co-Chair. Not present: Kelli Ashlaw, Communications Chair and Aydin Brannon, Parade Co-Chair

ganization already plans to host a family pride day and an LGBT talent contest, she adds.

*Editor's note: NoHo Pride will take place rain or shine on May 1. For more information about NoHo Pride or the event, including how to volunteer, become a sponsor, or register to participate, visit [www.site.nohopride.org](http://www.site.nohopride.org). You may also call 413-586-5602.*

It's 84°

In Aruba!

**5 STAR TRAVEL**

Our Caribbean Experts have been to over 42 islands and on 19 cruises. Let us find the right island or cruise for you. **617-536-1999**

5star-travel.com 495 Columbus Avenue Boston, MA 02118 800-FLY-1999



# Transactivism: Transgender love is still new love across the board

Trans Opinions & More

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw/ TRT Columnist

Another February is now upon us and another Valentine's Day is approaching. It's a very nice occasion for many people who are in love and have significant others. However, it can be not so nice for those who do not. Last February, I wrote about the subject of a transgender valentine and how difficult it is for a transperson to find love. This February, I am following up with some thoughts and observations from the past year.

Having a transgender love is still considered out of the norm, but it does happen. It is becoming more frequently visible than last year. There is a long ways to go to catch up to the straight, gay and lesbian norms. Some reasons may be that transgenders have a relatively small population and that many transgenders are just now becoming very visible in today's society.

Many transgender people would like to be with straight people, however

many straight people are not comfortable with a transgender mate. Again, we are somewhat "new" to them and they most likely aren't used to us yet. Many probably are just starting to accept us let alone thinking about dating us. Most likely that will change in the future as we become more visible and more accepted in society.

Many other transgender people would like to be with gay or lesbians but many gays still prefer other gays while many lesbians still prefer other lesbians.

There is success in transgender/transgender relationships whether they are either both transwomen, and both transmen or a transwoman/transman combination. After all, who knows better what it's like being trans than another trans? As one transman who recently hooked up with a transwoman told me "Deja, there are no questions in this relationship. I



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

don't have to constantly explain anything." He has a very good point indeed!

I know of trans with straight, gay or lesbian couples and although their relationships are strong, there seem to be and will probably always be questions. Love answers many of them, but not all. It's a situation where it makes it difficult to explain yourself. You just are who you are. As a transman once told me when I first ventured out as a transwoman, "Deja, welcome to the transgender world. Let me acquaint you with the rules. Rule number one: 'There are no rules!'"

To summarize, our numbers are small, we are just really beginning to become visible, and we challenge gender norms. These are some of our "obstacles" but none of the three are really insurmountable. More and more of us are coming out and people are getting used to us and many are fine with us. In the past year I've noticed some gays flirting with transpeople, some lesbians looking us over as possible mates and straights considering us.

One straight friend of mine told me that he does like transwomen. He also explained that at this point in his life he did not want to have a partner that was going through their "second

puberty." I believe that he does have a valid point as we do have to "go through our teen years" once again and that would be hard for a mate to deal with as one grows older. Life is complicated enough and many people usually look for "easy" as they age. A partner going through puberty again just might complicate things.

I have always believed that it is a blessing and a curse being trans. It's truly awesome to live life in both genders but then again it sure is no picnic! However, does it really matter what gender, if any, that you identify with and does it really matter what gender, if any, is the person whom you love? All that really matters is that the spirits love each other. Call me a hopeless romantic, but that's how I see it. I also believe that there is someone for everyone. Just make sure that you don't miss this person and please don't let them pass by you!

So to those who have a wonderful Valentine's Day, please enjoy and I applaud you, and to those that don't have such a good day I say, "Don't worry! Cheer up! Your time is coming. Always keep your eyes, minds and hearts open!"

## Ask a Transwoman: Male privilege & female oppression, I know both

By: Lorelei Erisis\*/TRT Columnist

Dear Lorelei

*I have an attitude - for lack of a better term - about "transgenderism" in general but particularly with me. I feel bewildered by the fact that a man thinks that simply by taking female hormones and having surgery, he can turn himself into a woman - it feels like the way men project that they know about what women's experiences are or what it "means" to be a woman in society, when they have never experienced that particular painful gender oppression, from birth, that totally contorts us. The most misunderstood I have ever felt has been by gay men and transsexuals - they seem to have no use for women, especially butch lesbians, unless the women are going to help them shop for shoes. Fag hags, sure - but butches? Forget us, we don't even exist, so frankly I would rather drink with a straight truck driver, with whom there are no pretenses, and have made that particular choice on many, many occasions.*

*I have finally met a male to female transsexual who I really like, and I want to be respectful and I am wishing and hoping that this respect might finally be a two-way street. Can you shed any light on this subject?*

—Butch from Boston

Dear Bean-town Butch,

I am incredibly glad that you asked this question. I can assure you it's hardly the first time I've heard this sentiment expressed before and

I thoroughly believe it's about time that some misconceptions are well and truly cleared up.

I'm going to start by addressing several statements you make which are fairly common misunderstandings in regards to transgender people. Right at the top, the word "transgenderism" implies that being transgender is something that transgender people do—specifically something that some "men" do. Both of these ideas are—I can assure you—incorrect. Transgender is something that I am; that we are. It implies a state of transition from one state to another, yes. I have argued that being transgender is an experiential description.

Allow me to clarify. I have always felt that I was a woman. However, for much of my life, certain physical and societal cues seemed to indicate otherwise. I had a body that seemed to be for all intents and purposes a male body. Although when I looked in the mirror I always felt a distinct disconnect, it felt like I was looking at a stranger. Due to this male-appearing body, I was named, categorized, filed and educated as what we refer to as "a man".

I promise I'm getting back to the specifics of your question here B.B. The reason I laid all that personal history out is to illustrate the idea that it is not the hormones or the surgery that are what make me, or will make me a woman. I already am. I have always been. The hormones and perhaps the various surgeries I might get are simply to help me realign my physical form with my properly felt gender. Don't get me wrong, the effect of the hormones is pretty wonderful. I actually feel connected to my own body for the first time in my life. I also feel more emotionally correct. That's not to say balanced, I think any woman will back me up on the roller-coaster experience of female hormones. But for me it just feels more—right—in a way that the effects of testosterone never did.

As for what it means to be a woman in society and how it feels to have experienced,

as you said, "that particular painful gender oppression, from birth, that totally contorts us." Well, no, I can never know what it is like to have always been perceived as a woman and consequently treated as such.

Oy, do I know from gender oppression though! Men may be treated better in this society, but I never asked to be labeled as one and actively resented the oppressive feeling of the experience. And, as to what it's like to actually BE a woman in this society, let me tell you, male-to-female transgender people get a serious crash course in that one! I personally went, willingly and excitedly, from the experience of living as a more-or-less straight White male and being treated accordingly, to being the very queer, transgender woman you see today! I leaped from the very top of the social ladder to, almost, the very bottom. I say "almost" because honestly, transgender women of color have it even harder. I'm still White.

The average woman, even women of color, in this country is a great deal better off than the average transwoman. Although there is still great disparity between the treatment of men and the treatment of women, legally, women can no longer be denied housing or employment or public assistance because of their gender. Transgender people can be.

I can probably tell you more about straight, white male privilege than even the most ardent feminist—because I had it. I know what it's like to get breaks simply for being "one of the guys," to be given opportunities I was technically unqualified for, and the unspoken confidence in my abilities that implies.

As a transgender woman, I knowingly chucked all that privilege away. What this means for me professionally for instance, is that I basically said, "No, no, I don't need you to hold the front door open for me. I'll shin-



Lorelei Erisis

ny up the side of the building and climb in a window."

So, no, I don't know what it's like to have been treated as a woman from birth. But I'm getting a heapin' helping of it now!!!

But this aside does kind of make my point. Just because we are transgender does not mean we are all alike. We share a common experience yes. We all know what it's like to be perceived as a different gender from what we feel ourselves to be. And, many of us share the experience of the journey to become who we truly are. But outside of that, we are as diverse as any other segment of society. In fact we cut across the whole spectrum.

Some transgender women are just straight girls, who aren't really going to have any interest in butch lesbians to begin with. Some are more like me. I'm so queer I fart rainbows!

Finally, I should mention that I know a growing number of absolutely dedicated trans butch lesbians. Transwomen who are frankly more comfortable in a pair of Dickies and a flannel shirt, who prefer Doc Marten boots over cute little kitten heels. They are strong women who like other women and who don't care one bit what the rest of society thinks a woman is supposed to be. They simply are.

I hope all this helps kindle the light of understanding for you at least a little my Bean-town Butch friend—because we need you. If we are going to gain the rights and the respect we all deserve, we need to stand together, in solidarity. As Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Trans—as people—as human beings fighting for human rights.

In the meantime, maybe you could introduce me to that straight truck driver friend of yours.

Until next time folks, keep those questions firing at me. The more controversial, the better! My weight-loss and fitness plan is currently based almost entirely on the rush of adrenaline I get from reading and answering them.

Slainte!

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



**The Highlands Inn**

A Lesbian Paradise

"One of the most romantic lesbian destinations on the planet."

-Planet Out

www.highlandsinn-nh.com

1-877-LES-B-INN

Bethlehem, New Hampshire



## HRC Foundation releases list of 2010 “Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality” 305 U.S. businesses recognized for their support, many of them featured in popular “Buying for Equality” iPhone application.

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the nation’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, today released its annual list of “Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality.” This year 305 companies were awarded this distinction for their employment policies and practices that include LGBT workers and their families. A complete list of the honored businesses is available online: [www.hrc.org/placestowork](http://www.hrc.org/placestowork).

“These companies’ actions constitute tangible, significant civil rights progress. By mandating equal opportunity in hiring, ensuring equal compensation through medical and family benefits, and promoting informed work forces and equal work places, these companies light the way for advances in state and federal law,” said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. “The list of “Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality” is an invaluable resource for anyone seeking employment with a company that supports our community. Corporate America continues to make progress, and federal law has to catch up. That’s the job ahead of us.”

The “Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality” distinction is awarded to businesses that scored 100% on the HRC Foundation’s 2010 Corporate Equality Index, the primary method for businesses to benchmark and evaluate their policies, practices and diversity efforts relating to LGBT workers. The index evaluates non-discrimination policies, benefits, diversity

training and other internal resources for LGBT workers, as well as external support for LGBT consumers and job seekers. Released in early September, the 2010 Corporate Equality Index report is available online at [www.hrc.org/cei](http://www.hrc.org/cei).

The 305 businesses will be honored on March 17 at the Sixth Annual LGBT Workplace Awards Seminar and Reception at the Time Warner Center in New York. The seminar will also honor the winner(s) of the 2010 Innovation Award for Workplace Equality – an award given to highlight a truly innovative program that a business has implemented to drive lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workplace inclusion.

Many of the 305 Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality businesses are featured in HRC’s Buying for Equality guide. The guide provides consumers with ratings of a business’s LGBT inclusiveness. Just weeks ago, HRC released the first-ever Buying for Equality iPhone application. The application can be downloaded here [www.hrc.org/iphone](http://www.hrc.org/iphone). The guide is also available via text message. Simply text the word SHOP followed by the business or brand to 30644 and we will respond with the company score.

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

## HRC’s comprehensive state-by-state legislative report More Pro-LGBT Bills Passed in 2009 than in 2008 & 2007 Combined

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the nation’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, today released a comprehensive state-by-state report detailing LGBT-related legislation in 2009 and an outlook for 2010. The report indicates that despite disappointments in 2009, we witnessed a banner year for positive legislation affecting the LGBT community with as many positive bills passed this past year as in 2007 and 2008 combined. The report also details expectations for 2010 with the fight for marriage equality and relationship recognition now focused on Hawaii, Illinois, New Mexico, and Rhode Island and continued state and local efforts to protect LGBT employees. To view the report online, visit: <http://www.hrc.org/StateToState>.

“While the road is never easy, we look ahead to 2010 with renewed dedication in the fight for equality,” said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. “We will continue to work closely with state LGBT groups and our allies to secure these much-needed advancements. As the midterm elections heat up, we must remain focused on the many state legislators who stood with us by continuing to support them and also remember those who stood in the way.”

• **Marriage equality:** The Iowa Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of marriage equality earlier this year with support from both the Iowa House and Senate for preserving the ruling. New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Vermont legislatures voted in favor of same-sex marriage in 2009. In Maine, marriage equality

was passed in both chambers and signed into law by the Governor, only to be lost by a small margin at the ballot. The Council of the District of Columbia voted to recognize out-of-state same-sex marriages and swiftly followed with a law allowing same-sex marriage within the District which will take effect in spring 2010.

• **Relationship Recognition:** Washington and Nevada passed laws to grant equal benefits to domestic partners in an “everything but marriage” framework. Colorado and Wisconsin passed their very first laws affording various protections to same-sex couples including estate planning, hospital visitation, and family leave, with the possibility of expanding the protection to include other benefits in the future. While the New York Senate rejected marriage equality, the highest court in New York ruled that the state can continue to recognize marriage of same-sex couples performed out of state.

• **Anti-discrimination legislation:** In Delaware, Governor Markell signed an anti-discrimination bill into law which included sexual orientation as a protected class. Massachusetts and New York are poised to expand their current anti-discrimination policies by including protection for gender identity and gender expression. The Mormon Church gave its support to banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Salt Lake City, giving hope that a state-wide anti-discrimination bill will soon follow in Utah.

**See Civil Rights on page 17**

One Mind. One Body.



Fenway Health is your one-stop provider for your health care needs.

Our staff is sensitive to each patient’s needs and we have a long history of caring for our neighborhood, the LGBT community and people living with HIV/AIDS.

### Providing the Services You Need

- + Medical care
- + Behavioral health care
- + Dental care for adults and children
- + Eye care for adults and children
- + Pharmacy
- + HIV-related services
- + Women’s health
- + Transgender health
- + Family and parenting services, including alternative insemination
- + Complementary therapies, including massage, nutrition and chiropractic

**Fenway Health**  
Ansin Building  
1340 Boylston Street  
Boston MA 02215  
TEL 617.267.0900

**South End Associates  
of Fenway Health**  
142 Berkeley Street  
Boston, MA 02116  
TEL 617.247.7555

**FENWAY HEALTH**  
WEB [fenwayhealth.org](http://fenwayhealth.org)



# Creep of the Week: Lisa Miller



D'Anne Witkowski

By: D'Anne Witkowski\*

When Lisa Miller left her partner Janet Jenkins and took their daughter Isabella with her, it was the Christian thing to do. Quite literally, since Miller denounced her former lesbianism and became a Christian – in Jerry Falwell's church, no less.

Miller doesn't want anything to do with Jenkins and doesn't want their daughter to have anything to do with Jenkins, either. And so Jenkins sued. And things got ugly and have been ugly for years as things so often are in custody battles.

Except that this is no ordinary custody battle. Lisa Miller is, in many ways, a dream come true for the anti-gay right. She's a fairly attractive ex-lesbian fighting in order to save her daughter from the evil forces of homosexuality. Needless to say, she has received a lot of high-publicity help from the anti-gay legal ranks, such as the Liberty Council.

The case is complicated on so many levels. Miller and Jenkins did, after all, enter into a civil union in Vermont before they had Isabella. But when Miller left with Isabella, she went to Virginia, a state that does not recognize same-sex unions.

There has been a court ordered custody agreement, but Miller has always defied it. She doesn't want Isabella around Jenkins because Jenkins is gay and that is, after all, horrible and disgusting and evil and wrong and how can she teach these values to her daughter if Jenkins is in the picture?

Tired of fucking around, a Vermont judge ruled in favor of Jenkins and ordered custody be relinquished by Miller on New Year's Day.

So on New Year's Day, Miller showed up on Jenkins's doorstep with Isabella and the two women hugged and said, "No hard feelings" and Isabella stood between them and smiled.

Actually, Miller and Isabella never showed

up. And nobody seems to know where they are. Her lawyers at the Liberty Council are mum. In fact, there was even a report that they were on vacation and couldn't comment. Because, you know, a client skipping out on a court order and potentially fleeing with the child is no big thing.

The saga has brought out the best and the brightest of the anti-gay brigade. National Organization for Marriage President Maggie Gallagher had particularly clarion insight on the matter. "Let this act as a warning call: Don't enter civil unions with people if you do not want to give them legal rights over your children," Gallagher said.

Oh, OK. Got it. It's much better to have children outside of pesky legal commitments like civil unions. But why stop there? Marriage, an institution open to everyone except gays, is an even bigger problem. Because having kids with someone you're married to also creates a lot of legal headaches. And if you never get married, you don't ever have to get divorced! Thanks, Maggie! As I've always said, a nation of bastard children is a nation of happy children.

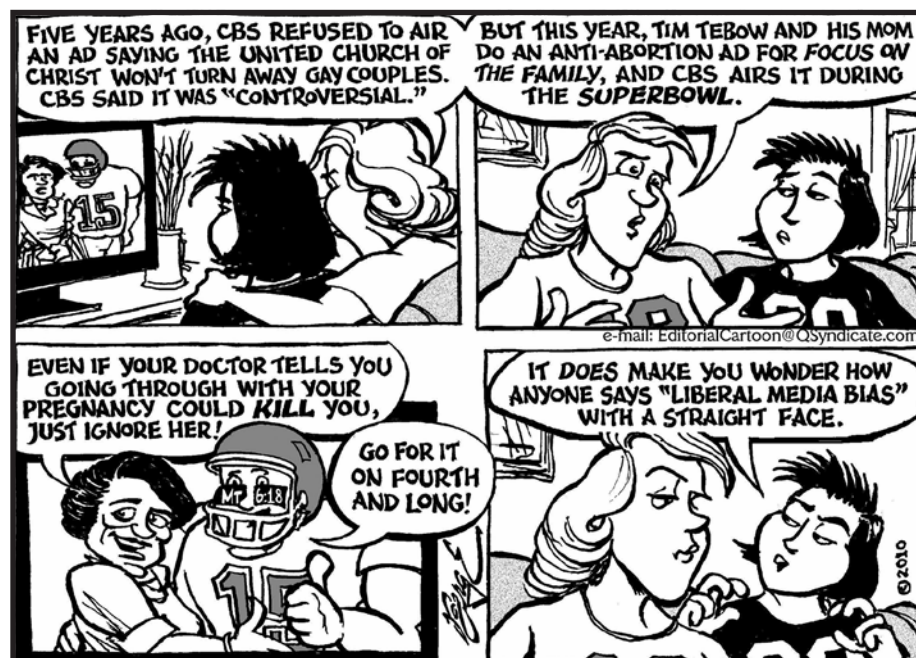
**As I've always said, a nation of bastard children is a nation of happy children. Seriously, though. If Jenkins and Miller were a heterosexual couple ...**

Seriously, though. If Jenkins and Miller were a heterosexual couple, Miller wouldn't have been able to

just elbow Jenkins out of the picture so easily. Unless Jenkins was a danger to her child (she isn't), she'd be allowed visitation if she were a dude and nobody would even be talking about this because it happens all the time.

Ex-wives and ex-husbands do ugly things to each other and, far too often, kids are trapped in the middle of it all. Allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally marry helps protect the kids that exist in many of these relationships, which is something Miller and the anti-gay horde she has supporting her would acknowledge if they really wanted to "protect" marriage.

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



## C'mon Out from page 2

I would urge you both to resist renting the preverbal U-Haul as the well known joke often references. For those of you who do not know this joke, it asks: "What do lesbians do on their second date?" The answer of course is, "rent a U-Haul!"

Take your time to get to know one another. This may be difficult. If both of you have strong professional roots, allow this to help you spend the time needed. It is a good practice that all people spend more time, rather than less making sure major life changes are well founded.

Remember also, "distance makes the heart grow fonder." If it is "hot" now, it will likely continue when you don't see one another regularly. Enjoy this benefit and keep in mind that time once again is the only thing that will allow you to really get to know one another.

Try to spend long vacations together to see where you get on each other's nerves. You may think I'm being facetious or only looking for the negative, but in fact, one way or the other, all couples will get to know the things about each other that drive one another crazy. Coming to love and accept the other even though he/she drives us crazy at times, is part of love. In fact, real love comes from knowing the other one's blemishes and imperfections and loving still. This is an essential element of lasting love and I urge you Nancy to take time before making any life changes. Still, enjoy. New love is exciting. Use the tension of the distance to plan romantic dates and enjoy. As time goes on, you and your new sweetie will find your way.

Oh and Nancy, here's a few other tips.

- make sure you and she use the same cell phone carrier so you can enjoy your late night rendezvous free of charge
- try to take only carry on luggage on to the airplane to avoid baggage fees
- remember, going east is easier on the body, than going east (I don't know why, it just is)
- and since you're on the east coast and she's on the west, try not staying up so late on the phone. The 3 hour time difference will be harder on you than she, unless of course you call her early in the morning, which of course is the middle of the night for her

Enjoy, Tetty

Ms. Gorfine:

I just have to ask about the transgendered thing. I've been seeing a whole lot these days about transgendered people, how things are so hard for them, how they can't help being this way and how we should all be more sensitive and understanding of them. You're a professional and say you work with them.

Well, I just have to ask. Don't you think there's really something wrong with them? Isn't it really about what they didn't get from their mom or their dad? I just don't understand. If god gave us a male or female body, isn't that the way a person should be?

—Curious

Dear Curious:

If my years on this planet have taught me anything, it is that there is so much we can not understand. We don't know why we're here on this earth or our purpose. We don't know why we fall in love. Geez, some days we don't even know why we get out of bed.

I have had the privilege of working with the trans community for more than 25 years. I'll admit, when I saw my first trans client, when I did not know any other trans person or anyone who worked with trans people, I wondered if my client's experience was valid. But this person did not seem any different than any of my other clients. I sat patiently getting to know "him." What I saw, and what I have repeatedly seen for 25 years are people who feel better about themselves and their lives and contribute more to the lives of others once they come to terms with their gender.

No, I do not think there is anything wrong with trans people. The very same question has been asked about gay men and lesbians. People have argued that lesbians become so because they were too close to their mothers or sexually abused by their fathers or other men. If the latter were the case, many more women would be lesbians than there are.

If we may all be more curious about ourselves, question our own motivations and inclinations rather than others, perhaps we can each bring more compassion and understanding to our world.

Good luck Curious. Tetty

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

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

## Finding You the RIGHT One, Not Just Anyone



Lanie & Bud, Company Founders  
"We met through a dating service."

- Personal, Discreet, Respectful
- People are who they say they are ...
- All singles - Straight or Gay - welcome
- An affordable service

### We understand ...

- It's hard to meet the right person.
- You are busy and want matches chosen just for you.
- You might not want to meet someone in a bar or at work.
- You don't want your personal info for all to see on the Internet.



(413) 665-3218

• [massmatch.com](http://massmatch.com)

• [massmatch@comcast.net](mailto:massmatch@comcast.net)



# A Good Family Man, ... but only for families he approved of/a generic issue becomes both specific and personal

By: Billy Glover\*/TRT Special

It is possible for most people to live and not really know what is going on, in the real world outside of their own little world. This is what I thought of when I started reading in the local press comments praising a man who just died as a "good family" man who did much for the community. I, being a homosexual citizen, an outsider to the people giving all this praise to a man who recently died, felt I should point out to these people that the man they praise limited his "family" to those he approved of, and worse, used his business, a barbecue restaurant, to promote hatred for homosexual citizens.

What young homosexual Americans have to deal with is when the generic becomes specific. I spent most of my life working to gain equal/civil rights for homosexual Americans. But I personally have had little problems living as a homosexual, since I had no fear of losing my job, my family and friends and neighbors did not reject me, and I ignored the false teachings of my church, since that church had taught me that the church had been wrong in the past, about such things as promoting slavery, etc, using the Bible to support their lifestyle choice.

But there comes a time when you realize that society is still in transition about minorities, even racial minorities, even in the time of an interracial president and many celebrities who say they are homosexual.

I knew this man, I ate his food, and it was not until he joined his church and put a sign in front of his restaurant supporting a law in the state to ban same sex marriage that I had to face the fact that people I thought were good were in fact acting and voting to harm me. I told him I thought he was wrong and never ate again at his restaurant.

That is what those who oppose bigotry have to do. Take it personally. It is your life that these "good" people are harming. He could be thought of by clueless people as being a good family man, who knew and fed generations of local citizens. But there were generations of "good family" white people in this area who

supported slavery and then forced/legal separation of the races. How do you decide who has a good family or what a good family is?

It is hard to see young people who can't understand, with Obama as a president that it was only in the 1960s that laws preventing Obama's parents from marrying were ended. They can't understand either that probably 80% of people wanted to keep those laws that told others who they could marry. Back then, just as a majority of people opposed *President Truman's racial integration of the military* in 1948.

Again this race issue was personal for me as my family had benefited from slavery and keeping black Americans as second class citizens. And it was a relative, whose son is now a judge, who devoted his life to trying to find devious "legal" ways of stopping desegregation in Louisiana. And, when he died I and others went to his funeral and heard him praised as a good family man and citizen. The fact is that only a small number of white people thought that, few black citizens did.

I wonder if any of those praising this man are keeping up with the lawsuit in California concerning the religious people and many black citizens who voted to take away the right of homosexual citizens to marry. It is when society tries to tell these people who to marry that it will suddenly stop being a generic issue and become specific and personal. That is why homosexual Americans have to work for their rights, and those who love us will join us. And, find restaurants to eat in that are truly conservative and don't want to control our personal lives.

\* Billi Glover has been an outspoken civil right's advocate since the 1950s. He worked over 30 years in LA with ONE, Inc. and on the (ONE) Magazine. He co-founded the Homosexual Information Center (<http://tangentgroup.org/>), which came out of ONE and the early Mattachine, to be the public voice of the movement for civil rights for homosexual Americans. Mr. Glover can be reached via email at: [bgloverhic@hotmail.com](mailto:bgloverhic@hotmail.com).

**I knew this man, I ate his food, and it was not until he joined his church and put a sign in front of his restaurant supporting a law in the state to ban same-sex marriage that I had to face the fact that people I thought were good were in fact acting and voting to harm me.**

## cathy hunter



real estate



584-4868

[www.cathy-hunter.com](http://www.cathy-hunter.com)

PRIDE presents  
PROMOTIONS

# The V-Day Dance

For women and their friends

Sat. Feb. 13

7:30 pm - 12:00 midnight

Union Station, Northampton

\$10 in advance  
\$15 at the door

Voluptuous

Valentine

V?

Vixen

Tea Dances

Third Sunday of every month!

Union Station ~ Noho

3 - 7 p.m.

Sponsored by  
Rainbow Times

Pride & Joy

Tickets? [www.NohoPridePromos.com](http://www.NohoPridePromos.com)  
or at Pride & Joy, Northampton. FMI: (413) 588-1512



# Worcester LGBT Elder Network strives to overcome barriers to care and other essential senior services

Central MA News

By: **Lisa A Eramo/TRT Reporter**

When the Worcester LGBT Elder Network (WLEN) launched last year, Kathy McGrath, LGBT resource specialist, says she immediately began “pounding the pavement” to spread the word. The initiative—a joint effort of the Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, the Elder Services of the Worcester Area, and the Worcester Senior Center—focuses on ensuring a voice for the LGBT elder community (i.e., those ages 60 and up) living in central Massachusetts. The network is funded by a \$20,000 grant from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

McGrath says the need for such a network is obvious. “We’ve discovered that there are no identified LGBT friendly nursing homes or assisted living facilities. [LGBT elders] have kept silent for so long. They’re not sure whether it’s safe to talk about their needs,” she adds.

This sentiment echoes a larger trend occurring at a national level. The needs of LGBT elders continue to remain largely invisible and unaddressed, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The Task Force re-

cently published its findings regarding barriers to health care, social isolation, and a variety of other topics related to elder care in *Outing Age 2010*—a 168-page document available on its Web site at [www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/outingage\\_final.pdf](http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/outingage_final.pdf).

These barriers prevent LGBT elders from seeking the care they need, says Ben Labonte,

niors” that WLEN is currently serializing the information through its free monthly e-mail newsletter. The network eventually hopes to use it as part of an LGBT training module for local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The network also hopes to host a conference in the spring to provide LGBT awareness training for social worker, nurses, and other

In addition to providing educational resources, WLEN offers a social outlet for LGBT elders through a variety of events, such as bereavement groups and coffee gatherings. Labonte, a retired newspaper reporter who joined the network after meeting McGrath at an LGBT meeting at his church, says he enjoys the socialization and new opportunities he encounters through working with the network. “It’s like I’m learning a new career. I’m beginning to understand a whole new field that I had never even considered before. It’s a lot of fun,” he says, adding that WLEN has afforded him the opportunity to be out as a gay man at work for the first time in his life.

WLEN includes a 10-person advisory committee. Four of the 10 members identify as transgender. The committee—along with its five subcommittees—work to plan events, perform outreach, and compile educational resources. The network has also compiled a local

LGBT resource guide focusing on resources in Worcester County that community members can use to seek referrals to LGBT friendly volunteers and providers.

For more information about WLEN, contact Kathy McGrath or Ben Labonte at 508-756-1545.

**“[Elders] lived in a much different time, so they’re more sensitive to identify publicly as gay. We don’t want to force them to do that, but we want to make sure that they get the services they need,” ...**

LGBT peer worker for the network. “LGBT seniors are isolated. They’re afraid that they will have to go back into the closet if they receive services. They’re afraid of how they’ll be treated,” he adds.

Labonte, 66, has spent much of his time with the network researching specific barriers to care. He has compiled his findings in a document titled “Principals of Care for LGBT Se-

direct care providers.

By overcoming these barriers—many of which are due to a lack of awareness—LGBT elders will receive the care they need, says Labonte. “[Elders] lived in a much different time, so they’re more sensitive to identify publicly as gay. We don’t want to force them to do that, but we want to make sure that they get the services they need,” he adds.

THE ONLY GLBT EVENT OF ITS KIND  
WHERE ELSE BUT NEWYORK CITY

# GLBT EXPO

17TH Original

**MARCH 20-21 2010**

JACOB JAVITS CONVENTION CENTER 38TH ST. AND 11TH AVE., NEWYORK CITY

**PLUS 2 DAYS OF NIGHTLIFE**  
Award Winning Performers in non-stop Entertainment

**FEATURING OVER 50 WEDDING VENDORS**  
Proudly produced by: [RainbowWeddingNetwork.com](http://RainbowWeddingNetwork.com)

**DISCOVER EXOTIC TRAVEL DESTINATIONS**  
[PASSPORTMAGAZINE.com](http://PASSPORTMAGAZINE.com)

**NEW THIS YEAR! BRING UNWANTED GOLD & STERLING**  
Get Paid Top Prices and get reimbursed for admission

**Take MTA-Metro-North Railroad GLBT Expo getaway package to the show and SAVE ON RAIL FARE AND ADMISSION.**  
Metro-North Railroad [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info)

**Proud to present the 3rd annual VIDEO LOUNGE**

**OUR SPONSORS**

**OVER 400 INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS • 20,000 VISITORS**

For information on exhibiting and attending:  
RDP Group 800-243-9774 [info@rdpgroup.com](mailto:info@rdpgroup.com)  
[www.originalglbtexpo.com](http://www.originalglbtexpo.com)



# Out! For Reel Premieres

## *The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls*

### Award-Winning Lesbian Film

NORTHAMPTON—Out! For Reel presents the hilarious and inspiring award-winning film, *THE TOPP TWINS: UNTOUCHABLE GIRLS* on Friday, February 26th, 7:30 p.m. at the Academy of Music in Northampton. A surprise local lesbian act will kick off this wonderful evening of music and laughter. Variety writes that *THE TOPP TWINS: UNTOUCHABLE GIRLS* is a film that “has you falling in love with two of the craziest people you never met...pure fun, very musical, and a can of mixed nuts.” From the land of down under, comes the incredibly entertaining story of twin sisters, Jools and Lynda Topp, both out lesbians, who grew up on a dairy farm in New Zealand to become the island nation’s most beloved musical and comic duo. “We’re

not comedians,” Lynda Topp says. “We’re singers who are funny.” But Topp may be too humble. Their comedy sketches filled with a cast of lovable, quirky characters have been making audiences double over with laughter for years. Director Leanne Pooley was thrilled to be able to work on a documentary that, for once, was funny. “It’s not every day you get to work with yodeling, lesbian, comedian, twin sisters. To top this off their story is incredible in its richness, variety and depth,” she says. *THE TOPP TWINS* film takes audiences on a delightful journey that highlights Lynda and



PHOTO COURTESY SALLY TAGG

**Lesbian twin sisters, Lynda and Jools Topp, make up the popular music/comedy duo from New Zealand, *The Topp Twins***

Jools top-rated television show, their work on behalf of gay rights in New Zealand, Jool’s triumph over breast cancer and the Topp Twins induction into New Zealand’s Music Hall of Fame. It’s easy to see how *THE TOPP TWINS: UNTOUCHABLE GIRLS* won the Cadillac People’s Choice Award (beating out Michael Moore) at the Toronto International Film Festival last September. These yodeling twins are winning the hearts of all audiences, LGBT or straight, young and old, around the globe. “The Topp Twins style of humor, and their ability to say important things without being threatening, means they have built a bridge from the alternative left to the mainstream and helped ordinary people accept what used to be called ‘radical’ ideas, like gay rights,” says Producer

Arani Cuthbert. “The Topp Twins are truly a phenomenon. They have an extraordinary effect on people, from all walks of life.”

For Jaime Michaels, Producer and Founder of Out! For Reel, the story of the trailblazing Topp Twins and their message of inclusion was a perfect fit for the LGBT film series. Michaels says, “Out! For Reel’s mission is to create and strengthen our LGBT community through cultural events, build connections to our heterosexual allies, and work toward the eradication of homophobia. The Topp Twins and Out! For Reel are really on the same page.”

Be the first on the East Coast to see this funny and poignant film as it makes its premiere in Northampton. “We are very honored that Out!

For Reel will be the first to premiere this film before all the major cities on the East Coast,” says Michaels. After the film, over 300 people will dance the night away at Out! For Reel’s very popular After Party at the Grand Ballroom at the Hotel Northampton where there will be catered food, cash bars, and fantastic dance music by DJ Jodi Entertainment. The party will begin at 9:30 p.m. “The best part about attending Out! For Reel screenings is that it’s more than a movie. It’s a community experience!” says Holly Fontana of Hartford, CT. “I live in Connecticut but I travel to Northampton for events and I have friends from all over Western New England who do the same. Sometimes, it’s the only chance we have to see each other. It’s a reunion of sorts.”

Film Tickets are \$12.50 in advance, \$14.50 at the door, \$10 for college students with current ID at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased online at [www.OutForReel.org](http://www.OutForReel.org). Tickets may also be purchased at ticket outlets: State Street Fruit Store, Northampton, Booklinks Bookseller, Northampton, Academy of Music Box Office, Food For Thought Books, Amherst, and World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield. After Party tickets may be purchased online and at the door. For more information, to watch the trailer, and to buy tickets, visit [www.outforreel.org](http://www.outforreel.org).

## EAST COAST PREMIERE!

# Out! FOR REEL

LGBT film series

*Hilarious award-winning musical comedy about lesbian twin sisters who grew up on a New Zealand dairy farm to become the island nation’s most beloved music and comedy duo.*

## THE TOPP TWINS + After Party!

### *Untouchable Girls*



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26th, 7:30 pm**  
**6:30 - 7:30 Social Hour Before the Film**  
**Academy of Music Theatre, Northampton**

\$12.50/\$14.50/\$10 Student w/ID (Door Only)

TICKET OUTLETS Northampton: State Street Fruit Store, Booklink Booksellers, Academy Box Office, Food + For Thought Books, Amherst, and World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield

**After Party! Hotel Northampton 9:30 - Midnight 300+ Attend!**

\$7.50 with film ticket / \$12 Non-filmgoers

Dance Music by the fantastic DJ Jodi! Delicious Food & Cash Bar

**More Info + Watch Trailer + Buy Tickets Online: [OutForReel.org](http://OutForReel.org)**



## CAROL WILLIFORD

### BOOKKEEPING PLUS

### ACCOUNTING and TAX SERVICES

4 Stanley Street  
 Easthampton, MA 01027

Phone/Fax: (413) 529-0889 • E-mail: [candm884@aol.com](mailto:candm884@aol.com)

RainbowTimes

noho

WGBY

BERTERA

88.5

THE HAMPDEN GAZETTE

Advocate

WVPR

women'sTimes



# Marathon runners to raise funds for Gay Domestic Violence

## Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project receives charity entries for Boston Marathon

Eastern MA News

BOSTON, MA—On April 19th, five runners will cross the finish line of the Boston Marathon, achieving a personal goal that few people will achieve in their lifetimes and raising critically needed funds for the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project (GMDVP), a gay, bisexual, and transgender specific domestic violence agency in New England.

The five charitable entries were made possible by the John Hancock Boston Marathon Non-Profit Program and JetBlue Airways. Runners will raise funds similarly to the ways employed for a walk-a-thon, utilizing letters, webpages, small events and other creative venues.

GMDVP recorded a 16% increase in client numbers for FY 2009, fueled in part by the stress of the economy. The organization provided emotional support, crisis intervention, community education, 24-hour hotline support, sanctuary in its safe home apartment, legal advocacy and representation in court.

While 1 in 4 gay men are directly affected by domestic violence (similar to the rates reported for women in heterosexual relationships), there are only five GLBT-specific beds for victims in Massachusetts, compared to several hundred beds for heterosexual female victims.

GMDVP continues to have to turn away victims from its safe home because it is at (or above) capacity for most of the year.

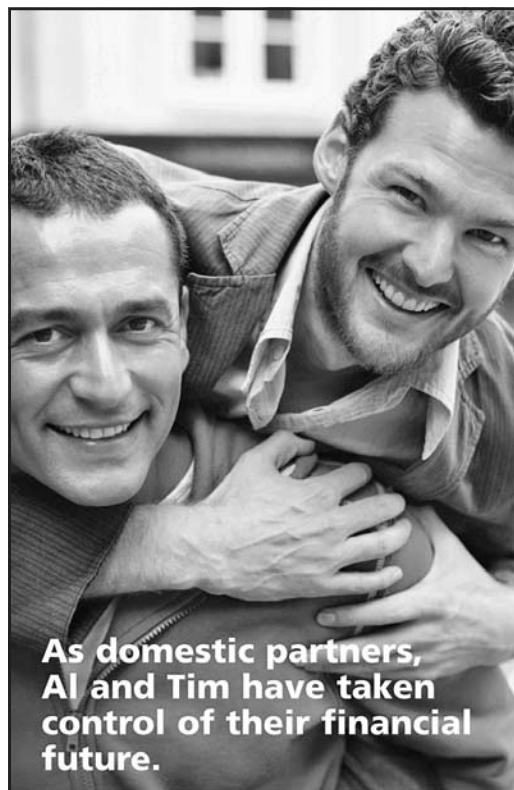
"GMDVP relies on community support to meet the needs of victims in crisis. With the current challenging economy, monies raised through the Boston Marathon are more important than ever" explains GMDVP Executive Director Curt Rogers.

GMDVP's fundraising goal for the team is \$25,000. Runners are being secured and the fundraising has begun. However, a few charitable marathon entries are still available. Runners interested in participating should contact development@gmdvp.org.

About GMDVP: GMDVP provides crisis intervention for victims and survivors of domestic violence. The organization focuses on gay, bisexual and transgender domestic violence, but works with anyone who is without services, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. GMDVP's offerings include education, advocacy, and direct services. GMDVP's hotline serves all of Southern New England, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. 24 hour hotline: 800.832.1901.



**"GMDVP relies on community support to meet the needs of victims in crisis ..."**



As domestic partners, Al and Tim have taken control of their financial future.

If you could do the same, would you? Working with a financial professional who understands the financial needs and concerns of gay and lesbian couples, Al and Tim were able to review their present situation and explore their future goals. I understand that every couple is unique. I can provide you with the appropriate products and services to help you create a financial strategy that addresses what's important to both you and your partner. To find out how working with a financial professional may help you achieve your dreams while financially protecting your relationship, give me a call for more information. Isn't now the best time to take control?

Adriane L. Zakarian  
Financial Services Representative  
Registered Representative  
One Research Drive, Suite 201C  
Westboro, MA 01581  
(508) 614-4425  
AZakarian@metlife.com



For the if in life.®

**MetLife**

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 200 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10166. L06076915[exp0709] © UFS  
0711-6417a

# New Summer Camp Created Exclusively for GLBT & Questioning Youth Nationwide

MINNEAPOLIS—District 202, GLBTQ Online High School and One Heartland have collaborated to offer a traditional summer camp experience for youth and young adults ages 13-21 who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning their gender or sexuality (GLBTQ) called QAMP! This seven-day program will run from July 25-31, 2010 at Camp Heartland in Willow River, Minnesota, which is 90 minutes north of the Twin Cities.

QAMP! will be open to GLBTQ youth nationwide and include traditional camp activities like canoeing, camping, a climbing wall, swimming, and campfires. Camp Heartland's birch and pine covered hills, three lakes and other facilities offer up to 130 youth exposure to nature, access to programming and a unique welcoming community setting of their peers that's free of harassment. One Heartland is a fully accredited camp program that has served kids and families since 1993. "Summer camp can a life-changing experience for all youth," said David Glick, Executive Director of the GLBTQ Online High School. "Unfortunately, the harassment and isolation that many GLBTQ youth experience in schools often can follow them to camp. That's obviously not acceptable, and that's what inspired us to create QAMP!"

"Many GLBTQ youth are deprived of their own community and nature, in general, especially in our urban cores," said Curt Prins, Executive Director of District 202. "QAMP! will bring together GLBTQ youth from around the country and create this wonderfully unique community of youth where they can be themselves with their peers without fear."

Registration opens Wednesday, January 20, 2010 and will remain open until April 5, 2010 or until all spaces are filled. Full and partial scholarship will be available for youth and families with financial need.

QUICK FACTS:  
Program: QAMP!

Dates: July 25-31, 2010

Location: One Heartland Center, Willow River, Minnesota

QAMP!ers: 100 (maximum) GLBTQ-identifying youth and young adults and siblings, ages 13-21

Cost: \$495 includes transportation from the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport. Some scholarships may be available based on financial need. Registration: Visit [www.qamp.mn](http://www.qamp.mn) for more information and registration materials.

About District 202:

Founded in 1992, District 202 empowers GLBTQ youth to find their voice, strengthen themselves and gain skills through mentoring and connecting with their communities in person and online. The organization is evolving the standard for GLBTQ youth outreach to expand and deepen its impact.

District 202 provides resources and opportunities for GLBTQ youth to succeed by offering programs, social events and mentorship opportunities. Effectively leverage partnerships with businesses, community organizations and other resources enables the nonprofit to be actively meet the needs of youth by reaching them where they are and creating safe, enriching environments to foster growth.

About GLBTQ Online High School:

GLBTQ Online High School is the world's first online high school created especially for students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning their sexuality or gender. It is a private school based near St. Paul, Minnesota and opened on January 25, 2010 to serve students nationwide and from around the world. The school will provide a safe and welcoming educational community and a high quality, comprehensive college preparatory online high school experience for students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning their sexual orientation or gender using the best technology and techniques of distance education.

To inquire, contact: Dave Glick, Executive Director, [dave@glbtqonlinehighschool.com](mailto:dave@glbtqonlinehighschool.com), 651-735-4125, online at [www.glbtqonline-highschool.com](http://www.glbtqonline-highschool.com)

About One Heartland:

One Heartland is a national non-profit organization committed to greatly improving the lives of children, youth and their families impacted by HIV/AIDS and other significant life challenges worldwide. Camp Heartland is a national program that welcomes children from 40 different states. One Heartland operates camps in California, New York and Minnesota and has begun an international expansion.

Since 1994, One Heartland's Journey of Hope AIDS Awareness Program has traveled throughout the United States on a mission of increasing HIV awareness, prevention, education and testing. One Heartland annually serves thousands of children in the United States including those who experience poverty, transition, HIV/AIDS, grief, foster care, and other obstacles.

**86 Winter**  
american bistro

Serving Lunch and Dinner

Bar Menu Available

Function Room & Full Service Catering

Now taking Valentine's Weekend reservations!

65 Water St., Worcester 508-459-5400 86winter.com



# Drag Diva Peppermint Rocks the Academy of Music

Entertainment News

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

Drag sensation Peppermint brought her high energy and rising-star talent to Northampton on January 16th. The Grammy-award-winning performer and her team of five male dancers lit up the Academy of Music stage in a show to benefit the Miss Trans New England Pageant.

"It was a great show," said the event's organizer, Christa Hilfers. "Peppermint rocked the house!"

Attendance, though, was not what organizers anticipated. Hilfers said the show coincided with another trans event in the Boston area, while local attention has been on benefits for Northampton's recent arson victims. Peppermint is in such demand that January 16th was the only date she could perform in Northampton.

"We had worked two years to get her here," Hilfers said. "I was, like, I do not care what day it is. If we can have Peppermint, we are doing it."

Despite low attendance, Peppermint gave quite a show, Hilfers said. "People are still talking about it."

Peppermint's sensational life in drag started early.

"My cool grandmother dressed me as Boy

George and Violet from Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory," Peppermint said. "In high school, 'the cheerleaders and the football players cross-dressed for the Homecoming rally. I was the only boy cheerleader.'"

Her first paid gig as a drag performer was at New York City's legendary Tunnel Night Club.

"That should give you an idea of when I started," she said. "Time really flies, but it feels like I've only been doing it for a few years!"

"I love my spot beneath the huge 'trans-umbrella,'" Peppermint said. "I like to think of myself as a 'surgery free' trans person."

Though Peppermint said she was excited to finally make it to Northampton, the busy lady had to

return to NYC for the release of her new CD, "Hardcore Glamour."

What's next for this drag sensation?

"Now I'm focused on prepping for the second leg of our European/Australian tour and drumming up support for the video single 'Excuse My Beauty,'" explained Peppermint.

Peppermint's travels may bring her back to Northampton.

"Northampton is beautiful!" she said. "Finally I made it up ... and I would love to come back!"

For more about Peppermint, visit [www.peppermintonline.com](http://www.peppermintonline.com) or search "Pepper Mint" on Facebook.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILSON MODELS

Drag sensation Peppermint brought her high-energy tour to Northampton in benefit show

umass fine arts center

## CENTER SERIES 2010

... DON'T MISS IT!

L.A. THEATRE WORKS, SUSAN ALBERT LOEWENBERG, PRODUCING  
DIRECTOR, PRESENTS "THE RFK PROJECT" by Murray Horwitz and Jonathan Estrin

February 23 | 7:30 PM | Concert Hall

"The RFK Project" chronicles Robert Kennedy's dramatic transformation from discomfort with and indifference towards the Civil Rights movement to a champion and crusader. \$35, \$25, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$15

Pre-performance talk by UMass Theater Professor Harley Erdman from 6:30 PM to 7 PM in the rear seating area of the Concert Hall. Post-performance talk-back with the artists immediately following the performance.

The Arts Give Back: Please bring an item that will meet the needs of families in transition at Jessie's House. Visit [www.jessieshouse.org](http://www.jessieshouse.org) for their wish list.

Global Gourmet: Prix Fixe dinner at the University Club & Restaurant. Call 545-2511 for details.

Sponsored by the The Rainbow Times, the UMass Alumni Association and WFCR/WNNZ.

BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DE MÉXICO

March 2 | 7:30 PM | Concert Hall

Ballet Folklórico de México sets itself apart by combining their artists' talents with the traditional music, elaborate dance and ornate costumes of Mexican culture. \$35, \$25, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$15

Please join us in the lobby prior to the show for a Mexican cultural celebration beginning at 6:30 PM.

Sponsored by El Sol Latino, United Wealth Management Group, Whole Foods, and The River 93.9FM

THE  
POWER  
of  
ART



To purchase tickets please call 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS or visit [fineartscenter.com](http://fineartscenter.com)



# Grow with us!

**The Rainbow Times & NightTimez are seeking candidates to fill the following positions:**

- Writers/Reporters/Editors
- Sales Representatives
- Graphic Designers

## Writers/Reporters/Editors

Qualified candidates will have extensive writing and/or reporting and/or editing experience. A degree in English or Journalism is preferred but not required. Writing samples must be provided to be considered for one of these freelance positions. Please send your resume, cover letter, and writing samples to [editor@therainbowtimesnews.com](mailto:editor@therainbowtimesnews.com).

## Sales Representatives

Qualified candidates will have sales and/or customer service related experience. Top candidates will possess excellent communication skills, enthusiasm, motivation, and an outgoing personality. Advertising sales experience a plus. Commission based. Please send your cover letter and resume to [papersales47@mac.com](mailto:papersales47@mac.com).

## Graphic Designers

Qualified candidates will have extensive graphic design experience relating to desktop publishing, InDesign, Photoshop, ad creation, and working with commercial printers. Graphic design samples must be provided to be considered for this position. Please send your resume with an attached cover letter and graphic design samples to [editor@therainbowtimesnews.com](mailto:editor@therainbowtimesnews.com).

**The Rainbow Times** **nightTimez**  
Your LGBTQ News in MA, RI, North Central CT & Southern VT

# New book offers a crash course in transgender misconceptions to raise awareness and inform the public at large

By: Lisa A Eramo/TRT Reporter

Joanne Herman, 56, a long-time advocate for transgender awareness, says she decided to write a book on the topic after discovering that many misconceptions about what it means to be transgender still exist today. Herman—who began transitioning from male to female in 2002 and who underwent sexual reassignment surgery one year later—has detailed her experiences in *Transgender Explained For Those Who Are Not*. The book, which was published by AuthorHouse™ in September 2009, grew out of a series of columns that were originally featured on The Advocate's Web site. The Rainbow Times recently had an opportunity to catch up with Herman and chat about the book and its message.

**Q: Why did you decide to write this book?**

A: The resources that are currently out there are pretty detailed clinical works or memoirs that are more than what most people want to tackle. This is a really complex subject, and people want to understand it without having to read 500 pages. My book is divided into small segments. Most of the chapters are three pages or less and can stand alone. Someone can pick up the book, read one chapter, and learn something without having to read the rest of the book.

**Why don't people understand what it means to be transgender?**

Most people don't really pay attention until someone they know goes through a gender transition or who comes out as being gender non-conforming.

**What are some of the misconceptions that people have about transgender individuals?**

One misconception is that being transgender is all about switching from one gender to another. The gender binary fuels this. There are some people for whom gender is muddled—it could be both male and female, or maybe there isn't a perception of gender at all. Another misconception is that all transgender individuals undergo sexual reassignment surgery. Only 10% actually do. This is because some people are afraid of surgery. Others feel as though they don't need to undergo surgery in order to live their lives. Others may be at peace with an anatomy that doesn't match the gender with which one identifies. Others find the cost of surgery is prohibitive because it's not covered by insurance. A third misconception is that all



PHOTO: MARK OSTOW PHOTOGRAPHY

Joanne Herman

transgender people are gay.

**Who should read the book?**

Spouses, family members, and colleagues of transgender individuals. I'm also targeting parents who are trying to help their transgender children, as well as journalists who write about transgender issues.

**I know that your professional background is in accounting. Did this background help you at all when writing the book?**

Yes. As an accountant, I'm used to having to explain a subject that people find very complex in terms that they understand.

**One of your chapters explains how some transgender individuals choose to "go stealth," which is to say they live in their true gender without revealing the fact that they are transgender to others. Why did you decide to be visible?**

I'm trying to set an example that you can be out and visible and successful at the same time. In doing so, you can really be of a great service to others. I've met transgender people

*See Awareness on page 17*

**When privacy and style matter...**



**30% OFF Cellular Shades**

Shutters • Draperies • Wood Blinds  
Honeycomb Shades • Roller Shades  
Vertical Blinds • Silhouette  
Woven Woods and More!

**(413) 774-5291**  
FREE In-Home Consultation  
[www.budgetblinds.com](http://www.budgetblinds.com)

**Budget Blinds**  
a style for every point of view™



# Black Grace, New Zealand's Premiere All-Male Dance Company performs at UMass

## Fine Arts News

AMHERST—If you turned a rugby team into a ballet company, the result might become Black Grace. That's a comparison made by Artistic Director Neil Jeremia of his all male dance company boasting some of New Zealand's finest and most respected contemporary dancers. The company performs on Tuesday, March 9, at 7:30 PM in the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. There will be a pre-performance talk with Artistic

Director and Founder Neil Jeremia from 6:30 – 7 PM in the rear seating area of Concert Hall.

Leremia's choreography fuses Pacific Island and Maori dance with contemporary dance including traditional Maori haka dances and Samoan slap dancing made popular by Australian and New Zealand rugby teams. The squatting macho shouts are only one source of inspiration for the Jeremia. Some themes include parental abuse, violence, and the history of slavery in the Pacific Islands. The company's trademark dance, "Minoi" is a more pure modern update of percussive haka dance forms.

In 2005, the Company celebrated its tenth anniversary and performed a sell-out season in Auckland, followed by an extensive tour of the United States and Mexico.

During its tour, the Company performed a return season at the prestigious Jacobs Pillow

Dance Festival, debuted on New York's 42nd Street for a four-week season, and performed at Mexico's renowned Cervantino Festival. Black Grace also performed at Tourism New Zealand's "100% Pure" event in Sydney, at the Aichi World Expo, and for the New Zealand Embassy at the Tram Theatre in Tokyo.

Most recently, Black Grace enjoyed a successful tour of North America and

Canada followed by a sold-out season at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre in Noumea, New Caledonia. In 2009, the Guam Humanities Council

invited Black Grace to lead a series of workshops and hold discussions and performances for the people of Guam.

Black Grace founder and Artistic Director Neil Jeremia is in the vanguard of New Zealand's most

accomplished choreographers and, through his vision, imbues

Black Grace with an explosive mix of rhythm, spirit, and energy. In recognition of his considerable achievements, Jeremia was the recipient of the 2005 Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate Award for outstanding creative achievement and for his contribution to the arts in New Zealand. In 2009, Neil accepted a resolution passed by the Guam Legislation in recognition of the Company's work in Guam. Jeremia is a 2009 recipient of the Paul D. Fleck Fellowship in the Arts from The Banff Centre in Canada.

There will be a pre-performance talk with

**If you turned a rugby team into a ballet company, the result might become Black Grace ...**



PHOTO COURTESY OF UMASS FAC

**Black Grace Dance Company's performance at UMass is an "Arts Give Back" event.**

Neil Jeremia from 6:30 to 7:00 PM in the rear seating area of the Concert Hall.

Black Grace is an Arts Give Back event. Audience members are asked to bring an item that will help meet the needs of the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society, including non-scoopable cat litter, canned kitten food, plastic cat carriers, and more. For a complete wish list, visit <http://www.dpvhs.org/>.

Tickets for Black Grace are \$40, \$30, and \$15; Five College/GCC/STCC and

youth 17 and under are \$15. Tickets are available from the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or on the Fine Arts Center ticket website at <http://www.umassstix.com/>.

*The appearance of Black Grace Dance Company is sponsored by 93.9 FM The River and the UMass Campus Center Hotel. For more information about Black Grace, visit the company's website at [www.blackgrace.co.nz](http://www.blackgrace.co.nz).*

# LiaCars.com

## OVER 5,000 CARS ONLINE EVERYDAY!



**HONDA**

**LIA HONDA OF NORTHAMPTON**  
293 King Street • Northampton MA  
866-567-3637



**TOYOTA**

**LIA TOYOTA SCION OF NORTHAMPTON**  
280 King Street • Northampton MA  
866-581-0156





# AIDS Care Ocean State Celebrates 20 Years of Service!

By: **Kalene Brennan/AIDS Care Ocean State**

PROVIDENCE, RI—AIDS Care Ocean State is celebrating 20 years of AIDS service to Rhode Island! Since 1989, we have grown from a small, grassroots non-profit known as FACTS, to become the state's largest AIDS service agency in the state. It truly is an accomplishment worth celebrating!

In honor of this milestone, we are hosting a 20th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at the Providence Biltmore Hotel in downtown Providence. Tickets for the celebration are \$125 per person and the evening will feature dinner and dancing. Dress is creative black tie. Tickets can be ordered now at [www.aidscaresos.org](http://www.aidscaresos.org).

While the 20th Anniversary Gala commemorates AIDS Care Ocean State's service, dedication, and achievements, we also want to

recognize those who have helped us along the way. We will be honoring Karen Adams as our Philanthropic Citizen of the Decade and Bank RI as our Philanthropic Business of the Decade. In addition, Dr. Peter Smith will be honored for his many years of HIV/AIDS service to the community.

AIDS Care Ocean State has grown over the past two decades by fostering relationships with dedicated members of the community. Without such generous donors, volunteers, committee members, and staff, this organization would not be able to continue our mission of providing quality care for those affected by HIV/AIDS in Rhode Island. AIDS Care Ocean State is thrilled to be celebrating our 20th anniversary and the evening would not be a success without friends, family, and colleagues there to share in the festivities! We hope that you will join us in celebrating this memorable occasion.

For more information about our anniversary celebration, or if you are interested in sponsoring the event, please contact Stephen Hartley at 401-521-3603 or [stephenh@aidscareos.org](mailto:stephenh@aidscareos.org).






**NIKO STAMATAKOS**  
LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST

Neuro-Muscular  
Deep Tissue  
•  
Reiki Therapies

717 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA • 401-996-6129





**Eddie C's SALON**

328 Wickenden Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
401-632.0544

**COLLEGE TUESDAYS**  
10% discount off hair services with your Student ID

**MISTER SISTER**  
Quality Erotica  
Without the Attitude



titan • fun factory  
fetish wear • colt  
vixen • butch bear  
tantus • treasure island

*Hours* Tue-Thur 11am-9pm  
Fri-Sat 11am-10pm  
Sun 11am-5pm

268 Wickenden St • Providence  
401.421.6969

the month's best selling videos  
courtesy: [wolfevideo.com](http://wolfevideo.com)

## Lesbian Best Sellers

1. Girl Seeks Girl  
– Chica Busca Chica
2. The L Word Final Season
3. Steam - the Movie
4. I Can't Think Straight
5. Training Rules
6. She Likes Girls 4:  
Tomboys and Tough Girls
7. The Baby Formula
8. Itty Bitty Titty Committee
9. Drool
10. The Lovers & Friends Show  
Season 1

## Gay Best Sellers

1. The Butch Factor
2. Hollywood je t'aime
3. Mr. Right
4. Eating Out 3:  
All You Can Eat
5. BOYCRAZY
6. Breakfast with Scot
7. Half-Life
8. Redwoods
9. Were the World Mine
10. Pageant

**PINK PAGES**

**Your local Gay Yellow Pages**

Accommodations • Adoption • Auto Body • Bars • Bookstores • Catering • Cleaners • Contractors • Counselors  
Dentists • Doctors • Entertainment • Escorts • Financial  
Furniture • Grocers • Home Improvement • Insurance  
Jewelry • Legal • Movers • Pets • Real Estate • And more...

The complete Pink Pages is on [www.PinkPagesUSA.com](http://www.PinkPagesUSA.com)

**Do You Have Savoir Flair?**

Savoir Flair, New England's GLBT magazine.  
Featuring current events, entertainment, dining, travel,  
and more. [www.savoirflairmagazine.com](http://www.savoirflairmagazine.com).

visit our website:  
**[www.linkpink.com](http://www.linkpink.com)**

FREE personals, roommate ads, & referrals to community-friendly businesses

To list with us, call (866) 943-PINK (7465)





# Queer Action of RI: A unique brand of activism

## Rhode Island News

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Queer Action of RI (QuAri) has been making waves in the Ocean State with their unique brand of LGBT activism. The group, which was formed last July by Susan Heroux and others, scored a major victory recently, when they successfully pressured state legislators to override Governor Don Carcieri's veto of a funeral planning bill for domestic partners.

Heroux notes 425 people signed the petition delivered to legislators regarding the override of Carcieri's veto of the funeral planning bill.

"That shows a lot of interest in all LGBT issues out there," Heroux said.

Carcieri, a socially conservative Republican, explained his veto by arguing that passage of the bill would further erode the foundation of heterosexual marriage.

Queer Action also protested outside the Boston hotel where Carcieri appeared at a fundraiser last October for the anti-gay Massachusetts Family Institute (MFI), an organization which claims homosexuality was destructive to society.

For Heroux, who had been a founding member of Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI),

the need for an organization working solely on behalf of LGBT civil rights in Rhode Island was always there.

"There's so much that needs to be done", Heroux said, noting Queer Action plans to contact the state's Congressional representatives to gain their support on issues such as ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act) and the repeal of DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act).

Congressman James Langevin (D) does not support same-sex marriage and faces a tough battle for re-election. Langevin is being challenged by former State Representative Elizabeth Dennigan (D), who has been a major advocate for LGBT rights.

Heroux hopes Queer Action will be able to help elect more pro-gay candidates to state and federal offices.

Another organization, Providence Equality Action Committee (PEAC) also does activism on behalf of LGBT civil rights. PEAC has collaborated with Queer Action quite frequently.

There has been much frustration in the LGBT community regarding the lack of progress toward achieving marriage equality in Rhode Island. Last year, Carcieri threw his support behind the state chapter of the National Organization for Marriage (NOM).

Heroux and the members of Queer Action are gearing up to fight NOM, which is likely to try to influence the outcome of November's

gubernatorial election, along with several other races.

"If (NOM) does anything offensive to (the LGBT community), we will be out there protesting," Heroux said.

In upcoming months, the group will intensify its efforts to gain greater support in the LGBT community, including launching a web site and a video project, so that clips can be shown on YouTube.

Queer Action also wants to educate the straight community about how their state representatives feel about the gay community. Heroux said a survey will be distributed to politicians for the purpose of learning where they stand on gay issues.

Heroux believes the LGBT community can take nothing for granted and must work hard to gain equality.

Most importantly, no matter how many defeats and setbacks the LGBT community may endure, Heroux knows the fight must go on until gays and lesbians win equal rights.

"You've got to make your voice heard over and over," Heroux added.



PHOTO COURTESY SUSAN HEROUX

Advocating for equal LGBT rights, Queer Action also wants to educate the straight community about how their state representatives feel about the gay community.

## Awareness from page 14

who completely cut ties with friends and family members upon transitioning. I think that's unfortunate and unrealistic.

**You were the first transgender board member for GLAD, The Point Foundation, and Fenway Health. What is it like to be in that role?**

I've retired from the GLAD board, but I'm still involved in their Transgender Rights Project. I'm also actively involved in the boards of the two other organizations. It has been surprisingly gratifying so far. People genuinely want to learn and ask a lot of questions, and I welcome that. Some of the questions are awkward and personal, but for some reason, I'm comfortable talking about it. I also make it clear that they shouldn't be asking these personal questions of other transgender people. It's ok to ask me because I'm serving as a resource.

**You wrote that you might have transitioned sooner had there been greater public awareness of transgender people. Is the level of awareness today any different from the time in which you transitioned?**

Yes, I think it has changed quite a bit. The movie "Transamerica" really helped a lot. There's a lot more visibility, which makes it easier for people to come out. But we still need someone who is higher-profile to come out as being transgender.

**Who was your own role model during your transition?**

Deidre McCloskey wrote a book called *Crossing: A Memoir*. She is a well known published economist who went through gender transition, kept her job, and got all of her works re-published in her new name. It was helpful for me to see someone who had done this and still maintained her career.

**Do you have any plans to write another book in the future?**

Possibly. Any future books would be based on information I'm currently writing for The Huffington Post.

*Herman currently blogs for The Huffington Post at [www.huffingtonpost.com/joanne-herman](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joanne-herman). For more information about her or to purchase a copy of the book, visit [www.joanneherman.com](http://www.joanneherman.com). Find her on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/joanneherman> or Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joanneherman>.*

**Mathew Brockelman LMT**

Leominster, MA

At Home Availability

Coming soon to Boston!

Help yourself reduce stress and pain today!

Massage by Mathew Brockelman, LMT

Call 978-660-5289



## Civil Rights from page 7

**Adoption:** The Council of the District of Columbia passed a law allowing domestic partners to be presumed as parents of their partner's biological children and to be included on birth certificates. Kentucky, Tennessee and Utah legislators halted bills that would ban unmarried couples from becoming adoptive parents. In Florida, a 1977 law prohibiting "homosexual" individuals from adopting was

struck down twice in one year at the trial level; the law's future is pending appellate review.

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

blog • personals • calendar • chat • resources  
breaking news • advertise • & more ...  
find it all @ [therainbowtimesnews.com](http://therainbowtimesnews.com)



"Stop calling me four eyes!"

Dr. Scott Sylvia provides comprehensive eye care services including infection and disease treatment, contact lens services, laser vision correction, digital imaging service and designer eyewear.



Ever thought about contact lenses?

2038 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02140  
(617) 864-3147

365 Faunce Corner Road  
Dartmouth, MA 02747  
(508) 985-6600

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



# ¡Todos tenemos el derecho a sentir felicidad y amor!

Visión Latina



Wilfred Labiosa

Por: Wilfred Labiosa\*

Febrero es conocido como el mes donde uno celebra toda relación con quién uno siente felicidad, cariño y amor. Todo lo relacionado al mes de febrero es rojo y rojo es el color que simboliza para muchos energía, sangre y vida. ¿Pero este mes qué significa para ti?

Durante este mes, muchos sufren de tristeza y quizás hasta de depresión. Las personas al no tener un novio/a o una relación amorosa se sienten como que no pueden celebrar el dichoso día de San Valentín o estar felices.

Pero este mes o día significa más que tener una relación y salir en una cita amorosa. En vez de comprar flores, chocolates o de ir a cenar, compartamos este mes como uno de conciencia sobre sentimientos y celebremos amistades, familia y a nuestra comunidad. En vez de sentir presión de ir a un encuentro amoroso, celebremos la vida, amistad, familia y comunidad. Propongo que en vez de sentirse

triste o deprimido/a por no tener una cita amorosa o alguien con quien salir, se reúnan con uno/a, dos o más personas de su comunidad y celebre la vida. Hagan algo que les traiga felicidad, como servir comida a envejecientes, ayudar a personas con limitaciones físicas, o empacar cosas para Haití.

Durante el fin de semana de Febrero 14, hagan un plan que incluya actividades o cosas que los hagan sentir felices, llenos de vida y de energía. No compren chocolates, ni flores ni tarjetas para ese día o vayan a cenar. Dedíquense a ahorrar el dinero que hubieran gastado en estas cosas y hagan una donación a una organización que lo amerite o lleven su donación financiera a algún lugar donde puedan ver que su dinero es productivo. En estos días, \$10 dólares pueden ayudar tanto en África, Latino América o en Haití. Quien sabe si durante este tiempo que hagan estas obras caritativas puedan conocer a otras personas con quien puedan desarrollar relaciones que duren toda sus vidas.

Durante este mes, tomen conciencias de ustedes mismos y de sus sentimientos. Recuerden que como la frase dice, "lo que ustedes le dan a la vida, la vida le dará a ustedes". Karma. Celebren la vida en este mes y sean alegres con lo que tienen y hagan. No hay que gastar dinero para tener felicidad o para desarrollar una relación. No hay que comprar al ser querido

flores para sentir amor. Sólo tiene que reconocer cuando son felices y de esos momentos el amor por la vida crecerá. El amor prospera donde uno menos lo espera.

Muchas veces las cosas más simples le pueden traer felicidad y hasta de las relaciones menos esperadas puede surgir amor y convertirse en la mejor relación de su vida. Cada persona tiene la oportunidad de sentir felicidad en sus vidas. ¡Canta por la felicidad y como dice la canción, sigue buscando esa parte que te hace sentir lleno/a y "busca tu paraíso"!

Imagínense que ocurriría si todo el mundo sintiera compasión de cuidar a todo el mundo; entonces todos podríamos ser cuidados y nos sentiríamos llenos de felicidad y amor.

*\*Escrito en ambos idiomas por Wilfred Labiosa, activista y miembro de la mesa directiva de Unid@s: La Organización Nacional Latina para Derechos Humanos y de Orgullo de Boston. Editado en ambos idiomas por Grisel Martínez Ocasio. To read this story in English, visit: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/seblatinvision.*

To read this article in English please visit our website: www.therainbowtimesnews.com/janlatinvision.

## Haiti from page 2

living in houses stacked on top of one another in the city center of Port-au-Prince and the government has been blamed for this reality. There has been no history lesson about the role of the United States in Haiti. If we go back far enough we will quickly learn that in 1803 the people of Haiti became the first country run by people of African descent to declare independence, in the same year a U.S. force invaded Haiti and stole their financial reserves. This kind of treatment of Haiti by the U.S. has been consistent over the decades. In 1990 the liberation theologian and Catholic priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide is elected in a free election only to be ousted a year later by a coup supported by Bush Sr. We need to learn our history and question what it means for a country to live in such great poverty for so long. We need to question how the *International Monetary Fund* is actually increasing the debt of the country and forcing them to give up their public resources in order to pay back the debt. Don't stop thinking about Haiti, go deeper and learn how and why this is not simply a "natural" disaster.

As you are giving money think about our queer and transgender family who are also suffering still in Haiti. Think about the doctors who may not have training to be sensitive to the needs of transgender women. Think about the queers who lost their partners but still are not open about their relationships and thus are grieving alone. We know of a group of 14 MSM and transgender people who were meeting in their regular support group when they were crushed to death. Supporting Haiti is a queer issue. Learn the history. Resist U.S. imperialism. Support queer liberation in all of its forms.

therainbowtimesnews.com • therainbowtimesnews.com • therainbowtimesnews.com

## GAY BINGO!

the **THIRD THURSDAY** of **EVERY** month

**Doors at 6:00 PM - BINGO promptly at 7:00 PM**

**The Riveria Bingo Palace, 1612 Elmwood Ave., Cranston**

A FUNdraiser for:



AIDS Care Ocean State  
www.aidscaresos.org



**\$2000 in cash and prizes!**

**With your hostess Miss Kitty Litter!**

**Sponsors ALWAYS needed!**

**If interested, contact Stephen Hartley at**

**401-521-3603 or stephenh@aidscaresos.org**





# Rhode Island Prime Timers gives gay and bi men ages 50 and over a place to call their own

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Gay and bisexual men 50 years and older living in the Ocean State have an organization of their own. The Rhode Island Prime Timers chapter, formed in 2007, is a group designed for older men to gather together and socialize in a relaxed environment.

The monthly events for the group include dinners at various restaurants, picnics, trips to museums and sporting events, and theme parties.

There are 53 members, some of whom come from long distances such as Provincetown and Vermont, says Maurice Jandreau, President of the Prime Timers. Jandreau became involved with the Rhode Island chapter a year ago.

"I've been with the Boston chapter for 15 years," Jandreau explained. "The thing I love about (the Prime Timers) is we're a group of men and everybody goes out and we all have fun and everybody's treated with respect."

There is no age limit. Jandreau said there are some members in their 30s. Some are partnered, some are single. There's also the opportunity for romance: Jandreau met his partner of 8 years in the Boston chapter.

Prime Timers was founded in 1987 by Woody Baldwin, a retired professor. Baldwin observed a gay community which catered almost exclusively to youth. Baldwin began the Boston chapter by placing ads in local newspapers and bulletin boards, and by soliciting

his friends. He expected 12 to 15 men to attend the first meeting, but over 40 men showed up. Baldwin realized there was a real need for a social group to aid and support older gay and bisexual men.

Prime Timers now has chapters located throughout North America, Europe, and Australia.

George Warch, who serves as Secretary for the Rhode Island Prime Timers, notes the group acts as a "support system" for the members.

"If they need help or they need someone to talk with, they have other guys around," Warch said, noting some of the men live in assisted living and get a boost from interacting with others their own age.

Warch believes older gay men are "ignored" by the LGBT community, and groups like the Prime Timers serve a purpose for these men who feel excluded from the LGBT community at large.

And Prime Timers continues to gain more members with each passing year.

"I think organizations like this can change (attitudes)," Warch said. "A lot of guys in this group feel the social connection and that's important."

For more information about the organization, go to [www.riprimetimers.org](http://www.riprimetimers.org).



PHOTO COURTESY RHODE ISLAND PRIME TIMERS

Rhode Island Prime Timers Executive Board members:  
(L-R, front row) Charles Dick, George Warch, Steve Bodwell, (L-R, back row) Abe Gershman, E. James Alston, Maurice Jandreau, Steve Kagan, and Robert Black

*You are cordially invited to*  
*AIDS Care Ocean State's*  
*20th Anniversary Gala*

**Saturday, February 20th, 2010**

6:00 pm Cocktails, 7:00 pm Dinner

8:30 pm Dancing with the Coppola Sisters Band

at the Providence Biltmore Hotel in downtown Providence

Join us in honoring

Ms. Karen Adams, BankRI, and Dr. Peter Smith

\$125 person & \$1250 table

Dress creative black tie



**Purchase tickets online at [www.aidscaresos.org](http://www.aidscaresos.org)**



# Mikey Rox's CUPID AIN'T STUPID: Valentine's Gifts That'll GETCHA SOME!

By: **Mikey Rox\***/  
TRT Special

## 'SKYN' IS IN

They say abstinence makes the heart grow fonder. Or is it absence? Eh, who cares – you just wanna get lucky! And if you play your cards right, playa', you might just bring down the house, but one thing we hope you never gamble with is your health. Now, however, you can stay safe – and stimulated – with LifeStyles Condoms' latest innovation in contraception, **SKYN**. Committed to providing its purchasers with the best product possible, SKYN is the first and only clinically approved polyisoprene condom. Exactly what does that mean? In layman's term, it'll let your willy feel freer than ever before. (TBD; grocery, convenience and drug stores nationwide.)



alkalized, non-lecithinized Belgian cocoa powder then combined with blueberry and aVai berry to create a sweet treat that's not only as tasty as your artery-clogging go-to brands but also packed with powerful antioxidants. Even better, XoVai is devoid of the caffeine, preservatives, fillers, waxes, processed sugar and trans fats that comprise its confectionary brethren. Dry your eyes, Russell Stover – there's always next year. (TBD; [www.cacao4you.com](http://www.cacao4you.com))



## LOVE BLOOMS

Various florae have long been a staple of Valentine's Day, but what statement do they make about your "everlasting" love when a week later they're limper than you after a few shots of Smirnoff? Thought we didn't know? Trust us, it

shows. Instead, opt for a bouquet of flowers that will truly stand the test of time with San Francisco-based artist **Tim Aldridge's Flowers** collection, a series of high-quality prints priced for every budget. Available framed or unframed, Aldridge's collection includes roses, water lilies and a variety of other colorful blossoms. (From \$28.47; [www.timaldridge.imagekind.com](http://www.timaldridge.imagekind.com))



## 'MR. RIGHT'

Looking for love in modern-day London has never been more charming. Billed as a "grown-up gay movie for smart gay audiences," **"Mr. Right"** follows a group of successful gay men – TV producer Harry, rugby player William and wealthy artist Tom – on a fast-paced, unabashedly flamboyant ride through the hills and valleys of life. Sounds just like the nightmare you're living, doesn't it? If only ... (\$24.95; [www.wolfereleasing.com](http://www.wolfereleasing.com))



## 'SWELL'

An appropriately titled debut record if there ever was one, Cortes Alexander's **"Swell"** will cause your heart do the same with its 16-track collection of jazz, pop-rock and euro-lounge-inspired songs. This evocative, emotional escape of an album was produced by McKay Garner (Red Hot Chili Peppers) and has received rave reviews from the likes of the *Miami Herald*, *Instinct Magazine* and *Broadway World*. (\$9.99; iTunes and CDBaby.com)

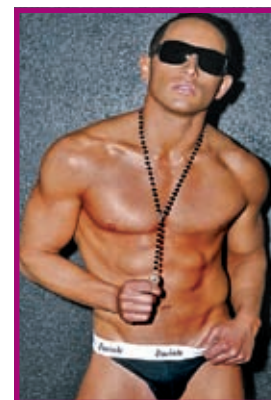


## PAPER HEART

What began as a hobby has become a boon for husband and wife entrepreneurs Kyle Morris and Nicole Mogyrosi, who started **House of Hazelnut Papery** four years ago as an alternative to their self-proclaimed "aversion to generic greeting cards"; today the company boasts more than 100 returning clients, and the couple is gearing up to launch the brand into the competitive retail market. But before House of Hazelnut sets out on its hunt for a piece of Hallmark's profits, you can get its handmade, eco-friendly holiday greetings sent straight to your door. (\$3 and up; [www.house-ofhazelnut.etsy.com](http://www.house-ofhazelnut.etsy.com))

## DOWN UNDERCOVERS

One peek at him in **2wink's** "Cool Devil" or "Hot Angel" undies – high-cut cotton-spandex boxer briefs available in red/white and blue/white respectively – and you're mini-mate will be saluting "G'day." The only underwear brand producing in Perth, Western Australia (while others take production offshore), 2wink was created due to its founder's frustration of buying expensive underwear that didn't last. Durable and affordable, these skivvies have since become the easiest way to go Down Under without leaving the sheets. (\$26.96; [www.2wink.com.au](http://www.2wink.com.au))



See Gift Guide on page 22

## ATTENTION: Homeowners If You Have a Roofing Problem, DON'T PANIC

How To Get A 'Top Talent' Roofer To Show Up On Time  
So You Don't Waste Time

You have a busy schedule. You value your time, and you don't want to waste a day waiting for a roofer to show up. Most roofing companies won't give you a real appointment. They say "We'll be there between 10 and 4." Now there is a new way to get your roofing problem fixed, save money, and more importantly, get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

For your **FREE** Appointment Window  
call Adam Quenneville Roofing, Inc.

**ADAM**  
QUENNEVILLE ROOFING INC.  
Roofing • Windows • Siding  
**1.800.NEW.ROOF**  
**413.536.5955**

[www.1800newroof.net](http://www.1800newroof.net)

Ask about our Royal Privilege™ Financing Program



JR1105



©2005 RSI All Rights Reserved

**Marilyn A. Huffman**  
Certified Hypnotherapist  
Tobacco Treatment Specialist



Hypnotherapy for:  
• pre & post surgery anxiety  
• pain management  
• habitual behaviors  
Traditional therapy for  
individuals & couples

413•529•0889

## LifeCourse Counseling Center

Proudly serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Communities

Excellence and experience since 1980

• Individuals • Couples  
• Telephone Counseling

Northampton, MA

(413) 585-1655 [www.lifecourse.net](http://www.lifecourse.net)



# Springfield Falcons Take Pride in Win Over Hartford Wolfpack

Hockey Night in Springfield

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

"Hockey. Who would have thought?"

That was Noho Pride co-chair, Bear White's first reaction to the idea of an LGBT pride night at a hockey game. White said she'd never been to a hockey game. Still, when she was approached by the Springfield Falcons, she could see the potential.

"I thought 'Why not?' White said.

For Bill Bullock, a Senior Account Executive for the Falcons, the idea did not seem far-fetched. In 2002, when he was working with the Detroit Pistons and an affiliated WNBA team, he saw that LGBT Pride events could be successful for sports teams.

Working for the Falcons, he said, it seemed natural to reach out to the area's large LGBT community through the Noho Pride, Inc. organization.

"I thought it was an untapped market for us," Bullock said. "I had a great meeting with Bear, going over a couple of ideas to put it together and it started building from there, including an after-party—it just got bigger and bigger. We got the MassMutual Center involved, donating their grand ballroom [for the after-party]."

For White it was an opportunity for the LGBT community to have some fun while supporting a business that was reaching out to the community. Plus, a portion of the proceeds benefited Noho Pride, Inc.

"Bill said 'I think the LGBT community is valuable, I know some of the community and so I would like to reach out and have them come to a game,'" White explained. "I said, that's great, because we should we should be supporting the businesses that support us."

In the end, over 300 people agreed to pay \$11 each for tickets to the game and admission to the after-party. To help build the pride spirit throughout the game, all tickets for the special LGBT promotion were for seats in one part of the arena. During the break after the first quarter, the Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus en-

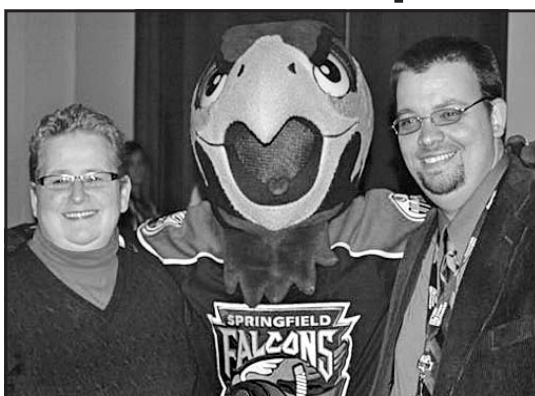


PHOTO COURTESY TYNAN POWER

The Springfield Falcons mascot joins Bear White (co-chair, Noho Pride) and Bill Bullock (Springfield Falcons).

tertained the crowd with songs from musicals.

The Pride night helped bring in the highest attendance the Falcons have seen this season, with a total of 5,930 spectators watching as the Falcons beat the Hartford Wolfpack, 2-1, in overtime.

Following the game, Pride night ticket-holders were invited to an after-party at the MassMutual Center. Party-goers were welcomed by Bear White, Bill Bullock and the Falcons Assistant Coach, Gerry Fleming.

"We had a good game, a lot of passion, and we had that win in overtime," Fleming said. "I want to thank you for your support. Most importantly, thanks for coming out ... no pun intended."

Entertainment at the party included comedy by Miss Trans Northampton, Lorelei Erisis, and Tammy Two-Tone, as well as music by LezleeAnne Rios. Dance music continued until the party wound down around midnight.

Bullock said the Falcons relationship with Noho Pride goes beyond the hockey arena.

"The Falcons are actually going to the [Noho Pride] parade on the 1st of

May and we are going to represent at the parade. We are donating money to get one of the vendor tables," Bullock said. "We want to be present. We want to have our mascot in the parade."

For those whose taste for hockey was whetted by the game, they may not have to wait long. Bullock says another LGBT Pride night is in the works for April.

- Can you communicate about the issues and values that are important to you?
- What's needed to grow and keep it together over time?
- Can you pursue your dreams...and still be in love?

## WHERE'S LOVE 101: Creating and sustaining healthy relationships

On Wednesday, February 10th, 2010, the Women of Color Leadership Network, Everywoman's Center, the Stonewall Center, Student Legal Services Office and the Graduate Women's Network present the 4th Annual Where's Love 101? This event will be held at the University of Massachusetts Amherst Campus Center room 917 at 7PM. It is FREE, open to the public and wheelchair accessible.

This unique gathering will feature a diverse panel of couples who have been together for between 2 and 20 years, as well as experts who will address a broad range of issues related to creating and sustaining healthy relationships.

### TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- Physical health, values, resolving conflict, fidelity expectations, sex
- Money, alcohol and drugs, race, class, gender, religion
- Meeting each other's family ... your self-esteem
- Staying together in a transitory environment
- When is it better to choose to be on your own?

Come with your partner, friend, or by yourself! With refreshments and door prizes, this promises to be a lively, informative and fun evening!

For more information, please contact  
The Women of Color Leadership Network at 545-1671  
or Everywoman's Center @ 545-0883.



## 5 STAR TRAVEL SERVICES

New England's premier, award-winning  
travel agency has an opening for a

## SALES REPRESENTATIVE (Outside Sales)

Applicants must have industry knowledge and large following. Benefits include competitive compensation, being placed on our IATAN list and more. For interview call Paul at:

(617) 536-1999



For All Your Advertising and Promotion Needs

Screen Printing, Embroidery and Promotional Products  
T-Shirts • Hats • Pens • Key Chains over 35,000 products

BILL BERGGREN  
Owner / Sales

398 Columbus Ave. #341, Boston, MA 02116  
Phone 617-987-0058 • Fax 617-987-0059  
Mobile 617-438-4364 • Email: papersales47@mac.com

<http://ntouchproductions.com>



# Mikey Rox's CUPID AIN'T STUPID: Valentine's Gifts That'll GETCHA SOME!

Gift Guide  
from page 20

## SLICK AND SLIDE

Butter makes everything better. And in the case of **Boy Butter**, a line of personal lubricants, a truer statement has never been made. A unique addition to the lube industry, Boy Butter fuses vegetable oil with silicone to create an agent with a creamy consistency, but one just as slick, long lasting and easy to clean up as water-based varieties. Created by 30-something entrepreneur Eyal Feldman, Boy Butter's full line of products includes Original, H2O, Extreme, Extreme H2O, Warming and - er - Bonerz ... the description of which even we're not touching with a 10-inch pole. (\$10 and up; www.boybutter.com)



## 'BE MINE'

Does Cupid have his arrow aimed at shy Mayson and his new-found crush Reiley - or will Reiley's penchant for chocolate scones cause Mason's cookie to crumble before they leave the coffee shop? Oh, the drama! Still, what **"Be Mine,"** from director Dave Padilla, lacks in originality it makes up for in fresh-faced cuties. And that's all you care about anyway. (\$29.95; www.ariztical.com)



## TEQUILA HER SOFTLY

And now a little something for the ladies! **Rosangel**, a new tequila from The House of Gran Centenario, is infused with hibiscus then aged for a year to achieve the hooch's distinctive pink hue and a deliciously earthy flavor. Marketed exclusively to the fairer sex, this premium reposado is the perfect gift for the woman who has everything. Like, say, a tendency to lower her inhibitions. (\$36.99; www.rosangel.com)

## LIGHT UP WITH LOVE

Give your lover the gift of life with a new device poised to revolutionize the tobacco smoking industry. **Cigotine** - an electronic cigarette that looks, feels and tastes like a real butt - delivers the same enjoyment sans the tar, chemicals and negative societal effects associated with smoking. With its proprietary two-piece design, Cigotine is driven by an integrated structure made up of a cartridge, an atomization chamber and a built-in rechargeable lithium battery. When smokers inhale, an indicator light glows to simulate a burning effect while the mouthpiece releases a water mist that resembles smoke, leaving no residual behind. Except, of course, that kiss you plan to plant. (\$79.95; www.cigotine.com)



*\* Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist/writer and the principal of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriting and creative consulting company in New York City. Find him at www.paperrox-scissors.com.*

## THE GETCHA SOME GIFT GUIDE GIVEAWAY!

Become a fan of Paper Rox Scissors on Facebook for your chance to win a gift basket filled with many of the items featured in Mikey Rox's "Cupid Ain't Stupid: Valentine's Gift That'll Getcha Some" gift guide.

Prizes include 2wink underwear, XoVai healthy chocolates, LifeStyles' SKYN condoms, Boy Butter lubricant, a canvas print from artist Tim Aldridge, "Swell" by Cortes Alexander, a card from House of Hazelnut Papery and more!

Must be age 18 or older and have a continental U.S. mailing address to enter; see the Paper Rox Scissors fan page on Facebook for additional details. Contest ends Feb. 5.

# Fine Italian Dining

THE CALABRIA RISTORANTE

7 South Main Street

Millbury, Ma. 01527

Monday - Saturday 11a-11p

www.CalabriaMillbury.com

508-581-9700

Now accepting reservations for

# Valentine's Weekend

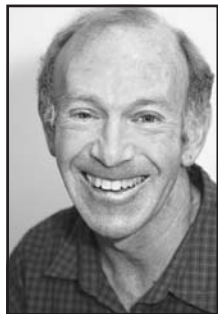
CALABRIA  
RISTORANTE  
FINE ITALIAN FOOD AND DINING

Giuseppe Ritacco  
General Manager  
508-494-0069  
gritacco@aol.com





# The OutField: It took a Team to score crucial points



Dan Woog

By: Dan Woog\*

Since its inception four years ago, The OutField has chronicled – and lauded – the work of It Takes a Team. We've covered the small organization's large work in areas as diverse as anti-gay recruiting by college coaches, the preparation of an educational kit on LGBT issues in sport, and the

rise of transgender athletes.

But this is our last column about It Takes a Team. In December, its sponsor – the Women's Sports Foundation – announced the end of funding for the project. Budget woes in a soft economy doomed the decade-old program.

It Takes a Team began auspiciously. Concerned about homophobia in sports, tennis great Martina Navratilova raised funds to combat stereotypes and educate participants. Though what was then called The Project to Eliminate Homophobia in Sport became part of the Women's Sports Foundation, Navratilova insisted it address male issues as well as female.

From the start, the Women's Sports foundation had a hard time getting other LGBT or athletic organizations to support the project. Its first directors were paid very little and administrative aid from the WSF was minimal, limiting its impact and visibility. A key moment occurred when Pat Griffin – a professor of social justice and former coach at the University of Massachusetts – joined with Mount Holyoke

College athletic director Laurie Priest, former Massachusetts Department of Education Safe Schools Program director Jeff Perrotti and former Oberlin College athletic director Michael Muska to develop educational materials.

The result: a 15-minute video, curriculum materials and action guides, "Safe Space" stickers, posters, and a list of resources addressing LGBT issues in sport – provided help to athletes, coaches and administrators. It came at a crucial time, when student-athletes began coming out of the closet and a new generation of coaches moved into positions of power.

In 2004, director Lisa Thompson left It Takes a Team. Griffin – who had just retired from UMass – was hired at a higher salary. She worked from her home in Massachusetts, but was given administrative assistance at WSF's Long Island headquarters. In 2005, the program's name was changed to It Takes a Team.

Griffin took her job seriously. She traveled widely, speaking to athletes, coaches and administrators, and at PFLAG and athletic conferences. She developed strong relationships with the National Collegiate Athletic Association and National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Eighteen national advocacy organizations – from the Association for Applied Sport Psychology and Anti-Defamation League to OutSports.com and the Transgender Law Center – endorsed It Takes a Team and linked to its Web site.

A monthly e-newsletter reached over 3,000 subscribers. Griffin answered countless questions, and offered advice on ways to make sports teams safe and welcoming for LGBT athletes.

"Coaches and administrators really relied on us," Griffin says. "They knew to come to us

with questions like 'What's a fair transgender policy?' or 'How do I address negative recruiting by coaches in our conference?' We came a long way."

The organization had its most success at the college level, perhaps because of the older age of participants. "There's much more work to be done in high school," Griffin notes.

Her greatest satisfaction came from advising student-athletes about their legal rights, then following up to hear that progress was made. She was especially heartened when parents supported their LGBT sons and daughters.

For five years, It Takes a Team raised money through grants and donations. In 2009, as funds dried up for non-profits across the country, the WSF decided to end the program.

The wealth of resources will remain on the WSF's Web site ([www.womenssportsfoundation.org/Issues-And-Research/Homophobia.aspx](http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/Issues-And-Research/Homophobia.aspx)). However, there will be no more research, conferences or educational materials.

Griffin vows to continue her own work – including her blog ([www.ittakesateam.blogspot.com](http://www.ittakesateam.blogspot.com)).

"I'm not done," she says firmly. "I have such a passion for this. I'm looking for my next venue, figuring out how to keep going. I want to stay in the game."

She adds: "My goal was always to put myself out of business. It hasn't happened yet. I hear too many stories and get too many calls about negative recruiting, anti-gay locker room environments and comments made by coaches and athletes."

"Our work is not done. We've got a foothold in the world of sport. I'm sad to see It Takes a Team end now."

Griffin is heartened that her group was alone

in working on LGBT issues in sport. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has a sports media desk. NCLR, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, the student-led Our Group, OutSports.com and individuals on campus around the country "won't go away," Griffin says. "We're no longer a lonely voice in the wilderness. We've got lots of company now."

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

## Letters from Page 2

Dear Editor,

I usually like the "Creep of the Week" story by D'Anne Witkowski, and this last time I loved it. I am a feminist and it's not surprising that women continue to be treated unequally in this society. Regardless of what Bill did, he won. Bush Jr. won too, and was really into drugs and even DUI, but when women run, they are torn apart by the same women, and then by the men. Now, this Texan Lesbian Mayor, although she won, is facing the same sexism that we, women, do. From one end, we get it from the ignorant women who believe and foster male dominance, and then from the men, who are afraid of women being in power, as it has always been. Sorry, but I can't stand that and won't stay quiet about it.

—Jennifer W., Northampton, MA

**PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PARTNERS FROM STDs and HIV**

**IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK**

GONORRHEA • CHLAMYDIA • HIV • HEP A/B/C • HPV • HERPES • SYPHILIS

## SO you're a GUY and you have SEX with other GUYS...

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Some STDs have no symptoms
- Routine testing is one way to prevent STDs from spreading
- Getting tested is simple and painless
- Routine STD testing every 3-6 months is a good way to protect yourself and your partners

**FOR MORE INFORMATION TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR or visit: [www.gettestedmass.org](http://www.gettestedmass.org)**

**For answers to questions regarding your sexual health ASK DOCTOR COX by email! Your question will be reviewed by a medical provider and sent to your email address.**

**[www.fenwayhealth.org/doctorcox](http://www.fenwayhealth.org/doctorcox)**





**DJ RANNEY**  
**CARNIVAL**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14**  
**2010**

**HOT MESS!**  
**SUNDAYS**  
2 CLUB MEGA-EVENT!  
UNDERBAR & PEARL!  
4 ROOMS, 3 DJS!

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14**  
**BROKEN HEARTS Ball**  
THE ANTI-VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY  
**RICHIE LADUE**  
**DESTINY** IN THE MAN-GINA LOUNGE

**underbar**  
275 TREMONT ST BOSTON, MA 02116

CHRIS HARRIS PRESENTS  
21+ DOORS AT 10PM  
ENTRANCE THROUGH UNDERBAR  
FOR BOTH PARTIES



**THE LARGEST WEEKLY  
GAY DANCE EVENT  
IN THE NORTHEAST**

**EPIC**  
SATURDAYS

**FEBRUARY**  
**6 GRINDR PARTY**  
WITH **TWISTED DEE**  
**13 NINA FLOWERS**  
**20 DENA**  
**27 ESCAPE**

**HOUSE OF BLUES**

**15 LANSLOWNE STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02215**

**CHRISHARRISPPRESENTS.COM**  
**GAYMAFIABOSTON.COM**