

The Rainbow Times

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

PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER



STATE OF THE UNION:
Inclusive of LGBT Community, without many mentions **p5**

PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER



BOSTON PRIDE:
Human Rights Road Tour parks in Northampton **p6**

PHOTOS: FENWAY HEALTH



FENWAY HEALTH
to honor Barney Frank and Urvashi Vaid **p15**

LGBT SENIORS: POPULATION FACES CHALLENGES **p12**

TRANSGENDER EQUAL RIGHTS BILL: Historical signing by Gov. Patrick **p3**

2012 OFFICIAL BOSTON PRIDE GUIDE: The Rainbow Times wins bid for the 2nd year **p2**

Gender binding
GLENN CLOSE
May 'come out' in life **p17**



PHOTOS: PATRICK REDMOND

Springfield GSA Day pioneers movement

By: Nicole Lashomb*/Editor-in-Chief

Official Boston Pride Guide 2012

OPINIONS I am, once again this year, proud to say that The Rainbow Times has won the right to produce the 2012 Official Boston Pride Guide. This honor has been bestowed upon TRT for the second year in a row. With it, TRT also becomes Boston Pride's Main Media Sponsor. As we did last year, TRT will also produce the Official Boston Pride Map (<http://bit.ly/xnWfhV>).

With this selection, TRT also ensures its giving back to Boston Pride through the ads it sells in their Guide. Advertising in the Official Guide assists Boston Pride in their program development, including their human right initiatives. If you wish to advertise in the official Guide and/or map, please contact TRT.

Springfield GSA Day

Although I am a former teacher of the public school system, I found myself in awe at some of the most vibrant LGBTQA youth I've come to know.

On January 25, approximately 150 students and 25 community leaders, advisors and allies gathered at Springfield's High School of Commerce to commemorate the National Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Day. This closed-to-the-public event was the first of its kind in the region.

Participating schools in the day's festivities included the High School of Commerce, Springfield, Mass., Central High School, Springfield, Mass., The Springfield Renaissance High School, Putnam Vocational Tech High School, Springfield, Mass., Holyoke High School, Holyoke Mass., and Springfield College, Springfield, Mass.

Guest speakers of the day included Alex Morse, Mayor of Holyoke, Mass., Grisel Martínez Ocasio, Publisher, The Rainbow Times, Stephanie Houle, Diversity Specialist, Baystate Health, Principal Charles A. Grandson IV, High School of Commerce, and advisors. Other highlights involved musical performances and GSA presentations.

The day was hosted by Springfield's High School of Commerce and presented by the LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts in collaboration with Baystate Health.

Often times, large-scale LGBT community events tend not to focus on the impoverished areas of New England. Instead, areas where acceptance and tolerance is widespread are where efforts are mostly spent. But, here is what I know ... kids need us! They need us in the affluent communities but they especially need us in the impoverished ones ... the communities where children are often not born with the unjust privilege many of us share. Observing the youth, I was astounded by each of them. In the face of such adversity (socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, etc.), they persevere, they rise above, their strength and spirit inspires me. Being bi-cultural myself, I wasn't prepared to be as touched by these youth. They are the light at the end of the tunnel. They are the leaders of tomorrow and we need to reach out to them today. I urge you to get in touch with your urban surroundings if you haven't already; there are so many beautiful gems in the rough.

* Nicole Lashomb is the Editor-in-Chief of The Rainbow Times. She holds an MBA from Marylhurst University and a Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Potsdam. To send a letter to the editor or to reach Nicole, email her at editor@therainbowtimesnews.com.

Congratulations to MetLife: Newest Corporate Partner

By: Jenn Tracz Grace*/CABO's Exec. Director



2012 is off to a wonderful beginning for the Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunities (CABO), the statewide affiliate of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), with the announcement of

MetLife/New England as its newest Corporate Partner.

CABO Founder and President Dena Castricone, an attorney with CABO Pioneering Partner Murtha Cullina Law Firm, is thrilled about the partnership with MetLife, which is also a corporate partner of the NGLCC. "MetLife continues to show its commitment to creating a more inclusive economy while New England Financial representatives, Kathy Lucas and Lana Wong breathe life into that commitment here in Connecticut through their valuable and regular participation with CABO."

Since 1844, New England Financial, a MetLife Company, has had an unequalled level of experience and knowledge in financial services, with more than 25,000 individuals and businesses in the Connecticut region benefitting from our products and services. Kathy Lucas says relationship building and earning trust are one of the keys to its success. "From the moment Lana and I first began coming to the

CABO events, we have felt that warmth and connection from its members. We are so excited about this marriage." Lana Wong adds, "New England Financial congratulates CABO on its distinction as the 2011 NGLCC Chamber of the Year, and looks forward to being a part of its new goals and growth for 2012."

Stay tuned for next month's announcement regarding another new Corporate Partner TD Bank!

CABO is your resource to the Connecticut LGBT business climate both in the corporate and small business environment. We are able to provide services to our members in large part due to their support. Those we recognize include; Aetna, Foxwoods, Murtha Cullina LLP, MetLife, TD Bank, Comcast Business Class, Bearingstar Insurance, Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union, Clear Channel Radio, The Rainbow Times, Barmont Productions and MAD Digital Print Solutions. Each of these businesses has something great to offer and their commitment and support to the LGBT community is what separates them from the rest.

* In her role as Executive Director, Jenn is responsible for maintaining and growing membership, developing strategic business partnerships and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. In addition to being CABO's executive director, she also owns Diversity Works LLC, a strategic marketing and communications agency specializing in diversity issues.

Black History Month: Reflecting on the gay black feminist movement Burtka, Sarah Silverman, Sundancing

By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist

February is Black History Month, a reminder to the dominant culture to lift up the stories and lives of black people. As LGBTQ folks, regardless of whether we experience oppression by racism or if we gain white privilege, February offers a fantastic opportunity to ignite or reignite our flaming selves to know our history and have our history inform the work of our present. Some say that knowledge itself is power, and it certainly can make us feel powerful, but I hope that knowledge can lead us all to action that can really help us shift the borders of power away from those who violently clench onto it.

First, let me share a little history from here in Boston. Have you ever heard of the Comba-

... regardless of whether we experience oppression by racism or if we gain white privilege, February offers a fantastic opportunity to ignite or reignite our flaming selves to know our history and have our history inform the work of our present.

hee River Collective? They were a black lesbian feminist organization that started in 1974. Well before the esteemed Kimberlé Crenshaw popularized the organizing model and theory of intersectionality, the women of the Combahee River Collective were expanding the borders of queer, black and feminist movements with ideas of simultaneity; a movement building tool that recognized the interlocking experience of oppression for many, including black

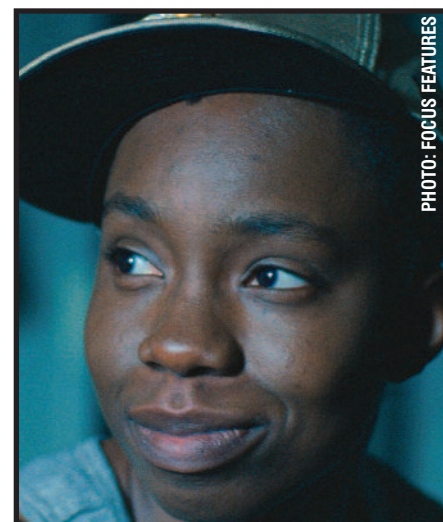


PHOTO: FOCUS FEATURES

lesbian feminists. The Combahee River Collective released a statement of their politics in 1977; it has now become standard reading in women's studies and critical race-theory classes, though I must say I prefer reading it out loud with friends and lovers. The statement can easily be found online, their explicitly detailed writing is a call to both black and white feminists, straight and queer people, and to

See Black History Page 18

The Rainbow Times

The Freshest LGBT Newspaper in New England

www.therainbowtimesnews.com

editor@therainbowtimesnews.com
sales@therainbowtimesnews.com

Phone: 413.282.8881, 617.444.9618
or Fax: 888-442-2421

Publisher	Columnists
Grisel M. Ocasio	Lorelei Erisis
Editor-in-Chief	Deja N. Greenlaw
Nicole Lashomb	Paul P. Jesep
Assistant Editor	Jason Lydon
Brianna Snyder	Tynan Power
Sales Associates	Jenn Tracz
Chris Gilmore	John Verlinden
Liz Johnson	Reporters
Lead Photographer	Chuck Colbert
Glenn Koetzner	Clara Lefton
Webmaster	Christine Nicco
Jarred Johnson	Tynan Power
Design	Casey Rocheteau
Prizm Designs	

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
I thought your story on Holyoke Mayor, Alex Morse, was so well written and when I read it, it gave me hope for a brighter future for me as a Latino gay male in this part of western Mass. The line that I loved the most from it was "The wise young man and Holyoke elect candidate then, turned Holyoke around and Holyoke believed, hoped and dreamt of a better tomorrow—a tomorrow filled with diversity, inclusion and the belief that dreams do come true." I liked the depth of your questions and found out more about his plans for our city through it. One thing, I wish it had also been written in Spanish. Thank you for it!
—Jose Lopez, Holyoke, MA

Dear Editor,
The In The Name of God story by Rev. Paul Jesep about finding "balance" in one's life spoke to me and to my life and that of some acquaintances. In working in your suggestions, Rev. Jesep, I still find that balance somewhat hard to attain albeit trying to regain it when I haven't been able to maintain it. Thank you for the book suggestion and your column continues to be an inspiration to my family.
—Mark Terrell, Hartford, CT

See Letters on Page 14

Community Celebrates Ceremonial Signing of Transgender Equal Rights Bill

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Remarks during the signing ceremony for Massachusetts' new transgender civil-rights law lasted less than an hour last month when activists, lawmakers, the governor, and state constitutional officers gathered before noon on Beacon Hill in the Senate Reading Room. There, in the old Senate chamber, several hundred joyful and grateful people marked an occasion some were not quite sure they would ever celebrate.

Six years ago, "We honestly wondered and worried if anyone would show up to testify," said state Rep. Carl M. Sciortino, Jr. (D-Medford).

Sciortino, a lead House sponsor of the transgender bill, was referring to the first time lawmakers considered a measure that would extend basic civil-rights and hate-crimes protections to an estimated 30,000 transgender residents of the Commonwealth.

"It was telling that day [of testimony in the Gardner Auditorium]," he said, "when people told us, 'Can I go into that building [the State House]? Can I get through security?'"

Many transgender people, their families, friends and allies in fact did show up then and over the years to testify and lobby lawmakers, sharing painful personal stories of discrimination and violence against them. In the end, storytelling made all the difference.

"It has not been an easy ride," Sciortino said, "with many bumps along the way, in so many years of fighting, many false starts and rollercoaster rides."



MA Gov. Deval Patrick signs the Transgender Equal Rights Bill surrounded by community leaders and allies.

Nonetheless, "welcome to the people's house," he said.

"This is what comes from turning to each other rather than turning against each other," said Gov. Deval Patrick, whom Sciortino introduced as a "hero and legend of LGBT equality."

"This is about what happens when people come together for common cause for their own sake and for the sake of a principle, which is that people should come before their government as equals," Patrick said.

"I am so proud of you," he said. "Look at what you have done."

Recent legislative background

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed "An Act Relative to Transgender Equal Rights" by a vote of 95 – 58 on Nov. 15, 2011. The following day the Senate approved the measure on a voice vote. Gov. Patrick signed the bill into law on Nov. 23.

When it takes effect on July 1, 2012, the Commonwealth will join 15 other states and the District of Columbia in extending protections to its transgender residents in employment, housing, education, credit and hate crimes.

Amherst, Cambridge, Boston and Northamp-

ton already have local ordinances protecting transgender people.

Altogether, 136 cities and counties nationwide have included "gender identity" in nondiscrimination ordinances and laws.

States with transgender civil-rights protections include California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Iowa, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada.

Under current Massachusetts law, race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, among other categories, are protected classes. The new would add the term "gender identity" to the list.

The new law defines that term as "a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth. Gender-related identity may be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, as part of a person's core identity; provided however, gender-related identity shall not be asserted for any improper purpose."

In addition to Sciortino, Rep. Byron Rushing (D-South End) was a leading co-sponsor in the House, along with Senators Benjamin B. Downing (D-Pittsfield) and Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Boston), lead co-sponsors in the Senate.

For now, public accommodations omitted

See Transgender Page 10

March 2 at Symphony Hall • 8 pm

SPONSORED BY People's United Bank

MEDIA SPONSOR The Republican.

Not a performance of, not affiliated with the show Jersey Boys

CHRISTIAN HOFF MICHAEL LONGORIA DANIEL REICHARD J. ROBERT SPENCER

THE MIDTOWN MEN

4 STARS FROM THE ORIGINAL CAST OF JERSEY BOYS!

April 4 at Symphony Hall • 7:30 pm

SPONSORED BY Columbia Gas of Massachusetts

A NiSource Company

TO BENEFIT SQUARE ONE

ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN

PERFORMED BY GARY MULLEN & THE WORKS

April 11 - 14 at CityStage

Craig A. Meyer

ALMOST ELTON JOHN

CO-SPONSORED BY HNE NEOS Baystate Health

GREAT ENTERTAINMENT in the HEART of DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD, MASS.



BOX OFFICE:

(413) 788-7033
citystage.symphonyhall.com



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
facebook.com/citystage.symphonyhall

To see the complete CityStage & Symphony Hall Season please visit citystage.symphonyhall.com

Faith, Family, and God: A Q&A about God and His/Her Love

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist

IN THE NAME OF GOD

Q: Does God punish LGBT people?

No. God created you. You are holy. God is not self-destructive. God no more sent HIV/AIDS than cancer that inflicts children. Theologians, philosophers, and great thinkers have debated, discussed, and reflected for thousands of years why bad things happen to good people. No one has an answer. Sometimes it's just best to leave it alone. Life just is. Nor does God allow hate, bigotry and discrimination. These are human behaviors. Many are unaware of the medical, scientific and spiritual normalcy in being LGBT. Don't project human insecurities, ignorance or bad behavior onto God.

Q: Why trust in some higher power when God's representatives persecute me?

Popes, patriarchs, cardinals, or bishops often have obtained their positions by a bit of inside politics. Holiness isn't an overriding concern in selecting high-ranking religious officials. They may be selected because of political savvy or administrative skills. God doesn't pick them. Because someone has a title doesn't automatically make them pious, holy, intelligent, or God's representative. Don't get caught up in titles and fancy religious packaging. Some of the nicest, smartest, and most decent people you'll ever meet, for example, were high-school or college dropouts. Some of the meanest, dumbest, unscrupulous people you'll ever meet have college and graduate degrees.



Q: Why would I want to be part of any religion that calls me a sinner?

Human beings run religions. They make mistakes all the time. Throughout history, religious leaders have been wrong. No one speaks for God. People who call you a sinner don't have a monopoly on God. They're people just like everyone else who can get a little too full of themselves. Also, there are places of worship that will accept you as an LGBT person made in God's image, and not try to change you.

Q: Isn't being LGBT and a person of faith contradictory?

No. God and religion is not the same thing. Human beings created religions (pick your flavor) in an attempt to enhance a spiritual journey, give meaning to their lives, and to better understand God or at least some higher power who they hope sorts out the world's pain, suffering

and confusion. LGBT people can still be good Jews, Muslims, Christians or other people of faith.

Q: Why is there a small part of me that still feels ashamed?

Society or family may have contributed to conditioning you to feel this way. Ultimately, you decide how to feel. It's easier said than done, but it's your choice to allow negative views to become your reality. If someone wearing green and orange plaid clothes said you have no fashion sense would you care? If a bad cook said there is no creativity in your meals would you care? Keep perspective. You determine how to feel.

Q: How do I find God?

Pray and see what happens. Prayer can be a silent conversation in the car when the radio is turned off. Prayer doesn't mean you recite specific words. Ask for courage, wisdom, or patience. Ask for insight, guidance, or help in growing as a person. Don't ask to win the lottery. You may be surprised what happens over the long term.

Q: Why does God love me?

You're God's child. God doesn't make mistakes. You were meant to be here. It's possible that God put you and all LGBT people here to teach the world to love more and judge less. If the world doesn't have love, it has nothing.

** Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, N.Y. E-mail questions to Dilovod@aol.com.*

Ashfield Community Theater to perform "The Vagina Monologues"

On Saturday, February 11, 2012, Ashfield Community Theater will present a benefit reading of Eve Ensler's play, "The Vagina Monologues" (directed by Melissa Penley). Performances are at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. at Ashfield Community Hall, 521 Main Street, Ashfield, MA. Tickets are \$10.00 - \$20.00 (sliding scale, cash or check only) and available at the door, by reservation at vdayashfield@gmail.com, or in-advance at Elmer's Store, 396 Main Street, Ashfield. Reservations are strongly recommended due to limited seating.

"The Vagina Monologues" is part of the global V-Day campaign that works to end gender-based violence and female disempowerment. In 2011, over 5800 V-Day benefit events took place, produced by volunteer activists in countries around the world and educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls.

All proceeds from the production will be donated to NELCWIT, an organization serving survivors of domestic and sexual abuse in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region, and The Survivor Theatre Project, a non-profit that works with survivors of sexual violence to utilize the performing arts in their healing processes. Both organizations do considerable important advocacy work within our communities here in Western Massachusetts. More information about these two beneficiaries is available at www.nelcwit.org and www.survivortheatreproject.com.

Join this benefit in the fight to end violence against women and girls.

The Hispanic Black Gay Coalition presents

The Inaugural
Lesbians of Color Symposium

L.O.C.S.

Saturday, March 03, 2012

Hosted by
The Hispanic Black Gay Coalition

Co-Hosted by
Harvard Law School Lambda

For more information,
please visit: www.hbgc-boston.org
and/or email lesbiansymposium@hbgc-boston.org

Follow us on Twitter :
@LOCS_Pride

Scan Here To Join Our
Mailing List!

Scan Here To Register
Online!

**"LIKE" us on Facebook
at:**

[www.facebook.com/
LOCSatHBGC](http://www.facebook.com/LOCSatHBGC)

In celebration of Women's History Month, please join the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition and fellow lesbians/queer identified women for a day of empowerment on Saturday, March 03, 2012. We invite you to participate in a series of workshops designed to solidify our culture and strengthen our presence within the LGBTQ community.

Allies are welcome!

Save the Date:
Saturday, March 03, 2012

Location:
Harvard Law School
1545 Mass Ave
Cambridge, MA

Registration Fee:
\$25.00

Workshop topics will include:

- Health
- Gender Expression/Identity
- Spirituality
- Self advocacy/Social activism
- Relationships
- ...and more!

SOTU: Inclusive of gays, although less mentions than expected

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

While there was only one direct reference to anything gay in President Obama's third State of the Union address (SOTU), the speech and a large number of White House activities surrounding it were inclusive of gays.

President Obama's opening remarks January 24th held out the military as a good example of people working together, adding that service members "don't obsess over their differences," a comment that could certainly serve as a reference to how well the military has adapted to the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the ban on gays.

And his closing remarks returned to that theme.

"When you put on that uniform, it doesn't matter if you're black or white; Asian or Latino; conservative or liberal; rich or poor; gay or straight," said the president. "When you're marching into battle, you look out for the person next to you, or the mission fails. When you're in the thick of the fight, you rise or fall as one unit, serving one Nation, leaving no one behind."

Some media reports had speculated before the speech that President Obama might use the speech to call for the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) or to say that his personal attitude about same-sex marriage had evolved to one of support. There were no statements from the White House to substantiate those reports, but Human Rights Campaign media relations director Michael Cole-Schwartz acknowledged that HRC had been "in touch with the White House to express our desire to see LGBT people and issues included in the president's speech."

"Not only does the President have a record of accomplishment to tout," said Cole-Schwartz, "including issues important to our community can also be a powerful tool toward further progress. We understand that there are many competing demands on a state of the union address and we hope our community will be given due consideration."

Asked what, specifically, HRC asked for, Cole-Schwartz said, "We made the case for why several issues could and should be included in the address, particularly how the need for workplace protections for LGBT people dovetails with the President's likely messages about jobs."

In his first State of the Union address, President Obama called for repeal of the federal law barring openly gay people from serving in the military. And last year, just a month after signing into law the bill that repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the president used his State of the Union



PHOTO: TRT/GLENN KOETZNER

victory in the fight to achieve full equality for service members."

The service member was Colonel Ginger Wal-

First Lady in her special gallery seats in the House chamber to watch the speech.

Aubrey Sarvis, head of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), called the gesture "a clear

used to secure equal pay for women at a Colorado company.

Wallace, of McLean, Virginia, and Kilker of Brighton, Colorado, were guests at a reception at the White House and then traveled to the Capitol with the First Lady. Their partners watched the speech at the White House at a special event.

The National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce sent out a press release on January 24, noting that its communications director, Laura Berry, would also be at the White House during the speech for a "social media watch party" that was to be followed by "a life Q & A with top Obama advisers."

The Republican Party had its response to President Obama's State of the Union address, via Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels. And Log Cabin Republican leader R. Clarke Cooper issued a press statement Tuesday morning criticizing Democrats for "telling a thousand and one stories to distract the American voter, but even Queen Scheherazade couldn't spin her way out of a thousand days without passing a budget."

"American families, gay and straight, all know that the first step to regaining fiscal health is writing a budget that clearly sets out priorities and limits spending to what you can afford," said Cooper. "Senate Democrats have engaged in an unprecedented dereliction of duty. There is nothing President Obama can say in the State of the Union address tonight to hide their failure from the American people. Just more words will not alleviate voters' discontent. Log Cabin Republicans look forward to electing a Republican Senate majority this November that is ready to get down to business."

© 2012 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

"When you put on that uniform, it doesn't matter if you're black or white; Asian or Latino; conservative or liberal; rich or poor; gay or straight," said the president.

address to urge universities that had been barring military recruiters over the gay ban to start allowing recruiters back on campus.

This year, President Obama brought an indirect spotlight on gays in the military by inviting one openly gay service member to sit with the

lace, an openly lesbian intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force.

Also included among 28 guests was a second openly gay guest, Lorelei Kilker. Kilker, an environmental chemist, filed a lawsuit that the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

FENWAY  HEALTH

Quality eye care + stylish eye wear

Make an appointment or stop in to shop for eye wear today!

Need an eye exam or new glasses? Fenway Health has you covered. Our eye care staff provide the highest quality eye care for our patients in a comfortable, caring, and compassionate environment. And our optical shop carries the latest styles from Calvin Klein, Sean John, L.A. Looks and more to keep you looking, and seeing, great.



SCAN ME FOR A VALUABLE COUPON
or visit fenwayhealth.org/eyes



FENWAY EYE CARE 1340 Boylston Street, 6th Floor Boston MA 02215 Near Fenway Park TEL 617.927.6190 WEB fenwayhealth.org

Boston Pride's Human Rights Road Tour parks in Northampton

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

Last month, Boston Pride's new Human Rights & Education Committee made a stop in Northampton on its statewide Community Forum Road Tour.

The forum, held at the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, drew LGBT people from around – and beyond – the Pioneer Valley. Attendees came to hear about the new committee and its mission, as well as to talk to representatives of one of the country's largest LGBT Pride organizations about human rights issues.

Each year, Boston Pride organizes a Pride Week that includes a variety of events, including the parade and festival for which the organization is best known. Yet Boston Pride is more than the parade; in fact, even the parade is more than a parade.

"It's not just a parade. It's a march – and it's important," said Linda DeMarco, Board President of Boston Pride.

Boston Pride is active year-round producing events and collaborating with other organizations. The Human Rights and Education Committee is one manifestation of a 365-day focus.

"This is a committee that can do things throughout the year," said Steve Auger, a member of the Committee.

According to the Boston Pride website, the Committee's purpose is to advocate for social justice by "disseminating news, promoting dia-

logue, and mobilizing people to take action on issues of local, national and global significance." To that end, the committee took to the road to get feedback from LGBT communities around the state. Its first Community Forum was held in November.

The Northampton forum, co-sponsored by the LGBT Coalition and the Unitarian Society's Big Ol' Gay Committee, was the first to take place in Western Massachusetts.

"What can the Human Rights & Education Committee do for the community?" asked Steve Auger.

Attendees had no shortage of answers. Many ideas generated by attendees focused on using Boston's Pride Week to reach a broader audi-

ence. The crowds and media coverage drawn by Boston Pride make it an ideal opportunity to spotlight human rights issues.

One way to do that would be to hold an LGBT-focused human-rights conference in conjunction with Pride Week.

William Urich, chair of Human Rights for InterPride (the International Association of LGBTI Pride Organizers), said Pride events in the U.S. differ from many in Europe and South America. In those places, he explained, "you don't have a pride event without a human-rights conference."

"The single more important thing any pride can do is educate," said Urich.

The Committee members expressed interest in putting together such a conference, possibly in collaboration with other community organization. They said it would not happen in time for Boston Pride 2012, but they would consider it for the future.

Another suggestion proposed having a politically-themed play to offer both entertainment and education.

The Committee has a wide array of human rights issues to tackle, yet prioritizing them is complicated. One attendee of the Northampton forum talked about how different intersections of identity may result in different human-rights priorities.

"If someone stares at me," she explained, "is it because I'm black? Is it because they think I'm

a lesbian?"

For her, as a gay African-American single mother, she explained that racial equality might be her first concern, while for a white lesbian, sexual orientation might take priority.

One specific issue raised in the forum was the need for a change in federal asylum policy. Currently, asylum may be granted to people who fear serious persecution, such as a threat to their life. Some would like to see asylum granted to people who face forced heterosexual marriage, which may amount to rape.

At the same time, one attendee felt strongly that people need to move away from thinking of human rights as an international issue.

"Human rights are not just an international issue. It is something that happens here. It is something that happens in our own backyards."

"We've fallen into a little bit of complacency, especially in Massachusetts," said Andrea Egitto. "I have no problem walking downtown holding my wife's hand, but even here in Northampton there are kids afraid to come out."

In the coming months, the Human Rights & Education Committee will continue its road tour with forums in the South Shore and in the Boston area. The Committee is seeking new members from across the state.

For more information about Boston Pride's Human Rights and Education Committee, visit www.bostonpride.org/humanrights.



And, it just got better... and better... IT'S NEW! → TheRainbowTimesNews.com

THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

1

Research empowERING women in the fight against HIV.

Fenway Health Ansin Building
1340 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02215

Fenway Health is studying the possibility of preventing HIV using a medicated vaginal ring. We need HIV-negative women 18-40 to help.

Stand up for LOVE

FACT: 63% of all HIV/AIDS cases in the US are in gay and bisexual men and infection rates are rising among men who have sex with men.

Fenway Health is seeking HIV-negative men who have sex with men to participate in a vaccine trial to determine the safety and effectiveness of an investigational HIV vaccine.

We are seeking volunteers: HIV-negative men, ages 18-50, who have been a top or bottom in the past 6 months. Volunteers receive compensation for their time and travel expenses, as well as confidential HIV counseling and testing.

You cannot get HIV from this investigational HIV vaccine.

BOSTON is READY.ORG

BOSTON GET YOUR HEART ON

VOLUNTEER FOR AN HIV VACCINE STUDY

617.927.6450

GUYS EXPERIENCING LUBE

projectgel

3

ARE YOU:

- ◆ 18-30 years old?
- ◆ A man who has sex with men?
- ◆ Willing to be tested for HIV?

IF YOU ENROLL, YOU WILL:

- ◆ Be tested for HIV.
- ◆ Complete a physical exam, including an anal exam.
- ◆ Be asked questions about your medical and sexual history.

You will receive compensation for your participation in this study.

THE FENWAY INSTITUTE



Olympia Dukakis stars as a lesbian in the film "Cloudburst," showing March 3, Academy of Music Theatre, by Out! For Reel LGBT Film Series.

Out! For Reel LGBT Film Series Offers New Powerhouse Films

Several famous Hollywood actors are starring in the films that Out! For Reel is showing this season. We have a fantastic lineup of films - it's all very exciting," said Jaime Michaels, executive director/producer of the *Out! For Reel LGBT Film Series*, based in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Hollywood stars include Kathleen Turner, Olympia Dukakis, Richard Chamberlain, Dana Delany (star of the television show "Body of Proof"), Michelle Bonilla (star of the television show "Bones"), and Sharon Lawrence (co-star in the television show "Grey's Anatomy"). "It's so cool to see Olympia Dukakis and Kathleen Turner starring in LGBT films. They are really fabulous in their roles," said Michaels.

On Saturday, February 11 a one night Lesbian Film Festival will show films on love and friendship on Valentine's weekend. "We'll have two different shows so that people have a choice or they can come to both shows," Michaels said. "The first show will be an encore screening of "Kiss Me," the sexy, beautiful, romantic film from Sweden back by popular demand. The second show is 'Best in Lesbian Shorts' plus the wonderful new documentary, 'T'Aint Nobody's Bizness: Queer Blues Divas of the 1920s'.

These best of the best, award-winning short films offer a variety of funny, clever, sexy, and heartwarming stories about dating, love, and friendship. 'T'Aint Nobody's Bizness' is a fascinating look at lesbian and bisexual women blues singers including Ethel Waters, Bessie Smith, and Ma Rainey. It has vintage photos and recordings of famous singers and it is narrated by lesbian author Jewel Gomez. The Lesbian Film Festival will be held at Wright Hall, Smith College, Northampton. The First Show is 5:15 - 7 p.m. and the Second Show is 7:20 - 8:40 p.m.

The season centerpiece, on Saturday, March 3, is the New England Premiere of "Cloudburst" starring Olympia Dukakis. It will be shown at the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton. The film tells the uplifting and captivating story



Scene from "Getting to Know You," a comedy about dating, one of the films in Out! For Reel's Lesbian Film Festival, Saturday, February 11, Smith College. PHOTO: Emotion Pictures

of an older lesbian couple in a thirty year relationship escaping out of a nursing home to get married in Canada so that their families cannot separate them. "Cloudburst is an incredibly funny and powerful film. It is both a love story and a political story. It deals head on with the serious issues lesbian and gay couples face in states where marriage is not available," said Michaels. "I absolutely love Olympia Dukakis. It's a superb film."

The season finale on Saturday, May 5, is "The Perfect Family," starring Kathleen Turner and Richard Chamberlain. It will be shown at the Northampton High School Auditorium. The film is a story about a pious Catholic woman, played by Kathleen Turner, who wants to win the Catholic woman of the year award. The glitch is that her daughter is an out lesbian who is planning to get married and have a baby. "This film is delightful, fresh, and funny. It shows the pain homophobia can cause in a family and the healing that can be created with love and acceptance. Kathleen Turner is truly amazing," said Michaels.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.OutForReel.org.

Happy Valentine's Day!
With Love From TRT To You

Out! FOR REEL

LGBT Film Series

Lesbian Film Festival

Saturday, February 11th

Wright Hall, Smith College, Northampton



TWO SHOWS!

5:15 - 7:00 pm **Kiss Me**

Encore Screening

.....

7:20 - 8:40 pm

Best Lesbian Shorts:

Love & friendship!

&

**T'Aint Nobody's
Bizness: Queer Blues
Divas of the 1920s**



Saturday, March 3, 2012, 7 pm

Academy of Music Theatre, Northampton

Starring Olympia Dukakis *New England Premiere!*

Buy Tickets/ More info: www.OutForReel.org

The Abstinence of Courage comes to Connecticut

By: **Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter**

The Catholic archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., is offering a spiritual support program, or ministry, for gay men and lesbians, holding out abstinence, or mandatory celibacy, as key to living a moral life.

News of the program, a chapter of the national ministry called Courage, first greeted readers of the Hartford Courant on Wednesday morning, Jan. 4, and spread quickly over the Internet and through national and other local print and broadcast media, prompting strong reactions from Connecticut Catholics, as well as national Catholic LGBT advocacy groups and organizations that minister with gay Catholics and their families.

"The purpose of the ministry is to support men and women who struggle with homosexual tendencies and to motivate them to live chaste and fruitful lives in accordance with Catholic Church teaching," according to the archdiocese's press release.

"Through support and spiritual intervention, we can help people with same-sex attraction lead moral and fulfilling lives," said Robert M. Pallotti, director of the archdiocese's Office of Diaconate, in the press statement.

By design, Courage is in accord with official Catholic doctrine, which says homosexuality "is more or less strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic moral evil; and thus, the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder."

Theologically speaking, the Courage ministry also stems from natural law theory, which holds that sex is morally acceptable only when expressed in sacramental marriage and only when sexual intercourse is open to procreation.

Other sexual (including heterosexual) activity

—masturbation, artificial contraception, adultery, and sex outside of marriage — are also considered to be immoral under natural law.

During a lengthy telephone interview, Deacon Pallotti readily acknowledged the moral question

"It perpetuates a falsehood that gay people are somehow defective, when in reality we are wonderful people created in the image and likeness of God as is all creation," said Frank O'Gorman, 47, of West Hartford.

"Courage's falsehood," he added, "that gay people cannot live full, loving lives and express themselves [sexually] in a loving way" harms people as a "form of spiritual violence."

of sexual activity is the rub for many gay Catholics.

In upholding the Church's moral teaching, he said, "We know it's going to be challenge and hard to live this [celibate] life."

"We know within the Catholic Church there is a struggle about the [moral] teaching," said Pallotti. Still, "We want to minister in light of that [teaching] for those who want to remain in the Church. We are here to offer them pastoral care and support for them and their families."

Pallotti also said he expected "blow back" from the gay community.

He got it, as gay Catholics and Hartford LGBT community leaders pushed back, saying the Church's view is outdated, unsound, and worse yet, harmful.

Asked about the harm Courage does, he explained, "Many of us, gay Catholics of my generation, believed during our teen and into our 20's that we were somehow defective and that was a period of great depression."

"Only when we fully embraced our sexuality as a gift from God were we transformed from people who were walking dead into people who had a light to shine and offer other people," said O'Gorman, who is a member of Dignity USA.

Medford, Mass.-based Dignity USA is the nation's oldest and largest LGBT Catholic advocacy organization.

"Courage's falsehood," he added, "that gay people cannot live full, loving lives and express themselves [sexually] in a loving way" harms people as a "form of spiritual violence."

"Religious people, of all people, should not be promoting spiritual violence," said O'Gorman.

"I am deeply concerned about what seems to be an increase in the roll out of Courage and 12-step [addiction-model] programs in Catholic dioceses across the country," said Marianne Duddy-Burke, Dignity USA's executive director. "These kinds of programs promote exactly the kind of negativity that has been demonstrated to lead to substance abuse, depression, and even suicide."

"It's bad enough that the bishops are attacking LGBT people politically. Now it seems they are launching a campaign to attack us pastorally, as well," Duddy-Burke said.

"The main problem I see with the Courage ministry is that it primarily views lesbian/gay people in terms of sexual activity. This approach does not consider lesbian/gay people as whole people, but narrowly defines them in terms of sex," said Francis DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry, writing in a blog posting.

"A ministry which primarily focuses on the possibility of sexual activity is a very stunted ministry," he added.

Based in Mount Ranier, Md., New Ways Ministry is "a gay-positive ministry of advocacy and justice" for LGBT Catholics and of "reconciliation within the larger Christian and civil communities."

"The direct implication [of Courage] is that who you are is not okay," said Robin McHaelen, executive director of Hartford's True Colors, a non-profit agency that offers services to LGBT teens.

McHaelen also finds off-putting Courage's "love-the-sinner-but-hate-the-sin" perspective,

See Abstinence on page 16

Fenway Health is studying the possibility of preventing HIV using a medicated vaginal ring. We need HIV-negative women 18-40 to help.

Call 617.927.6450

 THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

Women are discover RING new methods of preventing HIV.



SCAN THE BARCODE TO SAVE OUR CONTACT INFORMATION TO YOUR PHONE.

Fenway Health Ansin Building 1340 Boylston Street Boston MA 02215

The doors to the **future** open in March.



Baystate Medical Center's expansion opens Friday, March 2. The magnificent new building features the Davis Family Heart & Vascular Center, with the most advanced heart and vascular technology available.

Privacy and comfort are redefined. A rooftop garden provides healing and rejuvenation. We've constructed every detail around the needs of our patients and families. In fact, our patients helped design the rooms.

You expect the best from us. We pride ourselves on delivering it. The doors to the future open in March, improving lives for generations to come.



**Baystate
Medical Center**

baystatehealth.org/expansion

DIVERSITYSM

Includes Everyone



Davis Family
Heart & Vascular Center

*For a Baystate heart and vascular specialist
call 1-800-377-4325.*

Transgender from page 3

The new law, however, does not include protections for public accommodations, such as hotels and restaurants, restrooms, locker rooms, public buildings and transit, including subway and bus lines.

That omission bothers Sen. Chang-Diaz, who, in her brief remarks, referred to the law as “not perfect,” and vowing “another fight, on another day, to come back and get public accommodations.”

Those provisions were included in an earlier version of the bill but were dropped in a redrafting of the measure by the House Committee on the Judiciary, whose chairman is Rep. Eugene L. O’Flaherty (D-Chelsea).

The bill’s detractors zeroed in on fears about public safety in restrooms and locker rooms. In an effort to derail the measure, opponents derisively labeled it a “bathroom bill,” stirring up fears of sexual predators stalking public restrooms.

Attorney General Martha Coakley spoke to those concerns in her remarks. “This law enhances our responsibility to prosecute criminal behavior and to protect civil rights of all,” she said. “There is nothing to restrict our ability to prevent victims of any crime.”

Coakley said, too, that the day marked “an enormous stride in Massachusetts to be able to say we do respect people’s rights here.”

Chang-Diaz agreed. “This is a huge step forward,” she said. “It’s a great, great day.”

Meanwhile, “We have our work cut out for us,” said Arline Isaacson, chairwoman of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, a statewide advocacy and lobbying organization.

In a short interview after the signing ceremony, Isaacson was referring to adding public accommodations to the law.

“But there is no doubt in my mind now that it is illegal to discriminate against transgender people,” those protections will get included, she said.

Saying we’re sorry, asking forgiveness

Rep. Rushing also spoke before the governor signed the bill.

“Let me remind us of one thing,” he told the gathering. “When you come here, when anyone who has been discriminated against and deprived of their rights in our society — when you come and demand those rights, you are not demanding those rights because you don’t have them.”

“You were born with those rights,” explained Rushing. “What you come to us to do is recognize what we already should have known. What you come to government to do is to protect and acknowledge those rights.”

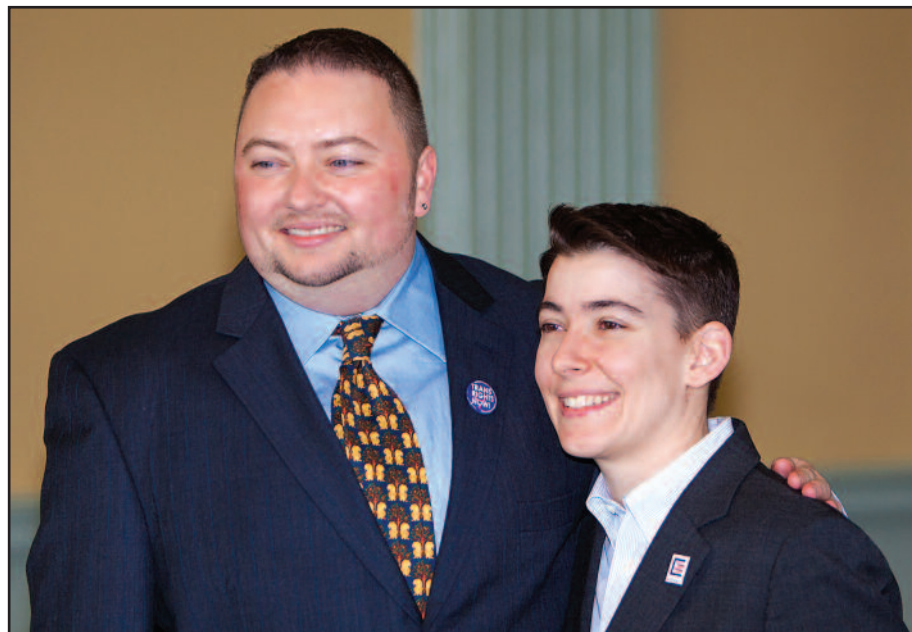
“That is what we are celebrating today,” Rushing said, adding, “We should not forget the time when we did not acknowledge those rights and your humanity.”

“We are incredibly sorry and ask for your forgiveness,” he said. “Transgender people were treated terribly in this state with no recourse. Now you have this law.”

Holding out hope for LGBT youth

In her remarks, Kara Suffredini, executive director of Mass Equality, a statewide advocacy organization, offered encouragement to youth.

“To young people in the Commonwealth in the process of self-discovery, today’s celebration sends a message of hope that in Massachusetts everybody should be able to be safe, open, and have authentic lives free of discrimination no



Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition’s Executive Director, Gunner Scott and MassEquality’s Executive Director, Kara Suffredini, pose for the camera after the signing of the Transgender Equal Rights Bill by MA Governor Deval Patrick.

PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

matter who they are,” she said.

In securing transgender civil rights, Mass Equality flexed considerable organizational muscle, making 100,000 telephone calls to legislators and sending them 5,000 postcards in support of the measure, among other lobbying efforts, which included critically important face-to-face meetings of transgender constituents with their representatives and senators.

In closing comments, Gunner Scott, executive director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, quoted author, philosopher, and civil rights activist Cornel West. “Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public,” said Scott.

Tearing up

Bisexual activist Robyn Ochs and others were moved to tears during the celebration. “The power of being in a room with people who have worked so hard and for so long to bring about this day,” she said, was overwhelming.

“It feels like we have turned a corner,” said Alex Coleman, a transgender man and activist. “I am so impressed with all the transgender people who are so vulnerable and who came for-

ward and became visible to tell our stories when we are so often ostracized,” he said, adding, “It was courageous for our allies,” as well.

Logan Ferraro, a transgender man who helped with the bill, also fought back tears, he said, looking over at longtime activist and LGBT community leader Grace Sterling Stowell, executive director of the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth.

“I respect her so much,” Ferraro said. “She is someone who has made such a difference in my life.”

Added Ferraro, who transitioned during his senior year in high school, “We’ve made amazing steps in our lives. I am glad to be a part of it.”

Michelle Figuierdo, a transgender woman, said the signing ceremony was “surreal,” adding, “I am full of pride and happiness” with all the “time and effort” it took to “see us as human beings, which is who we are.”

Check out the various photos taken at the historical event by visiting:
<http://on.fb.me/wpsZ71>

At **PARTNERS HEALTHCARE AT HOME** and **SPAULDING REHABILITATION NETWORK** we are proud of both the personalized care we provide to our patients and of our employees that make it possible. We strive to create a diverse environment where personal and professional growth is widespread, where everyone can achieve his or her greatest potential and where contributions are valued. We are now hiring **RNs and PTs** for positions throughout MA. Please visit our websites for more information and to apply!

For career updates, please scan the QR code below.



SPAULDING
REHABILITATION NETWORK
SpauldingRehab.org

PARTNERS
HEALTHCARE | **AT HOME**
PHHCareers.org

Find your strength.

Spaulding Rehabilitation Network and Partners HealthCare at Home are proud to be Equal Opportunity Employers.

TRT: Main Media Partner/Boston Pride 2012

it could be partner abuse

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

617.742.4911 (v)

617.227.4911 (tty)

- bilingual hotline
- emergency shelter
- support group



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

The Network/La Red:
Acabando con el abuso de parejas en las comunidades LGBTQ, pollamorosas y sadomasoquistas

puede ser el abuso de pareja íntima

Advocates applaud Obama administration for efforts in combating bullying of LGBT youth

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

The U.S. Department of Education released a new report last month — a study that summarizes current state approaches in anti-bullying.

Neither federal law nor policy now requires schools to adopt policies to address bullying, leaving the matter to the states. Current state laws, moreover, vary in comprehensiveness.

Still, the report, "Analysis of State Bullying Laws and Policies," found 46 states have passed anti-bullying legislation and 41 states have created anti-bullying policies as models for schools.

The report shows an increasing prevalence of efforts at the state level to combat bullying. From 1999 to 2010, for example, legislatures passed more than 120 bills, either introducing or amending bullying and related behaviors in schools. In 2010 alone, lawmakers enacted 21 new bills; and eight additional bills were signed into law through April 30, 2011.

"Every state should have effective bullying prevention efforts in place to protect children inside and outside of school," said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, in a press statement.

"This report reveals that while most states have enacted legislation around this important issue, a great deal of work remains to ensure adults are doing everything possible to keep our kids safe," he said.

Local and national advocates of safer school environments for LGBT youth and families praised the report and efforts at the federal level to protect all students, including gay youth.

"It is important to be looking at anti-bullying laws around the country," said Alison Gill, public policy manager for the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, a national advocacy organization.

"This is an incredibly useful resource for law makers, school administrators, and advocates in their thinking about how to create safe-school laws and to be able to see what the Department of Education identifies as best practices and what other states are doing and how that shapes policy," she said.

"The majority of state model policies were enumerated, even in states without enumerated anti-bullying laws," Gill added, "showing that

state education officials consider this a critical component, removed from the context of political debate."

"The Obama administration has been very clear and outspoken since day one about how LGBT people are part of the American fabric and particularly clear about the need to keep LGBT youth safe in schools," said Kara Suffredini, executive director of Mass Equality, a statewide advocacy organization.

Last March, for example, the White House held a major conference on bullying prevention. At the time, both President Obama and the First Lady posted a video to the *StopBullying.gov* Facebook page.

In August 2010, the Department of Education hosted the First Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention Summit, a gathering of government officials, policy makers, researchers and educators to explore strategies to combat bullying in schools. That summit exposed an information gap regarding anti-bullying laws and policies across the country. To address the gap, the Education department drafted a guidance document, "Anti-Bullying Policies: Examples of Provisions in State Laws."

The newly released December 6, 2011 analysis report built upon the guidance document.

Referring to the new report, Suffredini added, "It's helpful for us to continue to build the case for making sure that anti-bullying laws include specific mention of the populations that are most vulnerable, which of course includes 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity.'"

Concern over the bullying of LGBT youth came into sharper focus during the last few years with the suicide in September, 2010, of Tyler Clementi, an 18-year old freshman at Rutgers University, who leaped from the George Washington Bridge after classmates secretly video-



taped him and another male during an intimate sexual encounter and posted it on the Internet.

Closer to home, 11-year-old Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover of Springfield, Mass., hanged himself in April, 2009, after enduring bullying at school, including daily taunts of being gay despite his mother's plea to the school to address the problem.

And the January, 2010 suicide of Phoebe Prince in South Hadley, Mass., prompted the state Legislature to pass an extensive anti-bullying law that spring, which Governor Deval Patrick signed into law on May 3, 2010.

During telephone interviews, Gill and Suffredini said their organizations were in "strong" agreement with components of safe-school laws recommended by the Department of Education, namely requirements to report incidents of harassment and bullying, teacher training, a clear definition of what constitutes such behavior, and fully enumerated legislation that specifically mentions "bullying" and "harassment" and that include protections for conduct based on a student's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Other enumerated attributes include, for example, race, color, national origin, sex, and disability.

"It is just critical for everybody in the school and community to understand that certain kinds

of targeting of students are bullying," said senior staff attorney Karen Loewy at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD).

GLAD has worked on anti-bullying legislation with activists and lawmakers in all six New England states.

"When you have explicit recognition in a statewide law that targeting someone based on actual or perceived characteristics is per se bullying, it gets incorporated into training policies and can be posted on the wall in a school environment," she said.

Explicit mention of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" not only lets LGBT youth know they are protected, but also puts bullies on notice, Loewy explained.

Enumeration "lets everyone know that if you are walking around the cafeteria calling someone a 'faggot,' your conduct is in violation of anti-bullying policies," she said.

Furthermore, "We see lot of well-intentioned teachers who are not understanding [for example] that allowing the constant [meme] 'That's so gay' to continue is really creating a hostile environment that may violate the state's anti-bullying law," Loewy said.

When state law clearly specifies what constitutes bullying, "it trickles down into how teachers are trained," she said, adding, "Enumerated categories are a serious prevention angle."

Over the years, lawmakers have taken steps towards making schools safer by enacting three kinds of laws.

One approach is through education statutes guaranteeing non-discrimination in the school environment, such as those passed by Massachusetts ...

See Bullying on page 12

The Hispanic Black Gay Coalition Opens Registration for Inaugural Lesbians of Color Symposium

BOSTON, Mass. — Registration for The Hispanic Black Gay Coalition's (HBGC) Inaugural Lesbian of Color Symposium (LOCS) opened this month on the organization's website. The symposium, co-hosted by Harvard Law School Lambda and sponsored by The Rainbow Times, is set for March 3, 2012 at Harvard Law School located at 1545 Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge, MA.

In celebration of Women's History Month, the event will welcome lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer-identified women of color and their allies for a day of empowerment designed to strengthen the presence of and bond between women of color in the LGBTQ community. A series of workshops covering health and wellness, gender expression, spirituality, advocacy, and healthy relationships will make up the day and will be facilitated by regionally and nationally recognized advocates of color.

"Embracing diversity is essential for empowering and uniting women of color. The Inaugural Lesbians of Color Symposium provides a platform to discuss and address the disparities within our communities as well as building and maintaining Sisterhood," adds Shaunya Thomas, vice chair of the HBGC board of directors and one of the lead organizers of the symposium.



Symposium participants will also be treated to a number of guest speakers, including the event's keynote speaker, Mandy Carter. A renowned social justice advocate, Carter was nominated for a Nobel peace prize in 2005 for her work in advancing racial justice, LGBTQ equality, and women's rights. She is a founding member of the National Black Justice Coalition and a member of the Democratic National Committee's Black Caucus and its Gay and Lesbian Caucus. In 2008, she served as the LGBT steering committee co-chair for then-Senator Obama's 2008 Presidential Campaign.

Other special guest will include Alyssa Aso-mani, Editor In Chief of Stud Magazine and Ryann Holmes and Genesis Tramaine, Founders of Bklyn Boihood — a collective that creates visibility and builds community within masculine of center bois, lesbians, queers, trans-identified, studs, doms, butches and AGs of color through online media, events, workshops and collaborative projects.

A full listing of special guests and workshop descriptions can be found on HBGC's website. Those interested in learning more and registering for the Inaugural Lesbians of Color Symposium, can visit www.hbgc-boston.org. Advance registration is \$25.00. For more information, please email lesbiansymposium@hbgc-boston.org.



Looking for a doctor?

Whether you are looking for a new primary care doctor, pediatrician, obstetrician/gynecologist, certified nurse-midwife, or other health care provider, we will be happy to connect you with one who suits your needs and schedule.

For a complete list of health care providers accepting new patients, call 800-377-HEALTH (4325).

Baystate  Medical Practices

baystatemedicalpractices.org

Alarming Challenges of LGBT Senior Population is Focus of New Awareness Campaign

LGBT Seniors going back into the closet, depressed

GOLDEN YEARS

HARTFORD, Connecticut—Delivering last month's State of the Union message and referring to the service of our troops, President Obama said, "It doesn't matter if you're black or white; Asian or Latino; conservative or liberal; rich or poor; gay or straight. When you're marching into battle, you look out for the person next to you, or the mission fails." It's a metaphor for the battle against discrimination for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Seniors.

As the president said, the soldier wants to know that his or her back is covered, without questioning politics, gender, or sexual orientation of that support. LGBT Caregiver Crosswalk, a recently released video in the running for a prestigious *TED Ads Worth Spreading* award, brings light to this other battle for human rights of LGBT Caregivers.

More than a third of the two million LGBT



ferences—he TED Conference in Long Beach and Palm Springs each spring, and the TED Global conference in Edinburgh UK each summer. TED is well-known for its award-winning TED Talks video site (TED.com) and the annual TED Prize.

Through the *Ads Worth Spreading Awards*, TED is sharing their platform with the experts moving this revolution forward. TED has accepted ICN's video from The Caring Heart Project: DETROIT (CHPD) entitled "LGBT Caregiver Crosswalk", into its competition. To vote, users are being asked to go to <http://bitly.com/A0oC9S>

In the Caring Hearts Project: DETROIT fea-

... almost two thirds have been victimized 3 or more times, more than 20% do not disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity to their physician, and about one third do not have a will or durable power of attorney for healthcare.

seniors in our nation are clinically depressed. More than a third of the two million LGBT seniors in our nation report depression and one half have a known disability, according to the recent federally funded Aging and Health Report: *Differences and Resilience among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults*.

"It's the tip of the financial, legal, and emotional iceberg facing our most under-served population, which will double by 2030," says James Huysman, PsyD, LCSW the CEO of International Caregiver Network (ICN), whose company is competing to become one of the top ten *TED Ads Worth Spreading Award* honorees and is asking users to support this vital mission through an online voting campaign.

TED is a nonprofit that supports social entrepreneurship. It began in 1984 as an innovative fusion of three worlds: Technology, Entertainment, and Design. Since then, TED has grown into a global community with two annual con-

ture story, AJ O'Neil, lives apart from his partner who had to leave Detroit to care for his own mother. A collection of webisodes document this caregiving story at ICNcares.com.

The top ten final selections will be revealed at the TED 2012 Conference in Long Beach, CA February 27-March 2, 2012. In the LGBT Caregiver Crosswalk video CEO, Dr. Huysman, a psychologist and one of the country's leading authorities on senior care issues, says that the landmark Health and Aging study underscores the needs of the LGBT senior and boomer population, many of them facing severe situations and, fearing discrimination, are actually being forced back into the closet.

Some of the other findings in the landmark study that are cited include that almost two thirds have been victimized 3 or more times, more than 20% do not disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity to their physician, and about one third do not have a will or durable

power of attorney for healthcare. For the full study go to the Caring and Aging with Pride project website, <http://bit.ly/wCtuHe>.

ICN has partnered with Diversity Works LLC, a LGBT-owned, strategic marketing and communications agency specializing in diversity and disability issues, to bring awareness to LGBT caregiver needs. For more information about Diversity Works, visit: <http://diversityworksllc.com/> (no hyphen)

cathy hunter

real estate

584-4868

Bullying from page 11

and Connecticut, which initially included sexual orientation and were amended to include gender identity by the recently enacted transgender rights bills passed in both states.

"These laws have been interpreted by regulation to include an obligation on the part of schools to address harassment as a form of discrimination," explained Loewy.

able to bullying and harassment."

Coakley, along with state Auditor Suzanne Bump, also called for lawmakers to establish "a mechanism for annually reporting [bullying] data to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education."

Both data collection and enumeration are included a bill currently before the Legislature,

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts much to the dismay of LGBT activists, the state's anti-bullying law, signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick last year, fell short of enumerating sexual orientation and gender identity.

Another approach is to provide protection from discrimination for LGBT students through statewide nondiscrimination laws, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in areas like employment, housing and public accommodations.

Other State's Non-Discrimination Laws

Connecticut, Maine, and Vermont have enacted nondiscrimination laws protecting students inclusive of both sexual orientation and gender identity, with legislation there viewing schools as places of public accommodation.

Still, only very recently have any of New England's six states have passed enumerated anti-bullying laws — the third approach.

Connecticut and Rhode Island had more generalized, unenumerated anti-bullying laws until 2011, when both states amended those laws to include more comprehensive definitions of bullying.

Vermont was the earliest, having had an enumerated definition of bullying since 2004.

By contrast, New Hampshire's anti-bullying law "recognizes LGBT students are disproportionately targeted, but not within the law's description of what constitutes bullying," Loewy said, adding, "I would not consider [that law] to be enumerated."

For some time, the Rhode Island Board of Regents, which oversees education in the state, has had in effect a non-discrimination policy, adjusted a decade ago to include sexual orientation and recently revised to include gender identity, Loewy said. "There is a policy but with no way to enforce it."

Now, "Rhode Island has a bullying law that is enumerated," she said.

Altogether, the various legislative efforts "are really critical," said Loewy.

And yet, "no state has found the perfect combination. I don't think there is a perfect law that helps create the kind of systemic changes in the school environment. It's a complicated landscape," she said.

Massachusetts' Difference

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts much to the dismay of LGBT activists, the state's anti-bullying law, signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick last year, fell short of enumerating sexual orientation and gender identity.

But as part of the legislation, the Legislature established an oversight commission, chaired by Attorney General Martha Coakley.

In October of 2011, Coakley, testifying on Beacon Hill, said the Legislature should "require that schools make explicit in school anti-bullying plans that certain enumerated categories of students are particularly vulner-

House Bill 3584, "An Act Relative to Implementation of the School Bullying Law."

Mass Equality's Suffredini is hopeful lawmakers will pass the proposed legislation. "Prevention" is paramount for us, she said. "Enumeration in law of the most vulnerable populations is one way to make sure [LGBT youth] are kept safe."

At the same time on Capitol Hill, Congress is considering two federal pieces of legislation.

The Safe Schools Improvement Act (SSIA) would require school districts receiving federal money to implement and report on anti-bullying programs. Those programs must identify bullying and harassment based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, among other enumerated characteristics. Bullying and harassment under SSIA would include cyber bullying such as e-mail or instant messaging.

Senator Kerry and four of Massachusetts' congressmen are SSIA co-sponsors, including U. S. Representatives Michael E. Capuano, James McGovern, Richard E. Neal, and John Oliver — but not Senator Scott Brown, according to HRC and Mass Equality.

Brown, however, has publicly committed to vote for the measure when it comes to the floor.

The Student Nondiscrimination Act (SNDA) would require elementary and secondary schools not to discriminate against students on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity in any program or activity that receives federal money — or risk losing those funds. Under the proposed SNDA, "discrimination" includes "bullying" and "harassment," along with "intimidation and violence."

U.S. Senator John Kerry, along with the ten-member Massachusetts congressional delegation, is an SNDA co-sponsor, but not Senator Scott Brown, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and Mass Equality.

For her part, Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of the *Family Equality Council*, a national advocacy organization based in Boston, praised legislative efforts at both the state and federal level. "Our parents care about keeping schools safe," she said. "We are training parents to be a voice within the school system and to participate in strong anti-bullying programs."

The focus for the organization, Chrisler added, is "when there are conversations or policy advancements to protect LGBT people from bullying or harassment, included in [those discussions] are people who affiliate with LGBT people. That's what protects kids, LGBT parents."



DINSMORE STARK

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

***Our Community.
Our Families.
Our Lawyers.***



Bernadette Stark, Esq. and Raymond E. Dinsmore, Esq.

The Law Office of Dinsmore Stark is committed to the compassionate, yet aggressive handling of our clients' cases.

We understand that retaining the right attorney for you can be a challenging decision. Our office prioritizes communication with our clients, keeping you regularly informed on the status of your case and offering you the personal attention that you and your case deserve.

We have a family-oriented approach to our business and our practice, making a special effort to get to know our clients. Some of our clients come to us at the most difficult times in their lives and this personal attention and understanding is essential to providing quality representation.

The office of Dinsmore Stark offers reasonable rates, affordable retainers and flexible billing arrangements. Contact us to schedule a free initial consultation.

Our main office is conveniently located in downtown Northampton, MA. Evening and weekend hours are available by appointment.

Areas of Practice

Attorney Stark

- Divorce/Family Law
- Marital/Family Based Agreements
- Same-Sex Families
- Immigration
- Wills/Estate Planning

Areas of Practice

Attorney Dinsmore

- Bankruptcy
- Employment Law
- Landlord - Tenant
- Personal Injury
- Consumer Protection Law

Dee Rees, Amanda Seyfried, Glenn Close, & James Franco

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Linda Lovelace gets her men

It takes a village to tell the story of '70s porn sensation Linda "Lovelace" Boreman, and acclaimed filmmaking team Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, the guys behind *The Celluloid Closet* and the James Franco-starring *Howl*, are quickly putting the finishing touches on the cast list for their upcoming biopic, *Lovelace*. The project already has its lead in Amanda Seyfried as the world's first erotic superstar and her troubled rise to fame in the crossover porn hit *Deep Throat*. And Peter Sarsgaard, Sharon Stone, Wes Bentley and Juno Temple have also signed on. But now comes a wave of men to flesh out the roster, including Hank Azaria, Bobby Cannavale, Chris Noth and Robert Patrick as members of the porn world, so all systems are go. Lava lamp mood lighting is set and the cameras are rolling right. More, more, more to follow.

Queer now, what next?

The multiplex is extra gay at the moment as a trio of high profile actors—Glenn Close, Rooney Mara and Michael Fassbender—are busy captivating audiences in the films *Albert Nobbs* (where Close plays a transsexual man), *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (with Mara as a tough, brilliant bisexual computer hacker) and *Shame* (starring Fassbender as a bisexual sex addict). Coming off these acclaimed roles, look for the legendary Close next in the ghostly



Amanda Seyfried

drama *Therese Raquin*, alongside *Martha Marcy May Marlene* star Elizabeth Olsen. Meanwhile, Next Big Thing Fassbender will make his third film with British art-film sensation Steve McQueen (he also directed *Shame*) and co-star with Brad Pitt in *Twelve Years a Slave*, a period film about a man (Chiwetel Ejiofor) kidnapped in the northern United States and sold into slavery in the south. Finally, Mara, whose transformation into cult heroine Lisbeth Salander was so chameleon-like as to render the actress unrecognizable, will appear in *Tree of Life* director Terence Malick's latest film, *Lawless*, with Ryan Gosling. In other words, don't worry about any careers around these parts.

Letters from Page 2

Dear Editor,
The amount of health news in the last issue was useful and I wonder if all the businesses offer services for the complete LGBT community or just a portion of it. I wish that had been more clear.
—Joan Murphy, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,
I used to think that the Baystate Hospital wasn't so supportive of GLBT people, but by the looks of it via the Times I see that things have changed at the institution. It seems like

western Mass. is getting an influx of companies that finally understand and cater to our needs. It didn't use to be that way a few years ago. I'm happy to see them involved more.
—Tracy Young, Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,
I didn't think the photo of Alex Morse or Rooney Mara were clear on the cover, but, I must say you did a great job with the Heroes Calendar. What nice Heroes we have and what stories of hope and love they are!
—Harvey Sole, Somerville, MA

The Help's Viola Davis helps Pariah's Dee Rees

Currently in theaters and generating a lot of critical praise is Dee Rees's debut feature, *Pariah*. Featuring rising star Adepero Oduye, it's the moving story of a teenage lesbian struggling to bridge her family life with the one she secretly shares with a group of new lesbian friends. This kind of worthwhile debut often generates Hollywood interest and Rees's next project will probably raise her profile even more. Viola Davis, herself receiving Oscar buzz for her role in last summer's *The Help*, is in talks to work with Rees on an HBO series she'll produce and probably star in through her own newly formed production company. The untitled project will focus on the morally ambiguous headmaster of a private school and the corruption that follows her. Sounds intriguing and, best of all, a great step for both Davis—who, up until *The Help*, was often the best minor character in mediocre films—and for Rees. May the resulting series, whatever it becomes, catapult them both to even greater success.

Franco's gay streak continues

James Franco is no stranger to playing gay. On screen he's been James Dean, Allen Ginsberg,

Hart Crane, Harvey Milk's boyfriend Scott Smith and an ambiguous stoner in the comedy *Pineapple Express*. So here he goes again, this time tackling the role of legendary contemporary artist Robert Mapplethorpe for an upcoming biopic. The controversial artist, who died of AIDS in 1989 and whose frankly homoerotic photographs caused a firestorm of censorship efforts among cultural conservatives in the late 1980s, is almost tailor-made for a big screen story. And given the artist's huge personality and bravado, the actor who plays him should be equally unafraid, which makes it a perfect fit for Franco. The upcoming film, among the first to receive grants through Tribeca Film Institute's "All Access Program" and directed by documentarian Ondi Timoner, will be produced by *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*'s Eliza Dushku and her brother Nate Dushku, who was, at one time, expected to play Mapplethorpe. More news to come as production rolls on.

* Romeo San Vicente is generally law-abiding, depending on which state he's visiting. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Thinking Out Loud: Joel Osteen and feel-good homophobia

By: Abby Dees*/Special for TRT



When the Michelle Bachmanns or Glenn Beck's of the world do their public rants about rampant homosexual perversion and the decay of American values, I'm happy to let them talk.

As painful as it is to keep the free flow of ideas going, it is important to let people fly their colors. This way you know where they stand and you get to fly your own big neon flag in response. When activists called to have Mormon Church's tax-exempt status

ing, and I know one of those fans well. Once I emailed him to report that Osteen called homosexuality "not God's best" on Larry King. My friend wrote back, "Well, nobody's perfect. You take what's good and leave the rest." He continues to be inspired.

This all sounds reasonable and you could argue that my friend was reminding me of my own professed philosophy about free speech and religion. And yet I shrieked out loud when I read his email.

The reason Fox News gets a pass but Osteen has incurred my wrath is because his message is so insidious. It's feel-good homophobia, so couched in God-loves-you talk that Osteen

It's feel-good homophobia, so couched in God-loves-you talk that Osteen avoids all responsibility for the fact that real people take his words to heart. Not everyone can "leave the rest" as my friend does.

yanked for its role in California's Prop 8, I took the church's side—not because I approved of their bully tactics, but because I didn't want to see other churches lose their right to fight for us one day.

So you'd think I'd be OK with Mega-Pastor Joel Osteen's remarks last week to Oprah Winfrey: "I believe that homosexuality is shown as a sin in the scripture. I do." I'm so not OK with this I almost foam at the mouth whenever I think about that nuclear white Osteen smile.

True, Osteen was just sick about having to say that we're sinners, and almost apologized for it. He went out of his way to opine that Christians make too big a deal about homosexuality and that it's about as sinful as being prideful or fibbing. I'm glad that my marriage only offends God somewhat.

I've heard that Osteen has a big gay follow-

avoids all responsibility for the fact that real people take his words to heart. Not everyone can "leave the rest" as my friend does.

Whenever Osteen answers the question about homosexuality he hems and haws, but always comes to the apparently painful conclusion that the Bible is unambiguous about it. He's quick to add that he does love gay people, welcomes them in his church, doesn't judge, that there are worse things to be, etc. The message that it's still a sin to be gay gets quickly obscured by smiley faces and glitter glue for hope.

Curiously, Osteen is rarely willing to take a stand on any other issues. He's gotten criticized by the religious right for staying out of politics and being unwilling to talk about sin as much as he talks about positivity. It's all about being

See Out Loud on page 19

Mathew Brockelman LMT

Leominster, MA
At Home Availability

Help yourself reduce stress and pain today!

Massage by Mathew Brockelman, LMT

Call 978-660-5289

Place Your 2012 Boston Pride Guide Ad with TRT!

TRT Is the Official Media Partner, Pride Guide & Map Producer of Boston Pride, again.

Fenway Health to honor Barney Frank, Urvashi Vaid

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

Each year Fenway Health honors individuals for their positive contributions to improving the quality of life for the gay community.

Fenway Health announced on Wednesday, Jan. 18, this year's recipients of the Congressman Gerry E. Studds Award and the Dr. Susan M. Love Award.

Congressman Barney Frank will receive the Studds Award at The Men's Event on Saturday evening, March 3.

Four weeks later, Urvashi Vaid will receive the Love Award at The Women's Dinner Party on Saturday evening, March 31.

Like the Men's Event, the Women's Dinner Party is scheduled for the same location, the Boston Marriott Copley.

Fenway Health, a state-of-the-art medical-care facility, provides a full range of health care and research services to the LGBT community of Greater Boston.

"We're excited to honor both Congressman Barney Frank and Urvashi Vaid at the Fenway events this year," said Philip Finch, vice president of Communications and Development.

Finch was referring to the organization's signature galas.

The Men's Event and Women's Dinner Party are among the New England region's largest LGBT black-tie fundraisers.

"Both of these distinguished people have spent their lives and their careers fighting for the rights of the LGBT community," Finch said. "Our entire community has benefited greatly from their efforts and we are so proud to be able to extend our thanks to both of them in recognition of their hard work."



Congressman Barney Frank

Accordingly, both award-winners worked tirelessly over the years to advance the health of the LGBT community through public policy and political advocacy.

The Studds Award is given "to honor individuals of integrity and selflessness" and "embody the spirit of service," providing "positive leadership for the LGBT community."

It is named after the late Massachusetts Congressman Gerry Studds, the first openly gay man elected to Congress. (He died in October 2006.)

U.S. Representative Barney Frank of Massachusetts' Fourth Congressional District has served 16 consecutive terms.

A former chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, Frank is considered often

by many to be the nation's most prominent gay politician.

In 1987 Frank came out on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives when he acknowledged his sexual orientation.

An outspoken advocate on civil-rights issues, Frank, in 2006, said, "I do have things I would like to see adopted on behalf of LGBT people: They include the right to marry the individual of our choice, the right to serve in the military to defend our country, and the right to a job based solely on our own qualifications."

A graduate of Harvard College and the Harvard Law School, Frank worked as a political aide before winning election in 1972 to the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

First elected to Congress in 1980, Frank announced his retirement on November 18, 2011.

The Love Award is given "to honor and celebrate a woman and/or organization that has made significant contribution to the field of women's health."

It is named for Susan M. Love, M.D., a pioneer in the fields of women's health and breast cancer.

Urvashi Vaid is a longtime LGBT community organizer, writer, attorney, and social justice activist.

Vaid is director of the Engaging Tradition Project at the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law at Columbia Law School. The Projects focuses on the idea of tradition and how it is used by and used against movements for gender and sexual justice.

Vaid also serves on the board of directors of the Gill Foundation, which is dedicated to achieving equal opportunity for all, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

A former columnist for The Advocate, Vaid is



Urvashi Vaid

author of "Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian Liberation" and the forthcoming "Irresistible Revolution: Race, Class and the LGBT Imagination."

She is a founder of The Vaid Group, a social justice consulting practice that advises individuals and organizations.

Vaid is also a former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the nation's oldest LGBT organization.

She served as a staff attorney at the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, where she initiated the organization's work on HIV/AIDS in prisons.

In 2009, *Out Magazine* named her one of the 50 most influential people in the United States.

WOW! WOW! WOW!

DO WE HAVE A SEASON FOR YOU

@ THE FAC!

The UMASS Fine Arts Center

BRINGING WORLD ARTISTS TO THE VALLEY FOR 36 YEARS!



ANA MOURA
Sunday, February 5, 7pm, Bowker Auditorium
 Portuguese vocalist Ana Moura, whose soulful and riveting interpretation of her land's captivating fado style has made her a star in Europe, brings her gentle, persuasive magic to Amherst.
SPONSORED BY: WRSI The River and El Sol Latino



SUZANNE FARRELL BALLET
Wednesday, February 22, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
 One of George Balanchine's most celebrated muses, Suzanne Farrell remains a legendary figure in the ballet world. The company has been described by The New York Times as "one of the most courageous projects in ballet today." The company brings the full range of Balanchine's choreography to the Fine Arts Center.
SPONSORED BY: Finck & Perris Insurance, Loomis Retirement Village and Preview Magazine.



SF JAZZ COLLECTIVE
Thursday, March 1, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
 Given the extraordinary talent assembled in the SFJAZZ Collective it is tempting to think of this ensemble as an "all-star band," pure and simple. But these exceptional artists have come together to celebrate jazz not only as a great art form, but as a constantly evolving, ever-relevant, quintessentially modern art form. The Amherst program features the music of Stevie Wonder, as well as, original compositions inspired by him. **SPONSORED BY: New England Public Radio, El Sol Latino and the UMass Alumni Association**

• TICKETS? CALL 413-545-2511 OR VISIT FINEARTSCENTER.COM •

Abstinence from page 8

which, she says, hurts kids.

While young people who seek services at True Colors say they generally don't believe the line of reasoning, McHaelen said, "The fear still lingers. 'But what if it's true?' some youth wonder."

Courage's approach, she added, "Is truly, absolutely invalidated, by every mainstream social science, psychological, and mental health organization," which consider homosexuality as a natural occurrence, a variation of human sexuality.

As early as 1973, for instance, the *American Psychiatric Association* removed homosexuality from its codification of mental health disorders.

Linda Estabrook, executive director of Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective (HGLHC), bristled at the press-release language.

"It says gay people are not moral and not living fulfilled lives," she said. "That is not accurate, along with beyond offensive."

In the press statement, Rev. Paul Check, a priest of the Bridgeport diocese, referred to gay and lesbian persons as "people who have a unique struggle, an often difficult and vexing one." He also said gays are a "group of people who often feel isolated," adding, "I don't just say lonely but isolated."

Rev. Check is the director of Courage, which describes itself as a support organization for "people struggling with same-sex attractions."

The organization does not use of the words "gay" or "lesbian," in effect refusing to acknowledge homosexual orientation as a fundamental gay identity.

The Church doesn't "like to label people 'gay' or 'lesbian' because" it doesn't "want to simply identify them based their sexuality," explained Pallotti. "They are people. They are human beings with a same-sex attraction."

For some, the language of Courage is pejorative. "Using 'same-sex attraction' is offensive because it perpetuates the denial of homosexuality

as a sexual orientation equal to heterosexual identity," said Charles Martel, co-founder of Catholics for Marriage Equality, a national advocacy organization.

"What about a person integrating his identity as a gay person as a healthy psychological reality instead of being 'lonely' and 'isolated?'"

Martel is a licensed clinical social worker in a private psychotherapy practice in Boston.

The Hartford archdiocese's Courage press release also said that deacons had been "prepared to serve in the ministry by attending workshops on human sexuality and pastoral ministry. In many cases" with "their wives."

"I am glad the deacons were able to talk and brought their wives," said HGLHC's Estabrook, adding, "Were there any gay or lesbian people

in the Catholic Church as ordained ministers, are men only, and are permitted to be either single or married."

The Hartford Courage chapter, which will meet twice a week, is believed to be the only one in the United States run by deacons.

Pallotti also said he pursued the Courage ministry because he was requested to do so by Archbishop Mansell as the only approach officially approved of by the Vatican.

Accordingly, gay affirming ministries across the nation were not contacted directly for any input, said Pallotti, including New Ways Ministry; the Rochester, N.Y.-based Fortunate Families, which ministers primarily to Catholic parents of LGBT children; the Berkeley, Calif.-based Catholic Association for Lesbian and Gay

"What this ministry is about is making straight people comfortable, not about providing a welcoming place for LGBT people," said Paul Scarbrough of Norwalk, a member of Dignity USA.

who participated?"

"What this ministry is about is making straight people comfortable, not about providing a welcoming place for LGBT people," said Paul Scarbrough of Norwalk, a member of Dignity USA.

"It's disappointing to see the Archdiocese of Hartford taking this approach rather than sitting down with LGBT people and soliciting advice on how to craft a pastoral outreach to the [gay] community," he added. "It would be laughable, if not so sad."

For his part, Deacon Pallotti said, the Courage ministry has been a works-in-progress for four years and resulted from Archbishop Henry J. Mansell's asking him to train deacons to run the local chapter, rather than priests. Deacons serve

Ministry; and Dignity USA.

Nonetheless, for years, one Hartford parish has taken a gay-friendly approach. St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church and the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry offers an "Open Hearts Ministry," which "provides educational experiences to build greater visibility and understanding" of the LGBT "experience within our church community, and develop faith-building outreach programming to the diverse spectrum" of that community, according its mission statement.

New Ways Ministry lists the church among its 200 gay-friendly parishes nationwide.

Reached by telephone, Rev. Thomas Gallagher, the pastor, said, "We have a great ministry here." In the same breath he voiced caution.



CAROL WILLIFORD
BOOKKEEPING PLUS

**ACCOUNTING and
TAX SERVICES**

**51 Village Hill Road #203
Northampton, MA 01060**

413-552-8496 • Email: candm884@aol.com

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

SOLD

GayRealEstate.com

Find Your Perfect Agent Online:
www.GayRealEstate.com

Or Call Toll Free:
1.888.420.MOVE (6683)

"I am not sure where [Courage] is going," Gallagher said.

Marian Levine, the mother of a lesbian daughter, said that she'd like to see the archdiocese "use the St. Patrick - St. Anthony model."

Levine is a Fortunate Families "listening parent."

"I'd also like to see all the churches in the archdiocese be hospitable and welcoming to gays and lesbians, just like to everybody else," said Levine, who offered Southbury's Sacred Heart Church and its pastor, Rev. Joseph T. Donnelly, as an example.

The advent of Courage in the Hartford archdiocese comes after years of heated public debate over same-sex marriage, which became legal in 2008.

"I was very fearful of the emotional backlash that I was witnessing," Pallotti told the Stamford Advocate. "So I went to the archbishop and said, 'O. K.' this is our position (to oppose gay marriage), but I am concerned about people who are whipping up hate against gays as if they have the Plague or something — some Christian churches were doing that. We had to confront this head-on."

But O'Gorman points to Connecticut's climate of "openness, acceptance, and cherishing of queer people," predicting Courage "is not going to get off the ground" in the state, he said.

"This ministry belongs in the Middle Ages," O'Gorman said. "It is out of touch with the reality in Connecticut" and may well "close up shop for lack of customers."

One priest seems to agree. "My acquaintance with Courage in a couple dioceses is that it begins with a social calendar of some kind and the limited possibility of some counseling, but eventually trails off to a dedicated phone number and the possibility that someone will respond, said Rev. Kenneth F. Smits, in a New Ways Ministry blog post.

He added, "Gathering them together for social events tends to foster pairing up into relationships, which is natural and normal for them. Only through very great efforts can this movement avoid being self-defeating, which it seems to be most of the time."

"So every time I hear of a new effort being made, I ask: how long will that last? And it usually seems to be initiated by clergy, rather than by gay and lesbian people. Interesting," Smits said.

For Pallotti, the father of three, Church doctrine on homosexuality is theological, pastoral — and personal. He has a daughter who is lesbian.

Would he encourage her to attend Courage meetings? "She knows about Courage," said Pallotti. "We've had long conversations. She won't go. She won't have anything to do with the Catholic Church."

He added, "I feel for my child, especially because of the great hardships she had had to endure. I love her for who she is and am willing to do what I can as her father to ensure her happiness and well being."

I will love no matter what," Pallotti said. So will Levine, who said her daughter and wife have found a home in another Christian denomination, namely Hancock United Church of

Christ, located in Lexington, Mass. Levine's grandson was baptized there. "What every parent would want," she said. "They are spiritually fed there and welcomed as a family."

**it's tweet of you
to follow us...**

thanks!

**twitter.com/
therainbowtimes**

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

TRT
tumblr
ON
twitter
THE
facebook
GO!
You Tube

Glenn, Close Up: Actress talks gender-binding role, sudden bisexual turn & possibility of going lesbian – really!

By: Chris Azzopardi*/Special for TRT

ENTERTAINMENT

Man, Glenn Close feels like a woman, but she sure doesn't look like one in her new gender-bending movie. In *Albert Nobbs*, the actress – known especially to gay audiences for her role in the 1995 film *Serving in Silence: The Margarette Cammermeyer Story*, about a real-life lesbian soldier—drops her voice a few notches, wears a top hat and wraps her torso in a girdle, all to keep her job while living in late-19th-century Ireland.

Recently nominated for an Oscar, the role—originated by Close on stage nearly 30 years ago—also earned her a Golden Globe nomination. Nods also went to costar Janet McTeer for playing Hubert, a cross-dressing lesbian who's living the life that Albert so desperately wants.

In a recent one-on-one, Close revealed her proudest part of the film, how she thinks Albert identifies sexually and looked back at her unexpected bisexual role on *Will & Grace*.

Chris Azzopardi: How was it getting in touch with your masculine side?

Glenn Close: (Laughs) It's funny, because I never think of Albert as a man. I always thought of her, even as Albert, as a woman, kind of wearing a mask. As far as getting in touch with her movement and her voice and all that, I would think back on the reality of what she must have gone through when she first had the



idea to disappear as a waiter. The shoes would've been too heavy and too big, the pants would've been too long. Waiters in Victorian times who were very formal weren't supposed to look anybody in the eye—they were seen, not heard—and so she couldn't have chosen a better way to disappear.

Q: People aren't sure how to define Albert Nobbs. I've heard both transgender and lesbian used to describe her. What do you think?

A: I don't think she is either, and that's what fascinates me about this character. She disappeared when she was 14 and she emerges 30 years later. She's never been in a home, she's

never had any intimate human contact, and she's never been loved by someone. Everything, in a way, is new and unexplored. She does not have, when you first see her, a hugely active regretful longing in her life. She counts her money, she wants to be left alone, she wants to have the security of her job so that she won't end up on the street – and that's fine with her. She's lower-class and working, and it's only when Hubert comes into her life and she's revealed that—first of all, she fears life as she knows it ending, but when she hears Hubert's story, naturally, she thinks, "Can I do that?" But she doesn't have the tools; she just doesn't. Hu-

bert's one mistake is that she thinks Albert is much more capable of forging a life, but she just isn't.

Q: One of the best lines in the film comes from Hubert, who tells Albert that "you can be whoever you are." That's such a powerful mantra for all of us, but the gay community can definitely relate. What effect do you hope that line, and this film, has on the LGBT community?

A: I hope that line makes them really happy. You're absolutely right to pick out that line, because it comes after a scene where Albert, in the dress, realizes that's not who she is either—and that's when Hubert says, "Albert, you can be whoever you are. Look what you've done." It's a wonderful moment.

Q: What about the film, and the role of Albert Nobbs, makes you most proud?

A: Moments in the movie when I think people honestly forget what they're looking at. It's not two gay men and one confused other woman; it's two people in a loving and passionate relationship, being kind to a third person. And gender really, at that point, doesn't matter. I know that it does matter, but in some ways, if you look at it from some angles, gender should be irrelevant. People should be able to love whoever they have that safety and connection with. That's a basic human need. And that's what Albert takes on. What she longs for is that sitting room. Those two chairs in front of the fire represent everything that she wants.

See Close Page 19

Creep of the Week: Pope Benedict XVI & his LGBT hatred

By: D'Anne Witkowski*/Special for TRT

CREEP NEWS

You know, whenever I'm in the market for marriage advice, the only person I trust is an unmarried guy in a dress. It also helps if he was also once a Hitler Youth. So you can imagine that whenever Pope Benedict XVI starts dishing out the marriage talk, I am all ears.

In a new year address to a bunch of folks at the Vatican, the pope made it clear that 2012 is still the Year of the Queer, at least if we're categorizing each year by whatever the Catholic Church considers to be the most urgently pressing issue. Which means it's been the Year of the Queer for over a decade now. Past issues have included poverty, world hunger, abortion, and other things that have been long since resolved.

Speaking of the best place for children to be educated, the pope said that "pride of place goes to the family, based on the marriage of a man and a woman." In other words, one penis + one vagina = happy, well-adjusted kids.

"This is not a simple social convention, but rather the fundamental cell of every society. Consequently, policies which undermine the family threaten human dignity and the future of humanity itself," he said.

Oh, my. "Humanity itself," eh? *Somebody* loves himself a little melodrama.

In case it's not clear what exactly the pope means by "policies which undermine the family," he's talking about gays being allowed to marry. Each other. Granted, from what I understand that whole gay man marrying a straight

Let's face it, if a man with as much power and influence as the pope uses his voice to tell an audience of people representing countries worldwide that homosexuals are destroying humanity, then this is not a man who actually cares about human beings, gay or straight.

woman or lesbian marrying a hetero dude thing doesn't work out very well. But at least it doesn't threaten all of humanity.

I love how the pope makes clear that marriage isn't a "simple social convention," as if anyone were saying otherwise. As if gays and lesbians just want equal marriage rights because marriage is such an inconsequential institution and wouldn't it be fun and ironic to walk down the aisle and said, "I do."

Nor are gay and lesbian families with kids taking that responsibility lightly. Don't tell the pope, but there is just no evidence that kids with same-sex parents are in any way being harmed by their family structure. In fact, one week after the pope made his remarks Live Science's top story was, "Why Gay Parents May Be the Best Parents."

Granted, where the pope gets the balls to even talk about what's best for children is beyond me. As John Aravosis put it, "(W)hy should we care about the moral pronouncements of people who aid and abet the rape of small children?"

Ha. That Aravosis. He's such a kiddie. I mean, that whole child abuse scandal is so 2002, right?

Um, not so much, actually. Child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church has by no means gone away and anyone who claims otherwise either hasn't done their research or is lying.

So, yeah, I think gays and lesbians are more than entitled to be outright disgusted with the pope's continued gay bashing and homophobia. Let's face it, if a man with as much power and influence as the pope uses his voice to tell an audience of people representing countries worldwide that homosexuals are destroying humanity, then this is not a man who actually cares about human beings, gay or straight.

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



TRT

HEROES!

Know someone who works for the LGBT community and who gives endlessly and selflessly to everyone?

Nominate them to be our next TRT HERO!

Please send your nominations to: editor@therainbowtimesnews.com

Stretching those tired gender boxes and defining “men” and “women”

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter & Columnist

TRANS MAN



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

Before I transitioned, I struggled mightily with what it “meant” to change genders. Although I had felt that I was male from before I had words to express it, I also had come to understand—and articulate—the ways that society constructs ideas of gender. Those little boxes created to separate F from M really do feel like very little boxes to many people. As a young feminist, I felt strongly about the need to stretch and change (and possibly completely explode) that box that contained and limited “women.”

I feel just as strongly about it now. I also know just how limiting the box labeled “man” can be. Men have a lot of privilege, but the limiting nature of gender boxes hems everyone in. In order to keep men and women separate, both have to be limited in some way.

The fact is, the gender boxes we “choose” are not always much more comfortable than the boxes that were imposed upon us. The new boxes, after all, are just as imposed and just as arbitrary.

When I lived as a woman, this got under my skin a lot. The “woman” box felt very restrictive to me. Part of that was I didn’t feel that I was a woman, but I also felt strongly that no one should have to be boxed in by gender expectations. Only Barbie dolls can meet the Barbie-doll standard; real live women should not be expected to, I felt. The expectations go far beyond standards of beauty, to careers, parental roles, personality traits, mannerisms, and much more.

Usually the limitations made me angry and indignant. Sometimes, though, I felt something like embarrassment for failing to get gender “right.”

One day, a few years before I started transitioning. That embarrassment hit me in the grocery store. I was with a lesbian feminist friend, Lisa, who has never met a gender stereotype of women that she hasn’t wanted to toss on its oppressive ear, yet Lisa still appeared to fit within the standard better than I did (a fact I’d attribute to tighter jeans and longer hair). A mother with a little girl passed us in the store and, giving Lisa only a cursory glance, the little girl turned and stared at me. As her mother pushed their cart away, I thought the girl’s head would twist straight off.

I told Lisa about the embarrassment I felt, that

even a little child could identify something “wrong” about me.

“There’s nothing wrong with you,” Lisa said. “You should be proud. You just expanded that little girl’s idea of what a woman can be.”

Regardless of what I felt about my own gender identity, Lisa’s statement was true. The girl identified me as a “woman” and seeing me definitely challenged her sense of what that word could mean. I hope that experience stretched out the “woman” box that little girl would (presumably) someday claim, giving it a little more breathing room.

In the trans community, though, I found a whole new pressure to fit into gender stereotypes. Transitioning to another gender does, often, mean unlearning behaviors and speech patterns. It can mean new words -- new names, new pronouns, new words for family relationships. At first, it can seem like all these new things are mandatory. It can seem imperative to learn how to talk, walk or dress like a “real man” or a “real woman.” (One FTM friend told me he deliberately wore mismatching clothes because that’s how “real straight men” dress. I prefer to match, but then again I’m not straight.)

The fact is, the gender boxes we “choose” are not always much more comfortable than the boxes that were imposed upon us. The new boxes, after all, are just as imposed and just as arbitrary. I am sure there will always be ways in which some of the expectations on me as a man will feel easier, more natural, than the ones I experienced as a woman, but many are unnatural and uncomfortable.

There are times when, for safety’s sake, it’s important to know “this is not the day to challenge gender norms in a transphobic/homophobic space.” It’s just as important, though, to know “today, I can just be myself”—and toss restrictive gender norms on their oppressive ears.

Besides being more comfortable, it gives us a chance to stretch out those tired gender boxes. There are a lot of little children looking to all of us to show the full range of what it means to be a woman or a man ... or maybe just human.

**Tynan Power is a parent, a writer and editor, a Muslim/interfaith speaker and organizer, a (very slow) runner, FTM, queer, a pen geek, often dehydrated, and full of wanderlust. This winter, he can often be spotted in a Smurf hat, which he is pretty sure is on the list of “real man no-no’s.”*

Black History from Page 2

people of all genders. It closes with a clear declaration, “As black feminists and lesbians, we know that we have a very definite revolutionary task to perform and we are ready for the lifetime of work and struggle before us.” This is black history. If you don’t know it, this is a great time to start learning some of it.

As we take time to learn some of the history of our movements, we are also given great opportunities to critically engage today. Attention is being given to the recently released film, “Pariah.” Blogs, weekly newspapers, and even the mainstream press are all talking about this film that tells the coming-out story and personal

in mass movie production, this story has not been told on the big screen before. Yes, those of us who are white have seen our coming-out story portrayed over and over again, to the point that while such movies may have entertaining moments, I simply don’t think I can watch another one. This is not the reality for many people in our community. “Pariah” shows that queerness expands beyond the limits of “The L Word” or “Kissing Jessica Stein.” History is being made all the time; go see “Pariah” and participate.

Also, while movie going is one of my favorite things to do, there is more action to be taken during Black History Month. Do you know the black queer organizations around you? If you

“This is what sets ‘Pariah’ apart from (white) singular-narrative LGBT films; it debunks the myth that life begins and ends between the point of self-acceptance, and a wedding.”

annunciation of a gender-nonconforming black young person. Yet the film is more than a simple coming-out flick. In a guest contribution to racialicious.com, Spectra writes, “This is what sets ‘Pariah’ apart from (white) singular-narrative LGBT films; it debunks the myth that life begins and ends between the point of self-acceptance, and a wedding.” I was recently speaking with a white gay film critic who said the film was boring, formulaic, and done before a million times. He noted, “the only difference is that it focuses on a genderqueer black kid.”

I will agree with this white critic on one thing: the film did seem to be quite formulaic to me. However, it is exactly this reality that proves one of the key points of this film: queer culture is not only white culture. Because white supremacy and white dominance are so prevalent

are not already, familiarize yourself with the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition, Queer Women of Color and Friends, the Multicultural AIDS Coalition, or any other black queer community organizations.

Black History Month started as Black History Week and it was never intended to last forever. It was supposed to be a stepping-stone toward the incorporation of black history/education/life at every level of society and learning. However, 86 years after Carter Woodson started Black History Week, racism still permeates all levels of society and learning.

As the Combahee River Collective wrote, “we have a very definite revolutionary task to perform and we are ready for the lifetime of work and struggle before us.”

2012 BIG EAST Women’s Basketball Championship Tickets on Sale Now-- Tourney Returns to Hartford, CT

Full-session tickets for the 2012 BIG EAST Women’s Basketball Championship Presented by American Eagle Outfitters are on sale now. The Championship, returning to Hartford, Conn. for the ninth-straight year, will be played at the XL Center March 2-6, 2012.

All 16 BIG EAST teams are invited to battle for the conference’s automatic NCAA tournament bid. Package tickets to all 15 games of the championship will remain priced at \$99.00 each, discounted by nearly one half of the face value.

The City of Hartford has embraced the annual event, resulting in unparalleled success for the Conference, leading all leagues nationally in average attendance. The City of Hartford has embraced the annual event, resulting in unparalleled success for the Conference, leading all leagues nationally in average attendance. The Greater Hartford Convention & Visitors Bureau and its members are hard at work to offer fans special rates and discounts on hotels, restaurants and complimentary shuttle services to tourist attractions. For more information please visit www.bigeast.org.

The 2011 BIG EAST Championship brought plenty of excitement to the XL Center. The final game featured a match-up that was a preview of an NCAA semifinal. Top-ranked Con-

necticut held off No. 3 seed Notre Dame to win the 2011 crown. It was Connecticut’s 16th title, including six of the last seven. It was Notre Dame’s fifth trip to the championship game. Both teams advanced to the 2011 NCAA Final Four, playing each other before Notre Dame defeated the Huskies and advanced to the title game.

The BIG EAST is the largest and most diverse Division I conference in the country. It was formed in 1979 and represents the athletic interests of 16 member institutions including the University of Cincinnati, University of Connecticut, DePaul University, Georgetown University, University of Louisville, Marquette University, University of Notre Dame, University of Pittsburgh, Providence College, Rutgers University, St. John’s University, Seton Hall University, University of South Florida, Syracuse University, Villanova University and West Virginia University. The BIG EAST Conference has captured 32 national championships in six different sports and is a founding member of the Bowl Championship Series. For more information on the Conference and its membership, please visit www.bigeast.org.





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

Out Loud from page 14

"the best you can be"—God's plan for you. When Mike Wallace asked Osteen if he thought Mormons were true Christians, he

izations," though no one ever asks which ones. These men are entitled to their opinions, but it's time to call out the hypocrisy of

These men are entitled to their opinions, but it's time to call out the hypocrisy of this new breed of influential pastors who want us all to bathe in the light of God's forgiving love.

humbly responded, "I haven't really studied them or thought about them ... I just try to let God be the judge of that. I mean, I don't know" and "I'm not one to judge the little details of it."

Hmm. Why so vague about the folks who have an entirely different set of scriptures, but so damned clear on the disappointing truth about homosexuality? Perhaps some serious reexamination is in order.

Another pastor whose language and selective choice of issues is spookily similar to Osteen's is the purpose-driven Rick Warren. Also a proclaimed political abstainer, he encouraged his flock to vote against same-sex marriage and has disturbing ties to the recent wave of anti-gay policies in Africa. Warren still insists that he loves gay people and works closely with "a number of gay organ-

this new breed of influential pastors who want us all to bathe in the light of God's forgiving love. Except that LGBT people must still deny how God made them if they want "God's best" for themselves.

** Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. Whether examining our community's latest legal battles or the delicate etiquette of coming out to evangelicals, she always finds humor and compassion in even the most challenging situations. She is a busy presenter on diversity issues as well as the author of Queer Questions Straight Talk. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionsstraighttalk.com*

Close from page 17

And it's basically a safe place with someone across the room. It's as simple as that.

Q: The film, though it's set in a different time period, is still very relevant to how people nowadays are resisting labels and gender identity. People no longer want to be called gay and lesbian. Queer is now being embraced. Do you see parallels between the film's resistance of labels and the LGBT community?

A: Absolutely. I always have. I think it's why this simple story is so powerful. What Janet brought to the part of Hubert is absolutely fantastic, because Hubert defies labels. She doesn't care about labels. She's happy with being Hubert, and it's a great thing to see. No big deals made out of it. But here's somebody who, even though she has to masquerade as a man, is actually who she is. She's comfortable with that.

Q: Let's talk about all the gay cred you have – and not just with *Albert Nobbs*. You played a lesbian soldier, and kissed Judy Davis, in *Serving in Silence: The Margarette Cammermeyer Story*. But you also dry humped Debra Messing on *Will & Grace*.

A: (Laughs) Oh my god that was so funny!

Q: I didn't forget about that, Glenn.

A: Too funny. I went out there thinking I was going to be a marriage counselor. They said, "No, no – you're going to be this bisexual international photographer." And I go, "Oh, OK!"

Q: You know, many consider you a dykon. When did you first feel embraced by the gay community?

A: Oh, that's so nice. I'm so flattered. Well, you can't be in my profession and not have wonderful, important gay friends. I guess you can't be anywhere in life now and not have wonderful, important gay friends. So it's just a no-brainer. I started this organization to fight stigma around mental illness, and that's one kind of frontier.

Q: With the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," how do you reflect on your role in *Serving in Silence* and the progress gay people have made in the military?

A: Incredible. I was in touch with Margarette Cammermeyer when it happened, and we saw it back, what the situation was when we made that movie, and it was amazing. It didn't ruin her life but it certainly stopped her life on a trajectory



PHOTO: PATRICK REDMOND

that she wanted it to go on – she wanted to be a general and that's a loss. She was a great soldier. She was remarkable. So I'm very proud of that. I was honored to try to walk a little bit in her shoes, which was impossible. But I'm very proud.

Q: And that kiss: I remember you saying that for 30 seconds you felt what it was like to be attracted to the same sex.

A: Yeah, absolutely.

Q: If you weren't an actress, do you think you would've ever been inclined to see what that felt like?

A: Oh lord. I don't know. That's hard. Obviously it depends on the individual. I can't answer that. If I wasn't an actress, I don't know what kind of life I'd have.

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



Ask Lambda Legal – Public Accommodation

By: Natalie Chin/Staff Attorney, Lambda Legal



Q: The other week, a few friends and I were at a restaurant. We attempted to get the attention of the wait staff but it soon became clear to us that we were purposefully not being served. I've heard that people can still be denied services at restaurants just for being gay. Does that still happen?

A: Unfortunately, this type of thing still happens, and it can happen anywhere – Lambda Legal's Help Desk gets calls from all over the country from people who feel they have been mistreated or denied service because they are, or are perceived as, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Public Accommodation Law is what protects certain groups from being discriminated against in places like restaurants. Unfortunately, there is no federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in places of public accommodation. Several states and hundreds of municipalities have laws that protect LGBT people from discrimination, but it is a vast and varied patchwork that differs by state, county and city.

Fifteen states and the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression: Minnesota, Rhode Island, New Mexico, California, Illinois, Maine, Hawaii, New Jersey, Washington, Iowa, Oregon, Vermont, Colorado, Connecticut, Nevada. Six other states prohibit discrimination based on *only* sexual orientation, and they are Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maryland, New York and

Delaware.

What is a public accommodation, then? In general, a public accommodation is any facility, place or establishment that offers services or goods to the general public. Private clubs and religious organizations are generally exempt from requirements for public accommodations.

Lambda Legal is currently litigating on behalf of a woman in Queens, New York, after she was denied services at a Sizzler restaurant. The case, *Friedlander v. Warog Met, Ltd. d/b/a Sizzler*, involves a shocking scenario where our client was confronted by the Sizzler manager who angrily yelled homophobic slurs in front of the other patrons and physically assaulted her. Other Sizzler patrons joined in, verbally attacking Ms. Friedlander with homophobic and hate-filled language and threatened her with sexual assault. Under New York State and City Human Rights laws, a restaurant is a place of public accommodation, and Ms. Friedlander's civil rights were violated when she was attacked because of her actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and sex.

Another current Lambda Legal case, *Cervelli v. Aloha Bed & Breakfast*, involves a lesbian couple who were denied a room at a bed and breakfast in Hawaii after the owner of the business cited her personal belief that same-sex couples were "detestable" and "defile our land." Hawaii's state law specifically prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in places of public accommodation.

If you have any questions, or feel you have been discriminated against because of your sexual orientation or gender identity/expression, please contact our help desk at 1-866-542-8336 or visit www.lambdalegal.org/help

[Read this story in Spanish: Page 22]



Finding you the RIGHT one, not just anyone...

We Understand that 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. online

Our Services are personal, discreet, respectful and affordable. People are who they say they are.

ALL Gay or Straight singles welcome!

www.massmatch.com
massmatch@comcast.net • 413-665-3218

ADVOCATE
★ BEST ★
OF
THE VALLEY
READERS' POLL
2010

Providence boutique shop gets Adult Video News nomination

By: Casey Rocheteau/TRT Reporter

When politicians talk about the importance of small-business owners, rarely, if ever, does it evoke the thought of adult-shop owners.

The differences between an adult megastore and a locally-owned boutique are the same as one might find between an honest to goodness general store and a well-known department store. The concept of customer service changes drastically between the two, as does the ambience. And these things make a world of difference when shopping for an adult item, as opposed to, let's say, ibuprofen. Recently, Providence's own adult boutique, Mister Sister, was nominated for the best boutique award

by AVN (Adult Video News) precisely because of these factors. The AVN ceremony is the largest annual award show in the adult industry, making the nomination a high honor.

Within minutes of walking into the store, it became clear why Mister Sister would attract such attention. Beyond the wonderfully kitschy pin-up on the sign, coupled with the slogan "we've got more [items] than the devil's got sinners" lay a spacious boutique, well-stocked, but not overwhelming. With a staff of three, the store is open seven days a week on Providence's east side.

Robert, who was working behind the counter was eager to show TRT a century's worth of sex history, showing off a variety of items, some shaped like a blow-dryers, and others adorned with ruby-eyed cobra from the 1990s. While poking around and interacting with other customers, it became more obvious what a personal and vulnerable experience adult-item shopping can be.

Speaking with Devioune Mayim-Daviau, the store's owner, about the clientele highlighted the differences between her old location in Provincetown and the



Nominated AVN Awards
2012 Best Boutique
in New England!

**Mister Sister
Erotica**

Lingerie • Fetish • Leather
Gift Certificates

More toys than
the devil has sinners!

Open Tues.-Thurs. 11am-9pm
Fri-Sat. 11am-10pm Sun. 11am-5pm
MONDAY 12-8pm

268 Wickenden St. • Providence RI 02903 • 401.421.6969



On behalf of Rhode Islanders and everyone supporting Mister Sister on Wickenden Street — Congratulations to Devioune Mayim-Daviau and Mister Sister for the fabulous honor of nomination for Best Erotic Boutique in the U.S., AVN Awards 2012! We're fortunate and grateful to Devioune, the Mister Sister gang, and of course Raisel for creating this super friendly, sexy neighborhood hub for us to get together and have a good time shopping for goodies.

new location.

"Providence is old New England," she said,

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. And Then Came Lola
2. The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls
3. Hannah Free
4. The L Word: The Complete Series
5. Circumstance
6. Elena Undone
7. Leading Ladies
8. Trigger
9. Big Lesbian Love Collector's Set
10. The Lovers & Friends Show Season 4

GAY TOP 10

1. KickOff
2. Mangus!
3. What Happens Next
4. @SuicideRoom
5. Beginners
6. The Green
7. Judas Kiss
8. Eating Out: The Open Weekend
9. Big Gay Love Collector's Set
10. The Broken Tower

"and sexuality is really tight. The type of client that we have, my demographic is a little bit of everybody. Every sexuality, every gender, from 18 to 80, and the store was purposely put together to satisfy everyone."

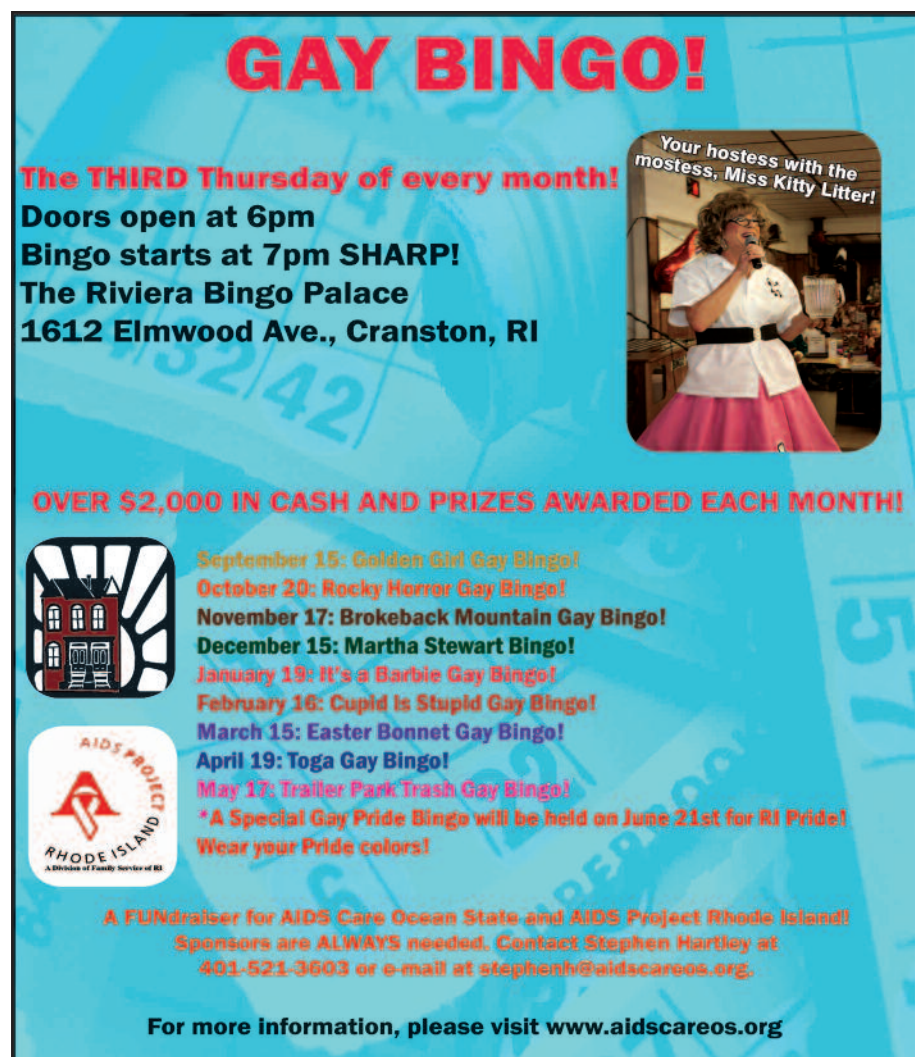
This indeed rang true when grazing around the shop for a bit, even on a slow Sunday afternoon. Conversations ranged from modern queer identity to how to please one's partner in a monogamous heterosexual relationship, punctuated by flocks of young women and others trickling in through the doors.

When asked about the nomination, Devioune was "so excited it's ridiculous." Mister Sister was the only store in New England nominated for the award this year, although Good Vibes has been nominated eight times in the past. And the connections between boutiques were remarkable. Devioune explained another boutique that was up for the award shared a close connection to Mister Sister.

"Self-Serve in Albuquerque," she elaborated, "the person who owns it used to work for me. In the boutique category, half of them are lesbian-owned. It really says something about how we approach things. I'm really blown away by it."

Certainly, this is important for those seeking to support LGBTQ-owned businesses, and it may also speak to the distinctions between these shops and aforementioned mega-adult stores. Bridgette, a regular customer, said that she sometimes goes into Mister Sister to browse and just chat with whoever is working the counter. "I love this place," she said.

**The Rainbow Times
Loves Your Support!**



GAY BINGO!

The **THIRD Thursday of every month!**
Doors open at 6pm
Bingo starts at 7pm SHARP!
The Riviera Bingo Palace
1612 Elmwood Ave., Cranston, RI

OVER \$2,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES AWARDED EACH MONTH!

September 15: Golden Girl Gay Bingo!
October 20: Rocky Horror Gay Bingo!
November 17: Brokeback Mountain Gay Bingo!
December 15: Martha Stewart Bingo!
January 19: It's a Barbie Gay Bingo!
February 16: Cupid Is Stupid Gay Bingo!
March 15: Easter Bonnet Gay Bingo!
April 19: Toga Gay Bingo!
May 17: Trailer Park Trash Gay Bingo!
*A Special Gay Pride Bingo will be held on June 21st for RI Pride!
Wear your Pride colors!

AIDS PROJECT
RHODE ISLAND
A Division of Family Service of RI

A Fundraiser for AIDS Care Ocean State and AIDS Project Rhode Island!
Sponsors are ALWAYS needed. Contact Stephen Hartley at
401-521-3603 or e-mail at stephenh@aidscaresos.org.

For more information, please visit www.aidscaresos.org

The transgender Valentine: Maybe different this time around

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



Welcome to February, the second month of 2012.

Here in New England, ol' man winter is still around, but most

people begin thinking thoughts of the upcoming spring. Visions of sunshine, green grass and flowers drift into our thoughts. Spring also may bring up other thoughts, like those of love. Remember the old saying "Spring, when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love." Well, lots of us older peeps think about love too. It's not just for young men anymore!

Two years ago, I wrote about the subject of a transgender valentine. Since those two years a lot has happened with regard to transgenders. Fifteen states (plus D.C.) now have laws that protect transgender rights, more and more

transgenders today are living openly and just about everybody now knows about transgenders since Chaz Bono showed not only the whole nation but the whole world who a transgender is. Yes, we are beginning to approach mainstream status but we are not quite there yet!

Yes, we trans have come a long way, but sadly we are still not accepted as love interests in many cases except in transgender couplings. It's when the transgender couples with a non-transgender that issues arise. Transgender/lesbian, transgender/gay and transgender/straight couplings are still not completely accepted yet, and there are issues to be dealt with before you can be as open as one of those couples.

Many transwomen identify as trans lesbians and many look for relationships with lesbians. Although there are some lesbians who are open to transwomen, most opt for other lesbians, so the transwoman/lesbian relationship occurrence is low. Transmen, on the other hand, seem to be more able to couple with a lesbian as many of them may have identified as lesbian in a previous lesbian relationship.

It's not uncommon, though, that the coupling ceases as time goes on. At that point it usually evolves into a straight relationship and that may be the breakdown point.

Moving on to transwoman/gay-man couples. They usually begin as a gay couple but then one transitions from male to female. This seems to put a strain on the relationship as the male partner may long for his former male sweetheart.

Transwoman/straight-man couplings are not that uncommon but many are "under the radar." By that I mean that this may be a couple where the transwoman may not be out to some folks. She may be living as stealth (living as a woman with no mention of ever being trans) and/or she just may find herself distanced from the straight man's non-trans friends and/or relatives. When occasions arise for the straight man to see his non-trans friends/relatives she may have to find other things to do that day. There are, however, some folks who are completely open, but they are few.

Transman/straight man couples are virtually nonexistent. They may come from a straight

relationship but when the wife transitions to male that's usually when this coupling ends.

Transwoman/straight-woman couples usually begin from a straight marriage when the husband transitions to female. They may stay together out of unconditional love for each other. It's wonderful when the marriage continues but in reality most of these couples do not make it.

So as a wrap-up, it's still pretty hard to be in a trans/non-trans relationship today. There needs to be more time to pass by and the day will eventually come when more and more of us are finally OK with these relationships. To those who currently stay in these relationships I wish you the best of luck!

In the meantime, to quote Kermit the Frog, "It ain't easy being green." I respectfully add "that is, until green becomes the norm. Go green!"

**Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has 3 grown children and works at a local Fortune 500 company. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.*

Ask a Transwoman: Is it ever too late to make the transition to my true self

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



At what age is it too late to transition?

—Kimmy

I think, I hope, that you'll be happy to hear the answer is "never." It's never too late to transition. Or, more precisely, so long as you're living, breathing and capable of making your own

decisions, it will never be too late to become who you are.

At this point in my career, I have met an awful lot of transsexual and transgender folks. Some days it feels like there are very few trans folks I haven't met in person or online. When I get that old clichéd question from people who meet me and ask if I know their friend so-and-so, who's trans? Because, you know, we all know each other. There's actually a good chance that I do.

And a very large number of those trans people have begun their transition quite late in life. Many have already lived a life or two, been married, had a career or three, raised kids, even seen kids through college and into their own marriages. Beyond that, I am aware even of trans people who have fully transitioned through hormone replacement therapy, and sexual reassignment surgery (also referred to as gender reassignment surgery) as late as their 70s and 80s.

Most of the older trans people I know seem to be doing quite well. They seem generally happy about the decisions they've made to transition and have done so with grace and verve.

So, OK, let me switch from cheerleader to concerned columnist for a few moments here. I do want to encourage you. In fairness, I'm kinda biased toward the whole "It's awesome to be trans!" perspective. However, I would be seriously remiss if I didn't present as complete a picture as I can for you.

While it's never technically too late to transition and finally being yourself is seriously "spectaculofabulous," it will not be easy. It may in fact be the hardest thing you have ever tried to do. You may lose friends, family, your job, the respect of your former social circles. You may lose everything. It happens.

Some of us get lucky and the dice roll in our

I have to watch my back constantly and always do the math of whether or not a given situation will be safe enough for me to enter. I worry about even basic things like where it will be safe for me to urinate.

favor. I have been very lucky in many ways. Many of my friends have stayed loyal and my family has been generally as supportive as I could ever hope. And I have new life and career paths for myself that I never even dreamed of.

But that does not mean I've escaped unscathed. Many employment opportunities have been closed to me. I scrape to get by and only have a roof over my head thanks to the generosity of friends and family. I have to watch my back constantly and always do the math of whether or not a given situation will be safe enough for me to enter. I worry about even basic things like where it will be safe for me to urinate.

And, frankly, I've got it easy compared to the stories of some folks I've met.

Also, there are health risks posed by HRT and SRS. They range in severity from minor to not so minor, mostly according to who you talk to and your own health history. But you are tinkering

with your hormones. You will essentially be going through puberty for a second time. It can be quite a roller coaster if nothing else. And surgery, even minor surgery, always involves some risk.

Neither hormones nor surgery will be a "magic pill" that will turn you instantly into the woman/man you always wanted to be. Basically speaking, you can only add the effects of hormones, not subtract. For a male to female, they will change the shape of your body pretty dramatically. You'll be softer, curvier and probably more sensitive. But you won't get shorter, your voice won't get higher, your beard won't disappear and you won't be instantly uploaded with the years of gender socialization you've missed. Only surgery, training and careful study can change some of those things.

If "passing" is important to you, you should know that it may take a while for an older transperson to get to that stage. It may never happen.

Still, if I had to make the decision again tomorrow, I wouldn't even hesitate. And I suspect many other transgender and transsexual folks would tell you the same. Finally

being yourself, at any age, can be extremely liberating. The vibrancy of it can make you appreciate life more than you ever expected.

I realize I've focused here on mainly medical transition: HRT and SRS, which may not be possible or practical in some cases. That doesn't mean, however, that transitioning is impossible. There are other ways to find a more comfortable point on the gender spectrum. It may not be possible to be your ideal you, but you can certainly find ways to feel more like the you you know yourself to be.

What you have to ask yourself ultimately is not whether it's too late. You have to ask yourself if the potential sacrifices are worth it for the chance to be yourself. How badly do you want it?

It will be hard work. But what in life that's truly worth having isn't? Slainte!

** Lorelei Erisis, former Miss Trans New England, can be contacted at: loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.*

The Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC) is dedicated to ending discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression.



MassTPC.org/

The Highlands Inn

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

-Planet Out

www.highlandsinn-nh.com

1-877-LES-B-INN

Bethlehem, New Hampshire

A Lesbian Paradise

Unexpectedly Gay

THE ADVOCATE MAGAZINE TOP 15 GAYEST CITIES

SPRINGFIELD, MA

www.GLBTSpringfield.com

iCelebra el año del Dragón con una nueva actitud!

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa*/Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Espero que este nuevo año 2012 haya comenzado bien para todos/as! Pero sé que para muchos/as de nuestros/as lectores/as están pasando por tiempos difíciles. Algunos no tienen trabajos, otros

todavía no tienen una ley migratoria justa, estamos batallando una economía injusta y nuestra comunidad LGBT no es reconocida con igualdad al nivel federal. Sin embargo, no es negativo ni obscuro.

Debemos de comenzar este año pensando en lo que puede pasar y lo que debemos hacer para poder traer este cambio y hacer nuestros sueños realidad. Sólo podemos controlar lo que podemos controlar y nada más. Debemos abogar por lo que queremos y trabajar por lo que aspiramos; quizás no podamos obtener el trabajo de nuestros sueños pero por lo menos podemos obtener un trabajo que nos traiga un poco de felicidad (y dinero).

Estaba leyendo un artículo (Fleck-Henderson, A., 1989) y encontré esta oración, "Lo que vemos y oímos depende de mil maneras del estado de preparación de nuestra mente y de nuestra inteligencia en entender el significado de lo que vemos y oímos." Estas palabras lo dicen todo. Nosotros/as debemos de poner de nuestra parte en entender las oportunidades y las situaciones que se nos presentan en nuestro diario vivir. Esta frase también nos recuerda la importancia de leer y aprender, de escuchar y observar y de entender lo leído y visto.

El 2012 es un año de elecciones y tenemos que leer y aprender sobre los candidatos/as. Estas elecciones no sólo son para la presidencia ni legisladores, son verdaderamente para nuestro futuro. Estamos votando por nuestra economía, por migración y todo lo demás que nos afecta como individuos, comunidad y Nación LGBT. La gente me pregunta, eres demócrata o republicano y mi respuesta es que yo soy un individuo que se educa sobre los temas de importancia para mí y mi comunidad LGBT y voto por ese/a candidato/a. Vamos a entender el significado de lo que los/as candidatos/as están diciendo antes de votar por él/la.

Este año no sólo es uno de política pero también uno de aprendizaje. ¡Es el año del Dragón!



El zodiaco Chino dice que es el signo de la tierra, la pasión y de todo lo que es vibrante y ostentoso. Este signo es uno de naturaleza apasionada y de salud abundante. Debemos de aprender de este signo y poder "reconectarnos" con la tierra y lo mucho que ésta nos ofrece. Debemos de tener pasión por todo lo que hacemos y traer brillantez a nuestro diario vivir. No digo comprar cosas con brillo sino ser más alegres, tener positividad en lo que hacemos y poder divulgar felicidad. Podemos tener esta mentalidad en todo lo que hacemos, desde ir al parque hasta cocinar. Normalmente trato de ser una persona positiva pero es difícil hacerlo cuando las cosas se ven mal; cuando lucho internamente en traer este positividad a la superficie todo me sale bien y todos a mí alrededor también cambian su actitud. Trata de ser una persona positiva y realista a la vez; es importante para nuestra salud y diario vivir.

Espero que durante este mes de Febrero, todos/as los/as que estén buscando un nuevo amor lo encuentren. Si se dicen estoy cansado/a de buscar mi amor, hagan algo diferente y no busquen tan intensamente por este amor ya que cuando no se busca es que se encuentra. Sean positivos/as y todo puede cambiar. Eso me sucedió a mí y a muchos/as que conozco que encontraron su eterno amor cuando menos lo esperaban. Se dice que el 2012 es uno positivo y lleno de brillantez para todos/as. ¡Les deseo a todos/as un Feliz Día De San Valentín y un 2012 lleno de cosas buenas y brillantes! ¡Feliz Año del Dragón!

* Escrito por Wilfred W. Labiosa, director ejecutivo de CASPAR y representante regional de Unid@s.



Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: Acomodaciones Públicas

Por: Natalie Chin*/Abogada, Lambda Legal

Lambda Legal
abogando por la igualdad



P: Hace poco, unos amigos y yo fuimos a un restaurante. Tratamos de llamar al mesero, pero era obvio que no querían servirnos. He oído que personas todavía pueden ser negadas los servicios en restaurantes sólo para ser gay. ¿Todavía sucede eso?

R: Desafortunadamente, este tipo de cosa todavía sucede, y puede suceder dondequiera. La Línea de Ayuda de Lambda Legal recibe llamadas de todas partes del país de personas que se sienten maltratadas o han sido negadas servicios por ser lesbiana, gay, bisexual o transgénero (LGBT), o por ser percibidas como tal. Las leyes de acomodaciones públicas prohíben discriminar en contra de ciertos grupos en lugares como restaurantes. Desafortunadamente, no hay una ley federal que prohíba la discriminación basada en la orientación sexual o la identidad de género en lugares públicos. Varios estados

Desafortunadamente, no hay una ley federal que prohíba la discriminación basada en la orientación sexual o la identidad de género en lugares públicos.

y cientos de municipios tienen leyes que protegen a las personas LGBT de la discriminación, pero varían de localidad a localidad.

Legalmente, ¿qué es un lugar de acomodación pública? En general, es cualquier lugar o establecimiento que ofrece servicios al público. Los clubes privados y las organizaciones religiosas generalmente están exentos de estos requisitos.

Actualmente, Lambda Legal representa una mujer, Liza Friedlander, de Queens, Nueva York, que fue negada servicio en un restaurante Sizzler. En el caso, *Friedlander V. Warog* encontró, S.a. D/B/un/Sizzler, nuestra cliente fue confrontada por el supervisor del Sizzler que

gritó enojadamente palabras homofóbicas delante de otros patrocinadores y físicamente la asaltó. Otros patrocinadores de Sizzler comenzaron a atacar verbalmente a Sra. Friedlander con palabras homofóbicas y odiosas y la amenazaron con asalto sexual. Bajo la ley del Estado y la Ciudad de Nueva York, un restaurante es un lugar público, y los derechos civiles de Sra. Friedlander fueron violados cuando fue atacada a causa de su orientación sexual, o identidad de género.

En otro caso de Lambda Legal, *Cervelli V. Aloha Bed & Breakfast*, implica una pareja lesbiana que fue negada una habitación en un hotel en Hawái después de que la propietaria del negocio les dijo que le molestaban las parejas lesbianas. La ley del estado de Hawái prohíbe específicamente discriminación sobre la

orientación sexual en lugares de públicos, lugares como un hotel.

Quince estados y el Distrito de Columbia prohíben discriminación en el empleo, la vivienda y servicios públicos basado en la

orientación sexual y la identidad de género: Minnesota, Rhode Island, Nuevo México, California, Illinois, Maine, Hawái, Nueva Jersey, Washington, Iowa, Oregon, Vermont, Colorado, Connecticut, y Nevada. Seis otros estados prohíben discriminación basada solamente en la orientación sexual, y ellos son Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Nuevo Hampshire, Maryland, Nueva York y Delaware.

Si tiene cualquier pregunta, o siente que ha sido discriminado a causa de su orientación sexual o identidad de género, por favor llame a nuestra línea de ayuda al 1-866-542-8336 o visite www.lambdalegal.org/es/linea-de-ayuda

The Rainbow Times

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



GO, GO, GO ... TRT ON THE GO!

facebook



tumblr

twitter



You Tube

Lea este reportaje en inglés en la página

19

The OutField: Jim Provenzano explores sports, sex and paraplegia

By: Dan Woog*/Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



It may not be the traditional format for a winning novel: cross-country running. Lacrosse. Wheelchair basketball. Gay romance. But Jim Provenzano's *Every Time I Think of You* works. The author—whose previous books focus on wrestling, AIDS and the lust-filled world of bicycle messengers—has crafted a novel about young adults that may not make the list of most librarians' recommended "young adult novels." There's a bit too much sex – gay sex – in this one for some educators' tastes. And it's graphic.

Yet *Every Time* does what good literature should. It opens readers' eyes, minds and hearts to corners of the world they may never have realized existed. Confession: Although I am a high school soccer coach, I'd never thought about the impact a devastating sports accident could have on an athlete. Especially one who was in a torrid, but meaningful, gay relationship.

The story is set in Pennsylvania, in 1978. Reid Conniff is a high school student serious about running, academics and masturbating in the woods. One wintry afternoon, near his favorite tree, he comes across (in every sense of the term) Everett Forester, a privileged, lacrosse-playing boarding school boy.

As is true in most adolescents' lives (and every novel), stuff happens. There is sexual exploration (Everett has had a lot more experience than Reid), the resultant embarrassment of getting caught, and the arc of both lovers trying to be at the same place at the same time (emotionally as well as physically).

There is not, however, a lot of angst about

being gay. Provenzano set this story—and *PINS*, his wrestling book—in what he calls "a bubble of time." Stonewall had already jump-started the gay rights movement, but AIDS had not yet reared its ugly head. The author calls those years "a halcyon moment, when for a teenager it was not horrible to be gay."

In fact, both Reid and Everett's parents are relatively accepting about their sons' sexuality. It doesn't hurt that Provenzano has created what he calls "two smart, well-educated and self-aware" protagonists – boys for whom acting on their urges brings more joy than fear.

What Provenzano did not set out to create, he says, is a novel about disability. Though *PINS*—written in 1999—includes a debilitating neck injury that nearly kills the main character, Everett's paralysis (he's clobbered by a lacrosse stick) is less metaphoric, more an opportunity to explore the effect of disability on two growing boys who just happen to be gay.

"I took two corny genres—coming out and bildungsroman (coming of age)—and at one point, I just realized the disability was going to happen," Provenzano explains of the writing process. "Sometimes your characters' paths



Jim Provenzano

dam. That was better, he thought, than to die "a fag with AIDS." (He was not, despite his fears, HIV positive.) While Gallagher did not succeed in killing himself, he was paralyzed

It's not easy to write a novel about sports, gay teenagers and sex in (and out of) wheelchairs.

don't go where you expect."

Once he saw the path his book was taking, Provenzano did a prodigious amount of research. He studied spinal cord injuries, the growth of wheelchair sports, and the ins and outs of paraplegic sex.

In the back of his mind, always, was the story of Ed Gallagher.

In 1985 Gallagher—a 27-year-old former University of Pittsburgh football player—tried to commit suicide by throwing himself off a

for life.

In 1994 he wrote a semi-autobiographical book, *Johnny in the Spot*. When Provenzano was writing a sports column (the predecessor to "The OutField"), he had what he calls "an

awkward conversation" with Gallagher.

"I read his book, and hated it. The dual narrative format was very difficult to follow," Provenzano recalls. "But I admired him greatly. He was an inspiration to me. I wanted to write a romance Ed would have appreciated."

Gallagher was outspoken about the physical needs of paraplegics, and Provenzano addressed the topic head-on too.

"They're 18," he says of his characters. "I didn't want to dodge the fact that they want to have sex—and they do. But I really wanted to get the facts right. It couldn't be just nudge-nudge-wink-wink."

The first reviews are strong. Author Andrew W. M. Beierle called it "a rare combination of delicacy and power (that) rekindled faded memories of the intensity of youthful desire."

Ray Aguilera, former editor of *Bent Voices*, a magazine for disabled gay men, lauded Provenzano for "daring to show that disability and sexuality aren't mutually exclusive, and that crips can be just as good in bed (or elsewhere) as their non-disabled counterparts."

It's not easy to write a novel about sports, gay teenagers and sex in (and out of) wheelchairs. Jim Provenzano has done it, with grace and power. All readers—disabled or not—can stand and applaud.

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

To Cook is To Love: Killer Food!

2nd in a Series concerning Food & Politics and the 2012 Elections

By: John Verlinden*/Special for TRT

¡MUCHO GUSTO!



Our food supply isn't always as safe as we'd like. Each year nearly 80 million Americans get sick from food. 2011 was a particularly bad year. More people died from last summer's cantaloupe listeria episode than ever before in U.S. history and the sprouts e-coli incident in Europe was the world's deadliest.

Fortunately, thanks to government standards, compliance inspections and responsible industry practices, food in the U.S. is remarkably safe. But our system is clearly under stress.

Strains of disease seem to be getting more potent, and because our food supply chain is now worldwide it can no longer be effectively managed and policed. When outbreaks occur the size and complexity of today's food production and distribution system make it increasingly difficult to recall all infected food and to identify the source of contamination.

A wonderful benefit of globalization is the great abundance and variety of foods available. We now enjoy fresh produce year-round and processed foods from around the globe. An av-

erage U.S. supermarket carries about 40,000 different items. The challenge is how to keep all those items safe.

What to watch for—to reduce spending and bring down deficits, candidates are proposing cuts to agencies and programs. Regulatory agencies are under particular scrutiny as some see government oversight as an impediment to efficient business operations and job growth.

Know where candidates stand on important food safety issues.

Do they support/oppose cuts to FDA and USDA inspection and enforcement services? To State and local public health agencies? These agencies are already under-resourced. USDA meat inspectors can't keep up and the FDA checks less than 2% of all food imports.

Who will they appoint to lead these agencies? And, what have they proposed to strengthen food safety systems?

Will they support World Health Organization efforts to establish international food safety standards?

Next month we'll take a look at clean water concerns. Share your thoughts about things we can do to ensure the availability of fresh water, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article – contact me: john@muchogusto.com or visit www.muchogusto.com and join our food forum.

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

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

Do You Have Savoir Flair?

Savoir Flair, New England's GLBT magazine.

Featuring current events, entertainment, dining, travel, and more. www.savoirflairmagazine.com.

visit our website:
www.linkpink.com

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

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



**MARCH 2-6
XL CENTER**

**ALL SESSION
PACKAGES
JUST \$99**

5 DAYS 15 GAMES

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

**XL
CENTER**

Purchase your tickets at XLCenter.com, Ticketmaster.com or call Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000