

The Rainbow Times®

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

FREE!
NOW BOSTON BASED!

PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER



**ECBC
BOSTON
Celebrates
10 Years &
Rides On p12**

PHOTO: LAUREN WALLESE



**"OUI FOR
EQUALITY"
Say Boston
and French
Locals p10**



**VALENTINE'S
LOVE STORIES
New England Power
Couples on their
Romance pp7&13**

BOSTON: 18TH ANNUAL TASTE OF THE SOUTH END p4

VIVA!: AFWM'S SMASHING FUNDRAISER p9

RI: MARRIAGE EQUALITY GETS CLOSER p20

**DAVE
FRANCO
Gets Frank & Fearless p16**

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

Black History Month overshadowed by current prejudice and discrimination

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

OPINIONS



February kicks off Black History Month, a month designated to pay tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

Although the historical context of this month goes back decades and has evolved with time, "The Black

Awakening" of the 1960's not only raised the consciousness of African Americans about the significance of black history and the Civil Rights movement, it also forced all Americans to acknowledge the contributions of African Americans to our history and culture.

According to the Library of Congress, the once weekly celebration was expanded to a month in 1976. "President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to 'seize the opportunity to honor the

too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.' That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first African American History Month. Since then each American president has issued African American History Month proclamations," it stated online at <http://1.usa.gov/7olw4l>.

However, the undeniable significance of the month is overshadowed by the pervasive and shameful attitudes of anti-black sentiment, still decades later. According to an article published by USA Today in 2012 regarding race and the election, (http://usat.ly/VQAKGF), nearly half of all Americans still expressed prejudice against the Black community. Similar findings were comparable to the Hispanic community as well. The data was gathered from surveys conducted with researchers from Stanford University, the University of Michigan and NORC at the University of Chicago. This same

survey concluded that President Obama could have lost up to 5 percentage points

It makes me ashamed of my Caucasian counterparts who have allowed themselves to be caught up in this "malarkey."

See Prejudice on page 8

Faith, family, and God: The marriage ceremony, and the importance of choosing a celebrant

By: Paul P. Jesep* / TRT Columnist

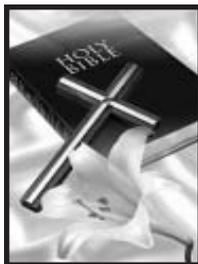
One of the most joyous events in the lives of two people is joining together in marriage. Increasingly, more LGBTQ couples are choosing to have their unions blessed or solemnized by ordained clergy. More faiths and denominations within those traditions embrace the holy, sacramental validity of two persons of the same-gender becoming committed spouses.

Wedding planning for same-gender couples is a big and growing business. Choosing the individual to perform the actual ceremony should be no less important than the careful selection of venue, guests, wedding planner, or the vows to be written and exchanged. Ordained clergy does not mean someone certificated for a fee through the mail or online.

Increasingly, LGBTQ couples are realizing there is a major difference between religion and belief in a higher authority. LGBTQ families that include children (people-children, independent of the furry kind) are grappling

with whether to raise their kids in faith or a religion. Faith and religion will continue to play an expanding role in the LGBTQ experience.

Belief in God, defined gender neutral, is not interchangeable with the flaws and emotional



abuses often associated with formal religion. Throughout history, individuals have co-opted religion to exploit and control others. These abuses reflect human insecurities, not holiness.

The growing acceptance of marriage equality by religious leaders and society's acceptance is divine revelation. It's Holy Sophia (Divine Wisdom) at work. God does not change. Over time, individuals and collective society spiritually matures, thus permitting the embrace of a larger, holier truth shown by Holy Sophia. This enables a deeper ...

See Marriage on page 8

Belief in God, defined gender neutral, is not interchangeable with the flaws and emotional abuses often associated with formal religion.

Does including women in direct ground combat mean a step toward equality?

By: Jason Lydon* / TRT Columnist



I remember laying in my bed in high school turning the pages of a hardcover copy of "Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the US Military" by Randy Shilts, thinking about the men and women he was writing about. I was quite amused that the Pentagon spent countless hours trying to discover who Dorothy was as they searched for the ring-leader of the "friends of Dorothy." Yet as I was learning this history, the United States military was actively dropping bombs on Iraq and Serbia while expanding military presence in Afghanistan, Sudan, East Timor and Cambodia. As some are celebrating Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta's announcement ending the exclusion of women from direct ground combat, I find myself remembering my excitement about learning queer history. Neither the history I learned then, nor the celebration of women's inclusion, recognize that the role of the soldiers is to perpetuate U.S. imperialism, colonial efforts, protection of US financial interests and the deaths of unnamed millions of people around the globe.

The announcement by the outgoing Defense Secretary opens up 237,000 combat positions to women. The U.S.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
It would be my preference that the author refer to me as "he" in all cases. He can say "as a girl," but I use he/him/his in all cases. The author never asked. I think it is disrespectful, and I've discussed it with Dan after the article first came out. I would love for it to be changed.

— Chris Mosier, Online

Dear Editor,
Your health issue was markedly informative and full of topics that were really of interest to my transgender boyfriend and myself. Thanks for the valuable input.

—Jarry Markson, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,
Is it true that you're now a Boston paper? My friends and I keep guessing because your coverage seems to be more from and out of Boston, but some other stuff also comes from the west of the state. And, you keep us informed here in Providence too.

—Jason Sullivan, Providence, RI

Dear Jason,
The Rainbow Times is Boston-based now although our operation and many team members are from all over New England. Thank you for noticing.

— The Editor

Department of Defense is the largest employer in the world, with approximately 3.2 million employees, a third of which are active duty in the Armed Forces. According to the Department of Defense's human resources site, 14 percent of active duty personnel are women. There are those who claim this opening of employment as a huge success in the move toward equality.

A 2012 study by the American Association of University Women shows that women are still being paid only 82 percent what their male counterparts make. The military combat jobs can be seen by some as shooting holes in the glass ceiling for women, but the fight for equality ignores what individuals are getting equal access to.

Just days before this announcement,

See Combat Page 11

The Rainbow Times

The Freshest LGBT Newspaper in New England - Boston Based

www.therainbowtimesmass.com

editor@therainbowtimesmass.com
sales@therainbowtimesmass.com

Phone: 617.444.9618 / 413.282.8881
Fax: 928.437.9618

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

The Rainbow Times is published monthly by The Rainbow Times, LLC. TRT is affiliated with the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association, NLGJA, National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, NGLCC, The Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunity, CABO, and QSyndicate. The articles written by the writers, columnists, and correspondents solely express their opinion, and do not represent the endorsement or opinion of The Rainbow Times, LLC or its owners. Send letters to the editor 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@therainbowtimesmass.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 written consent.

Mass LGBT leaders welcome Cowan's appointment as interim senator

Brown steps back, decides not to run; surprising move from gay former state Senator Richard Tisei

By: **Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter**

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick has named former aide William "Mo" Cowan as interim U.S. senator.

The appointment, which came on Wednesday, January 30, fills the seat left vacant by John F. Kerry who resigned from the Senate to become secretary of state. The Senate confirmed him to that post on a 94-3 vote Tuesday.

Kerry's resignation takes effect on Friday, February 1 at 4 p.m.

Cowan, 43, is the former chief of staff and chief legal counsel to Patrick, having served in the administration since 2009.

A lawyer, Cowan is highly regarded and well-connected in Boston's legal community.

An African American, Cowan will be the first black person to represent Massachusetts in the Senate since Republican Edward Brooke held the seat for two terms from 1966 to 1978. He is the second African American senator, joining Republican Tim Scott (South Carolina).

A North Carolina native, Cowan is graduate of Duke University. He holds a law degree from Boston's Northeastern University.

News of the appointment came in a late morning press conference, held in the Statehouse and broadcasted live over

local media.

"I am proud and delighted to appoint Mo Cowan," said the governor in a statement beforehand. "Mo's service on the front lines in our efforts to manage through the worst economy in 80 years and build a better, stronger commonwealth for the next generation has earned him the respect and admiration of people throughout government. The people of the commonwealth have benefited from his wisdom and good judgment during his time in our office, and will again in the Senate."

At the briefing, the governor, who is also African American, was asked about the significance of appointing a black person to the position.

"The fact is that the commonwealth and the community is changing," said Patrick. "The breadth of diversity and background and ethnicity and race is deeper and broader than ever. I have known and believed for a long time that there is talent in every community in the commonwealth. To the extent that we can reflect that and encourage little boys and girls of color who grew up in marginalized circumstances to imagine what it might be like to serve the public in these ways - I think that is great thing."

In selecting Cowan, the Massachusetts governor declined to appoint openly gay former Representative Barney Frank (D), who publicly sought the job.

Nonetheless, LGBT leadership in the

state voiced praise for Cowan's appointment.

"While we were hoping the governor would appoint Barney Frank because we believed Barney would have done a superb job and moved into the position in a seamless fashion, we recognized from the administration's responses, that that was unlikely to happen," said Arline Isaacson, chairwoman of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, a statewide lobbying organization.

"Mo is an excellent, albeit surprising selection," she added. "He's smart, experienced, and well respected among both elected officials and activists. He obviously has the governor's confidence and a clear commitment to advance the needs of our state. The LGBT community and the progressive community need in this interim position someone who will defend and protect the interests and concerns we hold dear. I believe Mo will fit that bill easily and comfortably."

The executive director of MassEquality, a statewide grassroots advocacy organization, also welcomed the appointment.

"MassEquality has had the pleasure of working with Mo Cowan during his time with the governor and has come to know his deep commitment to LGBTQ issues," said Kara Suffredini. "We trust that he will continue to be a great steward of these issues during his interim appointment, and we look forward to supporting him in doing so over the next several months

while we work to elect a replacement that similarly carries on the equality legacy of Sen. John Kerry."

As a condition of his appointment, Cowan will not be a candidate for election to fill Kerry's vacancy.

A primary election date is set for April 30, with a general election date for the Massachusetts Senate set for June 25.

For the Democrats, Congressman Edward Markey was the first candidate to enter the race.

Congressman Stephen F. Lynch announced his candidacy on Thursday.

For some time, former Republican Senator Scott Brown, who lost to Senator Elizabeth Warren last fall, was also expected to enter the race. But on Friday, Brown said that he would not be a candidate.

That news prompted openly gay former state Senator Richard Tisei, who lost a close congressional race this fall to Representative John Tierney on the North Shore, to issue a statement, which hints at the possibility of his entering the Massachusetts U.S. Senate race:

"Scott's exit from the race was obviously unexpected. That said, in the coming days I will be talking with family, friends, and supporters to consider the best role that I can play in helping to bring new, alternative leadership to Washington," said Tisei.

© Copyright. Chuck Colbert. All rights reserved.

SIDNEY BORUM JR.  HEALTH CENTER

ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON WHO

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

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

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

130 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116 www.sidneyborum.org
Monday-Friday 8:45 a.m.—5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday 8:45 a.m.—7 p.m.



617.457.8140

COM 11 063

18th Annual Taste of the South End showcases Boston's hottest restaurant neighborhood

GIVING TO OUR COMMUNITY

BOSTON, Massachusetts—AIDS Action Committee announces that the 18th annual Taste of the South End will take place Tuesday, March 5, 2013. Attendees will enjoy small plate culinary creations from at least 40 of the South End's most vibrant restaurants. The popular event will also feature live cooking demonstrations, a silent auction and raffle, extensive wine tasting and beer sampling. Taste of the South End takes place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Boston Center for the Arts Cyclorama at 539 Tremont Street in Boston. Tickets are \$100; VIP admission is \$150. Proceeds benefit AIDS Action.

"At Taste of the South End, the food is fantastic. Guests can meet and ask questions of some of Boston's best known chefs. And best of all, you'll be raising money for an excellent cause," said Rebecca Haag, president and CEO of AIDS Action. "This evening out supports the critical work AIDS Action does in combating the AIDS epidemic by eliminating new infections, improving the health of those already infected, and attacking the root cause of HIV/AIDS. Our work has contributed to the state's reduction of new HIV diagnoses by 53 percent since 1999, which will save Massachusetts more than \$2 billion in health care costs related to treating HIV."



The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence enjoy the Annual Taste of the South End too.

"Each year, Taste of the South End draws its support from food and wine lovers throughout Greater Boston," said Evan Deluty, chef/owner of Stella. "Together through this annual fundraising event, we can help AIDS Action in the fight against HIV/AIDS so that everyone in our community can live longer, healthier lives."

This year's presenting sponsor is Steward Health Care. Our principal sponsors are Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Macy's. Other sponsors include Eastern Bank, AEW, Eaton Vance Investment Man-

agers, Whole Foods Market, Whitney Towers, Commerce Bank, Martignetti Companies, Samuel Adams, Clarke, and Sysco. A partial list of 2013 participating restaurants include: Cinquecento, Metropolis Café, Aquitaine Bar a vin Bistrot, Gaslight Brasserie du Coin, Union Bar and Grille, B&G Oysters, The Butcher Shop, Stir, Hamersley's Bistro, Flour Bakery + Café, Myers + Chang, Orinoco, Mistral, The Gallows, The Beehive, DaVinci Ristorante, Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse, Masa, Stephi's on Tremont, Summer Shack,

Tremont 647 & Sister Sorel, Coppa, Toro, Picco, Turner Fisheries, Addis Red Sea, 28 Degrees, Mela, Petit Robert Bistro, Pigalle, Sibling Rivalry, Darryl's Corner Bar, Formaggio Kitchen South End, The Gallows, and Haley House Café.



AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts is the state's leading provider of prevention

and wellness services for people vulnerable to HIV infection. It provides services to one in six people in Massachusetts living with an HIV diagnosis. These services include HIV counseling and testing; needle exchange; mental health counseling; housing assistance; and legal services. AIDS Action works to prevent new HIV infections, support those affected by HIV, and tackle the root causes of HIV/AIDS by educating the public and health professionals about HIV prevention and care; and advocating for fair and effective HIV/AIDS policy at the city, state, and federal levels. Founded in 1983, AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts is New England's first and largest AIDS service organization. Learn more at www.aac.org.



**Mental Health and Addiction Care
for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Individuals**

**Find strength.
Embrace hope.**

Our beautiful Vermont campus provides LGBT individuals with a safe, supportive, caring community. Free from judgment. Free from prejudice.

Here you'll find LGBT-specific, LGBT-affirming inpatient hospital care for:

- depression and other mood disorders
- anxiety, grief and loss issues
- sexual identity, trauma and compulsivity issues
- self-harming behaviors
- drug and alcohol addiction and other mental health issues.

Admissions 24 hours a day. 7 days a week.

Call 802-258-3700

or find out more at brattlebororetreat.org/lgbt



Brattleboro Retreat

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION CARE

Brattleboro, Vermont



Quiet power: Gay money in the 2012 election, the role it played in it

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

IN THE LIMELIGHT

There has been much said and written about right-wing political operative Karl Rove's spectacular failure to buy a Republican conservative victory in the 2012 elections. The two Crossroads political action committees run by Rove spent more than \$200 million on television advertising attacking Democratic candidates in an effort to hoist Republicans into office. That included \$6 million against lesbian Senate candidate Tammy Baldwin in Wisconsin and another \$1 million for her Republican opponent Tommy Thompson. It also included \$263,000 against openly gay Congressional candidate Sean Maloney in New York.

But both Baldwin and Maloney won, despite the millions of right-wing dollars that poured into campaigns seeking a Republican win. That's because they, like five other openly gay and bisexual Congressional candidates, benefited from a strong outpouring of funding from many various Democratic PACs and super PACs.

For instance, Tammy Baldwin's successful campaign for the U.S. Senate spent \$15 million, and outside groups spent another \$20 million to get her elected. Of that \$35 million total, according to Federal Elections Commission reports, the Human Rights Campaign PAC

and super PAC spent only \$2,826 and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund chipped in \$10,000.

The biggest contributors to Baldwin's successful bid were the Democratic Senatorial Committee, which spent \$5.8 million on Baldwin's win, the pro-Democratic "Majority PAC" that spent \$4.9 million, and the EMILY's List super PAC "Women Vote" that spent \$3.1 million.

But the \$12,826 spent by HRC and the Victory Fund did not represent all the "gay money" in Baldwin's success.

Many individual LGBT people all over the country gave to the effort. For instance, Miami gay philanthropist and Victory Fund board member Joe Falk gave Baldwin \$2,500. Dallas attorney Vanessa Benavides gave \$4,000, and Texas philanthropist Paul Boskin gave \$7,000.

And many gave both to Baldwin and to pro-Democratic PACs that supported Baldwin. According to FEC records, gay Colorado philanthropist Tim Gill gave \$5,000 to Baldwin's campaign directly, and another \$250,000 to Fair Share Ac-



tion. Fair Share Action spent \$125,000 on Baldwin's victory.

Illinois lesbian activist Laura Ricketts gave \$2,500 directly to the Baldwin campaign, plus gave \$242,500 to the L PAC, and \$200,000 to the Women Vote PAC. The lesbian-organized L PAC did not give to the Baldwin effort, but the Women Vote PAC pitched more than \$3 million into the Baldwin effort.

Chicago gay political activist Fred Eychaner gave \$2,500 to Baldwin's campaign but also gave \$4.3 million to the Majority PAC (which spend \$4.9 million on Baldwin) and \$750,000 to Women Vote (which spent \$3.1 million on Baldwin).

San Francisco gay philanthropist James Hormel did not give any money directly to the Baldwin campaign, but gave the Victory Fund \$125,000 and the Victory Fund gave \$10,000 to Baldwin. Hormel also gave \$100,000 to the House Majority PAC,

which helped Democratic candidates, including \$1.4 million against Sean Maloney's Republican opponent in New York and \$672,500 against bisexual Kyrsten Sinema's Republican opponent in Arizona.

Michigan gay philanthropist Jon Stryker chipped in \$2,500 directly to Sinema's successful campaign, but he, too, contributed \$250,000 to the House Majority PAC which directed \$672,500 in television advertising against Sinema's opponent.

Sinema, who became the first openly bisexual person to win a seat in Congress, took in \$55,528 through the Victory Fund for her campaign and \$9,984 from HRC PACs. These were the largest amounts given by each of the groups to openly LGBT candidates in 2012. The Victory Fund gave or "bundled" a total of \$114,136 to six out of seven openly LGBT candidates to the U.S. House in the 2012 elections; and HRC's two PACs gave \$36,623 in direct contributions to five out of seven gay House candidates.

Richard Tisei, the only openly gay Republican candidate running for Congress, received no support from the Human Rights Campaign PACs and \$18,618 through the Victory Fund. Tisei's effort to unseat incumbent Democrat John Tierney of Massachusetts fell short. But Log Cabin Republicans' PAC and GOProud...

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

We Create Perfect Vacations

Don't try and do it yourselves;
Let the travel experts at 5 Star Travel create your dream vacation.

5 STAR TRAVEL

NO FEES charged on vacation and cruise packages

617-536-1999

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

Boy Scouts consider lifting gay ban, feel pressure from others

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

In a surprising turnabout, the Boy Scouts of America is "actively considering" an end to its longstanding exclusion of openly gay boys as members and gay parents as scout leaders, according to NBC News, which broke the story Monday, January 28.

The policy change, a move that reportedly may come as early as next week, would allow local groups – religious, civic, or educational organizations – to decide for themselves whether to accept gay youth or leaders.

Confirming NBC's reporting, the Boy Scouts posted a statement on its website later Monday.

"The BSA is discussing potentially removing the national membership restriction regarding sexual orientation," said Deron Smith, director of public relations for the Boy Scouts' national organization.

Absent a national policy on sexual orientation, he went on to say in the statement, "The chartered organizations that oversee and deliver scouting would accept membership and select leaders consistent with their organization's mission, principles, or religious beliefs. BSA members and parents would be able to choose a local unit which best meets the needs of their families."

If the new policy is approved by the organization's board of directors at a meeting next week, however, "under no circumstances" would the Scouts "dictate

a position to units, members or parents" nor would the "BSA require any chartered organization to act in ways inconsistent with that organization's mission principles, or religious beliefs," said Smith.

More than 100,000 scouting units are chartered by civic, faith-based, and educational organizations; and the various units deliver programming to BSA members, according to the organization's website.

Specifically, faith-based units account for more than two-thirds of all scout troops, with nearly a quarter of the units chartered to civic organizations. The remaining units, not quite 10 percent, are chartered by educational organizations.

Among the chartered religious organizations, the top three include: the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, United Methodist Church, and Roman Catholic Church – all of which have stood historically against LGBT equality and therefore may well be inclined not to admit openly gay scouts and scout leaders.

The potential for local units, both religious and civic, to continue excluding gay youth and adult leaders in scouting is a



concern for some LGBT leaders and advocates.

As Iowa Eagle Scout Zach Wahls, founder of Scouts for Equality, told NBC News, "So essentially, instead of forcing people to discriminate they're going to allow people to discriminate," he said. "Even though one is less bad than the other, we still need to make sure that local units are understanding how a

ban on gay members negatively affects their unit."

Nonetheless, Wahls also told NBC News that the Boy Scouts were moving in the right direction but still had a way to go.

In the spotlight last summer, Wahls, who is straight, spoke on national television during the Democratic National Convention about being raised by two moms, his lesbian parents.

Evan Wolfson, president and founder of Freedom to Marry, voiced concerns similar to those of Wahls.

"The reported decision of the Boy Scouts to change their discriminatory policy on gay members is a reflection of how out of step the Scouts hierarchy had be-

come with today's youth and the majority of Americans," he said in an e-mail.

"Changing the policy would be a step in the right direction, but while an 'allow discrimination' local option is better than mandatory national discrimination, it still sends a harmful message to both gay and non-gay youth. The right answer is to be open to all boys, without discrimination, period," said Wolfson. "Progress, but not good enough."

For his part, Herndon Graddick, president of Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, emphasized the positive.

"Scouting is a valuable institution, and this change will only strengthen its core principles of fairness and respect," he said in a statement.

Equally upbeat was Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign.

"The pulse of equality is strong in America, and today it beats a bit faster with news that the Boy Scouts may finally put an end to its long history of discrimination," he said in a statement. "Our nation and its leaders respect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens, and it's time the Boy Scouts echo those values."

And Mark Anthony Dingbaum, senior campaign manager at *Change.org*, praised pressure to end the Scouts' national anti-gay policy, calling the push "a huge victory for people-powered change."

See Boy Scouts On Page 8



DEFEND YOURSELF

DON'T MIX HIV WITH STDs. GET TESTED.

 Sexually transmitted infections (STIs or STDs) can be harmful to anyone. But if you have HIV, STDs often cause extra complications and may raise your viral load. It is important to know if you have an STD! The best way to know is to test regularly.

We now offer walk-in STD testing on Thursday evenings 5-7:30 pm. HIV-positive individuals and their HIV-negative partners are welcome.

OUR FREE SERVICE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- STD education and counseling
- Free condoms and lube
- Basic lab tests to check for syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, hepatitis C, and HIV
- Test results available in one week

For more information, email or call Sam at ssheffield@jri.org or 671-457-8142 ext. 2419

PEERSUPPORTSERVICES

a program of  JRI Health

25 West Street, Boston, MA 02111 4th Floor

Power couples share what marriage means to them & their plans for Valentine's Day

By: Emily Scagel/TRT Assistant Editor

VALENTINE'S LOVE

With marriage equality legalized in all New England states except for Rhode Island, "The Rainbow Times" interviewed prominent New England couples to find out their views on same-sex marriage, and what they are doing for Valentine's Day.

Sylvain Bruni and Michael Anthony Fowler, Boston, MA

Sylvain Bruni and Michael Anthony Fowler have been together for almost six years, and are, as they said, "not married ... yet!" Their decision to marry is constrained by immigration regulations, as Bruni is French and Fowler is American.

"Now that Sylvain is a permanent resident of the USA, and since France is scheduled to legalize gay marriage this year, all should be in order," said Fowler. They plan to get married in the fall of 2014 in France.

Not being married, though, has made a significant impact on both of them, they said. "Since gay marriage is not recognized at the federal level, Sylvain cannot obtain U.S. citizenship through marriage,

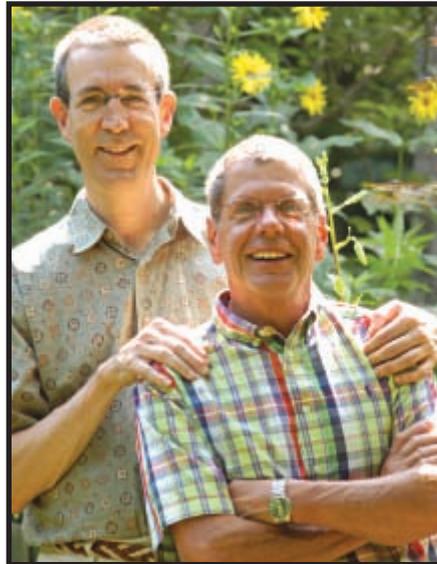


PHOTO: MANUEL BAUTISTA GONZÁLES

which has an impact on taxes, social security benefits, medical rights, employment, immigration, etc.," Fowler explained.

"Similarly, Michael, who is an archaeologist specializing in Greek antiquity, cannot benefit from recognition from the European Union to facilitate his visa and work authorizations when conducting archaeological research in Greece and Italy," added Bruni. Hopefully, they said, changes in the U.S. and France/Europe will allow them to overcome these hurdles.

What will they be doing to celebrate Valentine's Day? "We are both foodies, so we'll enjoy our Valentine's Day dinner at a starred restaurant in New York City, celebrating with a glass of French champagne, of course!"



Jack Hornor and Ron Skinn, Northampton, MA

PHOTO: ROBERT TOBEY

Jack Hornor and Ron Skinn met in 1994 on a gay cruise. They were legally married in 2008, and recently celebrated their 19th anniversary on January 24th.

"We have been very strong supporters of equal marriage for a long time," said Hornor. "I served on the board of MassEquality for seven years during the marriage fight, and am proud of my service to that cause."

Hornor, a prominent local gay activist originally from Manhattan, and Skinn, a former graphic artist from Ohio, stated that being legally married is extremely important to them, though same-sex marriage still needs to be legal at the federal level.

"While we value our Massachusetts marriage license, we're also clear that until we have marriage at the federal level, we're still second-class citizens," they said.

This Valentine's Day, Hornor and Skinn will be "on the lovely and quite gay-friendly island of Vieques, just to the east of Puerto Rico," they stated. "We'll have a beautiful day at the beach, and a fabulous dinner with friends that evening."

Skinn and Hornor are both involved in the Northampton community, and say that "together, they are also known for throwing fabulous parties and giving their time and energy to support local nonprofits."

Jenn Tracz Grace & Andrea Grace, CT (with CT Lieutenant Gov. Nancy Wyman)

Jenn Tracz Grace and Andrea Grace have been together for four years, married for a year and a half, and said that they already had planned out their wedding day within months of knowing each other, because they "just knew." They chose to get married on an "odd day," which happens only six times a century — July 9, 2011.

They met while they were finishing their Master's degrees, and "competing with each other over who had the best GPA at graduation," said Tracz Grace, and besides being competitive, "We both have a passion for helping others, I in business for helping advocate on behalf of the LGBT community, she in the education world."

Marriage has made a difference in their relationship, they said. "We have two kids,

so being legally married is important to us because of them. It is important for them to grow up knowing that their family is just as equal to their friends' families."

Their wedding ceremony was officiated by the Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut, Nancy Wyman. This "was very special to us. It really cements the respect that CT has for its residents," Tracz Grace explained.

This Valentine's Day, the couple is not



PHOTO: STEVE COOPER/SM COOPER PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST

being "overly romantic," they said. "We will likely enjoy a nice quiet dinner at home, once the kids are in bed."

See Valentine's Day on Page 13

Provincetown Winter Weekends

Valentine's & President's Day ~ February 14-18, 2013

PBG

Provincetown Business Guild

PROVINCETOWN BUSINESS GUILD

ptown.org

Crazy Dog

P H O T O G R A P H Y

live it love it keep it

GLENN KOETZNER

860-499-0525

www.crazydogphotos.com

glenn@crazydogphotos.com

Discrimination from page 2

in the then upcoming election simply because he was Black. Thankfully, even with that possibility, he prevailed.

It is not enough to simply "celebrate" Black History month. It is imperative to stand by our LGBTQA brothers and sisters in their fight for continued freedom—freedom from erred bigoted, racist and learned cultural norms passed down from generation to generation. The fact that anti-black sentiment actually grew from 2008 to the present, reflecting the time period that President Obama was in office, is proof that racist attitudes are often depicted when the under-represented group is gaining "power" and the majority feels threatened, a notion I will never understand. It makes me ashamed of my Caucasian counterparts who have allowed themselves to be caught up in this "malarkey." I've always said that my soul does not match the color of my privileged skin.

The American Psychological Association (APA) attempts to explain why racism manifests itself. "Racism in all its horrific forms is transmitted across generations and is manifested in individual behaviors, institutional norms and practices, and cultural values and patterns. Racism serves simultaneously both to rationalize the hierarchi-

cal domination of one racial or ethnic group over other group(s), and maintain psychological, social and material advantages for the dominant group," read a statement published at <http://bit.ly/11DZg1u>. Again, it is about power and clearly, that power is being highly disrupted. The backlash of such a shift is obvious when any minority group makes strides. Think about all of the nuts coming out of the woodwork regarding LGBT rights alone, and then compound that with racial and ethnic discrimination.

As the APA stated, "both active racism and passive acceptance of race-based privilege disrupt the mental health and psychological functioning of both victims and perpetrators of racial injustice." Whether like me, you have race-based privileged or not, we all have a duty to stand with each other, learn from other's experiences, and listen for the irrefutable truth that Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed. I too have a dream that "one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'"

**Nicole Lashomb is TRT's Editor-in-Chief. She holds an MBA from Marylhurst University and a Bachelors from SUNY Potsdam. Contact her at: editor@therainbowtimes-mass.com. (no hyphen)*

Marriage from page 2

understanding of something larger than self-interest, connecting and gently integrating each person with the cosmos without quashing individuality.

Today, marriage has secular and religious meanings. Sometimes and understandably two people who join in marriage choose to focus on the secular. Others want the ...benefit of both – legal recognition and a blessing by someone who also embraces the union as transcending civil and secular law.

In January 2013, The Very Rev. Gary Hall, the Episcopal dean of Washington National Cathedral, announced same-gender Christian weddings would begin immediately at the Cathedral. According to Hall, "We enthusiastically affirm each person as a beloved child of God — and doing so means including the full participation of gays and lesbians in the life of this spiritual home for the nation." This includes celebrating same-gender Christian marriages "in which the couple commits to lifelong faithfulness, love, forbearance and mutual comfort." There isn't anything the Pope, Rev. Pat Robertson, or any other opponent

of marriage equality can do to stop it.

There is holiness in the solemnization of a marriage. It is a sacred act more powerful than bestowing an economic right when someone serves in a dual capacity of clergy person and government representative. This view does not, however, lessen the secular importance of marriage equality. Nor does it suggest the need for the approval or affirmation of clergy.

Two people who come together in secular marriage, holy matrimony, or both, answer to one another, their individual consciences, and if they believe in a higher power, then to the Creator as well. In each case, the selection of a celebrant to perform the marriage merits special consideration. If there is a spiritual element, the choice is especially important since it highlights the sacredness of the ceremonial act and commitment to one another in the eyes of a universal, holy and divine presence.

**Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He recently authored "Lost Sense of Self & the Ethics Crisis – Learn to Live and Work Ethically," and is founder of www.CorporateChaplaincy.biz.*

Boy Scouts from page 6

But not everyone is pleased with the BSA's change of mind. Tony Perkins, president of the anti-gay Family Research Council, said in a statement posted on the organization's website: "If the board capitulates to the bullying of homosexual activists, the Boy Scouts' legacy of producing great leaders will become yet another casualty of moral compromise."

Meanwhile, the BSA's turnaround comes after a nearly yearlong effort by GLAAD and Scouts for Equality, along with petition drives at Change.org. In all, more than 1.2 million people have signed petition campaigns calling for an end to the discriminatory policy.

One change.org petition – initiated by Jennifer Tyrrell, a lesbian mother from Bridgeport, Ohio who was ousted as her 7-year-old son's Cub Scout Pack's den mother in April 2012 – calls for a reconsideration of "exclusivity against gay youth and leaders" and "an end of discrimination in an organization that is shaping the future."

Tyrrell's petition has attracted more than 300,000 signatures. Last July she delivered her online petition to BSA national leadership in Irving, Texas.

At that time, however, the Boy Scouts re-affirmed a policy of banning gay members. The Scouts cited a two-year study by an 11-member special committee formed discretely in 2010 that concluded that the "current policy remains the best interest of scouting," according to a BSA press release and Associated Press reporting.

For decades, the Scouts have maintained an anti-gay policy. Moreover, in 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, upheld the Scouts' right to dismiss a gay assistant scoutmaster, saying that as a private organization, it had the right to decide whichever values it wishes

to communicate.

But over the years, pressure for change persisted and gained momentum.

"The Boy Scouts of America have heard from scouts, corporations, and millions of Americans that discrimination is wrong," said GLAAD's Graddick.

For example, two members of the Boy Scouts' board, James Turley, chairman and CEO of Ernst and Young, and Randall Stephenson, chairman and CEO of AT&T, had said last summer they would advocate a change in the Scouts' policy.

GLAAD and Scouts for Equality also succeeded in pressuring BSA corporate donors, including Intel Corporation, United Parcel Service, and Merck Foundation, to withhold funding until the Boy Scouts end its policy banning gay youth and parents.

Last fall, a San Francisco Bay Area mother, Karen Andresen of Moraga, California petitioned her local Boy Scout council to honor her son Ryan with an Eagle Award that was denied to him when Ryan

came out as gay. An

official Eagle Board of Review unanimously approved Ryan's application for Eagle, but a Boy Scout executive ultimately rejected his application.

Andresen's online Change.org petition has garnered more than 400,000 signatures. The petition asks leadership from Troop 212 and the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council "to reject the Boy Scouts of America's discriminatory anti-gay policy and to give Ryan Andresen the Eagle award he's earned."

Reached by phone, Ryan's father, Eric Andresen, said he was "cautiously optimistic" about the possibility of change in BSA policy.

"Let's hope it happens," he said. "I can't imagine being so public and then backing out. It's a good first step, not the whole thing yet, but a step in the right direction."

Andresen said his 18-year-old son Ryan, "would still like to be recognized for the work he has done."

"Ryan hopes that nobody would have to go through what he had to go through," said his father. "This [new policy] will help other scouts in the circumstances he's in," enabling them "to stay involved" in scouting.

© Copyright. Chuck Colbert. All rights reserved.

GLAAD and Scouts for Equality also succeeded in pressuring BSA corporate donors, including Intel Corporation, United Parcel Service, and Merck Foundation, to withhold funding until the Boy Scouts end its policy banning gay youth and parents.

MassMatch
WESTERN MASS

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

As Affordable as Internet Dating with the
Touch of a Matchmaker

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

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

ADVOCATE
★ BEST ★
OF THE VALLEY
READERS POLL
2012
THE REAL
2011
2010

www.massmatch.com. • **Phone: 413.665.3218**

Mathew Brockelman
LMT

Leominster, MA
At Home Availability

Help yourself reduce
stress and pain today!

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



AIDS Foundation celebrates 20 years of work and raises funds through Viva!, its major gala

By: Emily Scagel/TRT Assistant Editor

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND

The AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts, AFWM, hosted its 16th annual gala "Viva!" last month. This year's event took place at The Log Cabin in Holyoke, offering attendees an impressive ambiance for the festivities. The gala also kicked off AFWM's 20th anniversary, and the night focused on the last two decades of progress and the future transformational work of the organization.

"This year we focused on the work of AFWM over the past two decades, highlighting the ways in which our sponsors and supporters have served and transformed our HIV/AIDS community," explained Robert Quinn, AFWM's President. "We honored that impact while looking forward to the next 20 years and our collective potential."

Viva! is AFWM's largest fundraiser, according to Executive Director Jessica Crevier, helping to fund operating expenses, educational programs and support services.

"It allows us to maintain the educational programming that helps people who are HIV negative to remain that way, support groups, referral services and the emergency financial assistance program that helps people who



PHOTO: MELISSA ABLONDI ALVES

Hedda Lettuce performs at Viva! 2013, the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts' major fundraiser.

are limited as a result of HIV/AIDS to maintain their dignity and quality of life," said Crevier.

AFWM works to create a network of support for people living with HIV/AIDS in Hampden and Hampshire counties, according to AFWM's website. The organization creates positive and powerful change in the community through education, outreach and support, and acts as a connection between people living with

HIV/AIDS and the network of AIDS service organizations in the area.

"We work with case managers, mental and physical health care providers, pharmacies, social service organizations and more, with the goal of ensuring that people living with HIV/AIDS in our community have every opportunity to live their best possible quality of life," explained Crevier.

Viva! is a celebration of AFWM's work in the community, and a call to supporters to

continue funding its progress in the fight to eradicate HIV/AIDS, as Quinn explained in his welcome in the evening's program. This major fundraising event began as a masquerade ball, but evolved into more of a gala over the years.

"The event had always been so much more than a fundraiser," reflected Crevier. "At its core, it was a celebration of life. Then, a former Trustee and our graphic designer, Todd LeMieux, proposed the name Viva!. It's a name infused with life and hope and boldness."

That infusion of life and energy was prevalent in the atmosphere throughout the evening as attendees shared in the passion of a common cause. Crevier first became involved with the organization as a volunteer at the gala.

"The passion and energy was inspirational and led me to become progressively more involved. Five years later and the spirit of Viva! is still my favorite element of the night."

The gala's seated portion began with speeches by key individuals, including Crevier, Quinn and Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse. The evening's festivities continued with an engaging performance by New York drag legend and comic Hedda Lettuce. Kelsey Flynn, an improvisational comedian from New England, emceed the live auction between Hedda Lettuce's acts. The live auction featured prestigious

See AFWM on page 11

WOW! WOW! WOW!

DO WE HAVE A SEASON FOR YOU @ THE FAC!

The UMASS Fine Arts Center
BRINGING WORLD ARTISTS TO THE VALLEY FOR 37 YEARS!

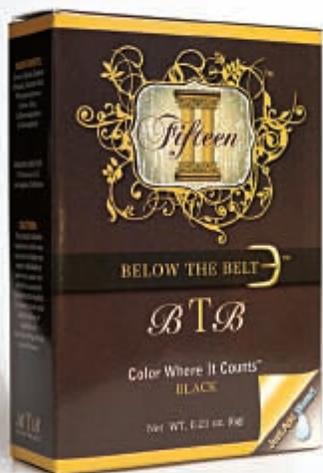
<p>UPRIGHT CITIZENS BRIGADE TOURING COMPANY Fri., Feb. 8, 8 p.m. & 10 p.m., Bowker Auditorium A night of provocative and absurd improv with the creme de la creme of UCB Theatre's NYC and LA talent pool. The Upright Citizens Brigade Touring Company cast is hand-picked from the best improv comedians in the country -- a veritable "next wave" of comedy superstars from the theatre that brought you Amy Poehler, Horatio Sanz, Ed Helms, Rob Corddry and many more. <small>(Advisory: Performances are improvisational. Content is likely to include mature subject matter.)</small> SPONSORED BY: Easthampton Savings Bank, WRSI, & Valley Advocate</p>	<p>ARTS GIVE BACK: Please bring your old cell to donate to Safe Passage. FMI, visit www.safeassage.org.</p> <p>TRACES by LES 7 DOIGTS DE LA MAIN Tues., Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m., Concert Hall Described as "a fix of pure urban adrenaline... mad, pulse-raising magic" by The New York Times, Traces is a singular experience—both poetic and explosive, surprisingly intimate with a powerful undercurrent of raw, unbridled energy. This cabaret-circus offers up astonishing acrobatic maneuvers that hardly seem humanly possible. Set to a fantastic soundtrack ranging from rock 'n' roll to blues to hip hop, this is a thrill-a-minute show that will leave you begging for more. SPONSORED BY: WRSI, The Rainbow Times</p>	<p>MILES DAVIS AND THE BLUE FLAME INCIDENT FEATURING THE METTA QUINTET Tues., March 5, 7:30 p.m., Bowker Auditorium Comprised of some of today's brightest emerging jazz artists, Metta Quintet presents an exciting, live multi-media "informance" celebrating the groundbreaking achievements of the iconic trumpeter and cultural provocateur, Miles Davis. Through the creative integration of performance, captivating video, lighting and sound design, Metta Quintet will engage, inform and enlighten audiences about one of the most compelling artists the jazz world has ever known. SPONSORED BY: Allen Davis Financial Group, UMass Hotel, NEPR, Amherst Cinema</p>	<p>DON'T MISS THESE EXCITING SHOWS:</p> <p>THE JOFFREY BALLET Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m., Concert Hall</p> <p>DAVE SAMUELS & THE CARIBBEAN JAZZ PROJECT w/ guests The New York Latin All-Stars Saturday, April 6</p> <p>IMAGO: ZOOZOO Thursday, April 11</p> <p>HAIR Saturday, April 27, 8 p.m., Concert Hall</p> <p>AND MANY MORE! VISIT FINEARTSCENTER.COM TO FIND OUT MORE.</p>
--	--	--	--

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

Does Your Grey Hair Have Intimacy Problems?



AVOID THOSE EMBARRASSING MOMENTS OF HAVING GREY HAIR BELOW THE BELT.



"BTB - Below the Belt® color gives you the coverage you need & takes the worry out of your intimate encounters."

COLOR WHERE IT COUNTS!®

Purchase Online - BelowTheBeltColor.com



PHOTO: LAUREN WALLESER

Local members of the Boston LGBT community, Boston Pride board members, Français du Monde, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) along with members of the French community were out to support marriage equality in front of the office of the Consulate General of France in downtown Boston.

Boston and French locals say "Oui for Equality"

Rally held to support marriage equality and same-sex adoption in France

By: Lauren Walleser/TRT Reporter

Local LGBT and French organizations recently braved the bitter cold to show their support for equality in France. The French government and parliament are currently working on a bill which would legalize same-sex marriage and allow same-sex couples to adopt children. As a response to protests organizations in France have held in opposition to the pending legislation, supporters of the bill gathered world-wide on January 27 to make their voices loud and clear.

Sylvain Bruni, a board member at Français du Monde and a French citizen, said that while he and other groups held the rally in Boston, similar rallies were held in Paris, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Rome, Madrid, and London.

"We have a lot of French expatriates in the United States as well, a lot of bi-national couples, French American, and this law is going to allow also the recognition of those bi-national couples that got married here, for example in Massachusetts," said Bruni. "Those couples right now have zero recognition in France. If they have kids here, their kids basically have no status in France. They don't exist."

In addition to Français du Monde, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) and Boston Pride's sponsorship of the event, Bruni said that The French Socialist Party, HRC Boston, Queer Women of Color and the Harvard Black Gay Coalition have also shown their support.

"Boston has the history of being at the forefront of that type of fight," he said.

This was a sentiment that was repeated throughout the afternoon Massachusetts has a special role in supporting equality efforts around the world, particularly marriage equality, because of its historic lead in the U.S. on the issue.

"Obviously, being the first state in our country to support gay marriage, it's kind of important for us to stand up for every other state and country across our world to help equality, so we're very proud to support this effort to make sure that our

fellow Frenchmen get what is deserved, full equality in all aspects," said Linda DeMarco, President of the Boston Pride Committee. "This is really for mankind, and the more we can get equality across the world the better mankind will be."

Bruni shared the idea that support for France may be a two-way street which would lead the U.S. towards federal recognition of same-sex marriage.

"The president has said clearly that he supports equality and marriage for all," he said. "Now is the time to act. I know there are lots of things on his plate and on the administration's plate, but the more countries that actually go forward and allow same-sex couples to marry, to adopt, I think the more the pressure is going to be for the United States to follow suit as well."

Rally attendee Daniel Carroll, who worked as an intern for Boston Pride last fall, explained why there may be a rise in the anti-equality movement in European countries like France and Spain.

"I'm not exactly sure of the concentration of religiosity of France or Spain vis-à-vis the United States, but I would guess that just about any place you would go, in any country, even here in progressive Massachusetts, you have resistance to the fight for marriage equality or adoption rights or other aspects attendant to the general LGBT movement," Carroll said.

Carisa Cunningham, GLAD's Director of Public Affairs, said that GLAD was happy to lend their moral support by sponsoring the event, though they have not had any legal involvement with the legislation in France.

"We think that the growth of equality anyplace in the world is important," said Cunningham. "The struggles in some other countries are even more difficult than ours, so we like to show that there's a way forward."

Participants in the rally wore red and pink to increase visibility while holding signs and French flags in front of the office of the Consulate General of France in downtown Boston.



Carnival 2013: Calling all artists to participate

The Provincetown Business Guild (PBG), in preparation for Carnival 2013 themed "Viva Las Vegas," has started their 2nd Annual Carnival Poster Contest.

All artists interested in creating a poster depicting this coming years "Viva Las Vegas," are asked to complete and submit a design by March 1, 2013.

The artwork guidelines are as follows:

- Size 11 X 17
- Must be original artwork
- Signed letter of Artist Approval to use
- Appropriate for all ages

The deadline to submit the artwork is: March 1st, 2013. Mail the artwork to:

Email: Erin@ptown.org, or send it via regular mail to: Provincetown Business Guild, 3 Freeman St, Unit 2, P.O. Box 421, Provincetown, MA 02657.

The winner will receive 2 VIP Passes. Carnival Dates, for 2013 are August 18th-24th & the theme is Viva Las Vegas!

Important Note to artists:

The Provincetown Business Guild (PBG) and the artists share equal rights to the uses of the image and the artist will retain the original work.

No Entries will be returned and become the property of the Provincetown Business Guild (PBG).

AFWM from page 2

items, including a prime table at next year's gala and a private meal prepared by the Log Cabin chef in the bidder's home. There was also a silent auction that featured an impressive spread of items, including an autographed football from Danny Woodhead of the New England Patriots, a Yankee Candle gift set, a Mardi Gras wine basket and tickets to "Traces" at the UMASS Fine Arts Center.

According to Crevier, the event was a great success.

"Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and guests, Viva! raised well over \$50,000 in support of people living with HIV/AIDS in our community. Our live auction brought in more than ever, and our raffle alone raised over \$2,500! We're extremely grateful and proud," she said.

Millie Colon, a Case Manager for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS at the River Valley Counseling Center, enjoyed the spirit of community at the gala.

"I'm glad to be here. It's great to see all these people giving their time, financial support and care to the people I've dedicated myself to," said Colon.

All proceeds from Viva! support AFWM's mission in the community, a mission that Quinn is personally familiar with. A Springfield native, Quinn first discovered AFWM while struggling with the financial stress of HIV.

"Almost immediately, I felt a ray of hope when I found AFWM," recalled Quinn. "I applied for their emergency financial assistance program when I had nowhere else to turn."

While it is not discussed as openly as when it equaled a death sentence, HIV/AIDS continues to spread through communities like an epidemic, warned

Crevier. According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Holyoke and Springfield rank in the top ten cities with the highest reported cases of HIV/AIDS in the state.

AFWM seeks to end the spread of HIV/AIDS through its programming and outreach. "Since its inception in 1993, AFWM exists to complete two objectives in serving our community," stated Quinn. "First, we provide emergency financial assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS. We also provide education to people about community-based services, HIV transmission prevention and social support."

AFWM has made a significant impact in the community in its first 20 years, and is planning to meet the challenge of slowing and stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS through newly expanded educational programming.

"Our peer education group, the AIDS kNOw More Project, is developing exciting new ways to educate the community about prevention and stigma reduction. We are developing monthly educational programming for people who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS," Crevier said about AFWM's plans for the future.

Viva! 2013 successfully raised funds needed to support the future goals of AFWM, and they have "received wonderful feedback from the community and are already putting it to good use in planning next year's gala," said Crevier.

Currently, AFWM is planning its second annual National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Conference, to take place March 9. For more information about the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts and its upcoming events, visit www.aidsfoundationwm.org.

Combat from page 2

Airman 1st Class Krystal Tomlin posted an opinion piece on the Air Force Official Page. In her article she writes, "There were 3,192 reports of sexual assault in the military during fiscal 2011, according to an annual report by the Department of Defense. An estimated 86 percent of sexual assaults go unreported, bringing the total to approximately 19,000 sexual assaults per year." She was writing in response to a question of whether a young woman would be safe during basic training. This past year has seen notable media attention to the realities of sexual violence women in the military experience, but is it possible to put an end to sexual violence within the military when sexualized harm has always been a tool of U.S. military action, from the colonization of this land to

Rather than celebrate equal access to the military it seems a great responsibility falls upon us to challenge this culture of militarism. During Black History Month, many will find themselves pulling out quotes from Martin Luther King Jr., but one they will constantly forget comes from his speech "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence." "I am convinced," he wrote, "that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a 'thing-oriented' society to a 'person-oriented' society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered." Our movements need

Ending sexual violence takes much more than changing reporting policies or placing women on the front lines, there is a culture of sexual exploitation in the building blocks of the colonial structure that makes up the U.S. Department of Defense.

sexual torture in Abu Ghraib? Ending sexual violence takes much more than changing reporting policies or placing women on the front lines, there is a culture of sexual exploitation in the building blocks of the colonial structure that makes up the U.S. Department of Defense.

The continued politics of inclusion and equality functions as an effective distraction from the violence perpetrated in the name of freedom and democracy. The death tolls in Iraq from 2003-2007 reached just over 1 million according to the London based Opinion Research Business. Drones flying over Pakistan, Yemen, Palestine and Afghanistan this past year have killed thousands of people, 3,461 in Pakistan alone. It has gotten to the point that the United Nations announced that it will be making an inquiry into the use of drones and targeted assassinations. The inclusion of women in combat roles is not going to change this culture of destruction, it simply gives liberal validation to the ongoing policies of military expansion.

also shift ourselves from a simple equality-orientation and consider the possibilities of collective liberation. The radical revolution of values did not end with King's ideas in 1967, but are constantly transforming. Simple "equal rights" ignores the complex realities of our identities, our nation and our world. Taking the time to think beyond declared victories for equality makes it impossible to celebrate the inclusion of women in combat without seeing the faces of the countless victims of war; people of all genders, sexualities, abilities in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Palestine, etc.

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

it
could be
partner
abuse

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

617.742.4911 (v)

- bilingual hotline
- emergency shelter
- support group



617.227.4911 (tty)

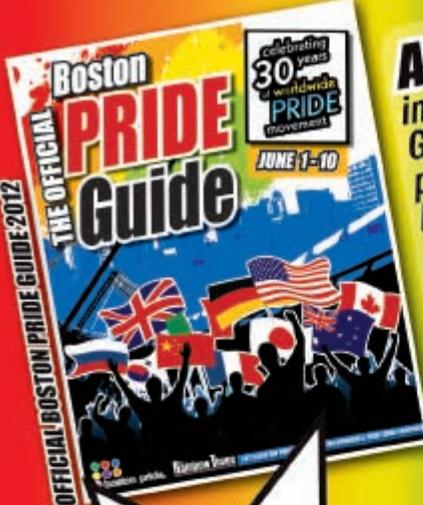
- línea de crisis bilingüe
- refugio de emergencia
- grupo de apoyo

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

puede
ser el
abuso
de
pareja íntima

BOSTON PRIDE GUIDE

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE NEW ENGLAND GUIDE TO BOSTON PRIDE



ADVERTISE
in the only Boston Pride Guide Magazine, produced in its entirety by The Rainbow Times. Reach more than 65K+ readers through the magazine's distribution in The Rainbow Times' New England Circulation. Additionally, the Guide will reach thousands more throughout Pride Week at the largest Pride celebration in New England. We're proud to be producing the Boston Pride Guide 2013!

25% Off
PACKAGED DISCOUNTS
Restrictions apply.

BOSTON PRIDE MAP '13

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE NEW ENGLAND MAP TO BOSTON PRIDE



ADVERTISE
in the only Boston Pride Map, produced in its entirety by The Rainbow Times. This foldable, 11 x 17 pocket-sized, full color, double-sided, glossy map will showcase the parade route, LGBTQ events throughout Pride week, and the advertisers who recognize the importance of targeting the prominent LGBTQ community in New England. Multiple advertising spaces are offered to suit your needs.

CONTACT SALES@THERAINBOWTIMESMASS.COM OR 617.444.9618



East Coast Biker Chicks during the Boston Pride Parade 2012.

PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER/TRT ARCHIVES

East Coast Biker Chicks celebrate 10 years on the road

By: Brook Rosini/TRT Reporter

Ride safe. Ride your own. Ride often. That's the motto of the East Coast Biker Chicks, ECBC, a women's motorcycle club founded ten years ago this month by Lucky Belcamino.

Established in 2003 as an antidote to what Belcamino and her friends saw as masculine-identified, rigid, militant women's motorcycle clubs, the group's foundational values coalesce around an emphasis on safety and awareness, the idea that women no longer have to be content to ride on the back of someone else's bike, and the importance of female camaraderie in motorcycle riding.

The club holds an impressive safety record of zero incidents in their decade of operation, and the women in the group are brought together by their pure unvarnished love of motorcycling. Each woman has her own love story of the moment she met her motorcycle match.

"I sat on a friend of the family's Honda back in 1976, when I was 5," recalls Shel Demerle, National Vice President of Operations. "It was that moment I was hooked."

And although they all agree that riding is fun, they each have a different approach to it.

"It's therapy to me," says Belcamino, Founder and National President of the club.

Demerle describes it slightly differently. "It's the freedom, the rumble, the wind, the badass feeling you get when you ride," she says. "For a minute I feel like someone else."

And Emily Savard, a member since 2004, likens motorcycling as a wake-up call to live life in the present.

"When you're riding you really have to be in the present," she says. "And that's something I learned right away as soon as I got on a bike, and I was ready to live that

way."

The women in the group are as different from one another as the various makes and models of motorcycles on the road.

"We have women from all walks of life. Women from all different backgrounds with all kinds of day jobs, from pharmaceuticals, to a lawyer, a state police officer, a day trader on Wall Street," says Belcamino, describing the group's diversity.

But what they all have in common is a passionate devotion to ECBC, and a fierce loyalty to the woman who started it all.

Demerle states, "I consider each member a close friend. I would do anything I could to help any of them out and I truly hope the members get that sense from me. Lucky has become family. She knows I'd do anything for her and ECBC."

"I'm very loyal to her," agrees Savard. "We all are."

The group has grown in leaps and bounds from the start, with chapters rapidly opening in New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island, Maine, and Pennsylvania. Soon after, a West Coast branch of the group opened up, including chapters in California, Nevada, and Arizona. There's even a chapter in New Orleans.

But although the club has spread across the country like a wildfire on wheels, it doesn't look like the name is going to change. In the early days of the ECBC, before the "What Not to Wear" episode, before Belcamino's life story was published in the book *Biker Chic* of North America (<http://tinyurl.com/d454puq>), before biker-turned-entrepreneur Edward Winterhalder came calling to make a reality series about the club (to watch and buy the pilot episodes online visit <http://tinyurl.com/az9ldx4>), there was just Belcamino,

See Biker Chicks on Page 21

Valentine's Day from page 7



Keri Aulita & Mary Belge, Boston, MA

Keri Aulita and Mary Belge are friends for five years before dating for two and a half years. "We have a great, solid friendship that serves as a foundation to our relationship," they explained.

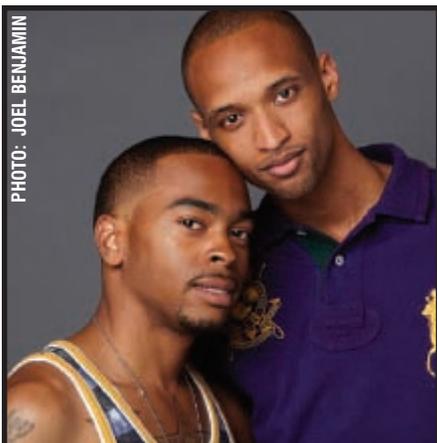
Though they aren't married, they are happy that a president finally agrees that marriage should be an option for everyone.

"The main reason we haven't tied the knot yet is because we can't nail down what we'll call each other. Mary, being a butch lesbian, doesn't want to be a wife. Spouse sounds so unnatural. Husband doesn't fit. Husband, maybe? We'll see what we come up with!" joked Aulita, a long-time employee within LGBT nonprofits. "It's not the *real* reason we're not married yet, but it's an important piece for us LGBT folks to talk about."

In seriousness, they say that they do struggle with the institution of marriage and what it means — the history of it, and the class system it creates, but "we also think that having kids, which we plan on, makes marriage a must."

Even so, not being married, explained Aulita and Belge, "has no effect on how we view each other and how our relationship functions."

Again, the couple mentions that they struggle with the commercialism of Valentine's Day, and say that it "doesn't appeal to us, but heck, we like celebrating us, so it does give us a day to just focus on what we have and how lucky we are." Overall, they say that they are "always humble and grateful for what we have ... in each other, and in life."



Corey Yarbrough & Quincey Roberts, Boston, MA

Corey Yarbrough and Quincey Roberts have been together for almost four years,

but say that marriage is not a priority. "For now, we are both 'married' to helping each other reach our shared and individual dreams, while helping to create the social and political conditions for everyone to embrace marriage if they so choose," said Yarbrough and Roberts, who co-founded an organization together. The couple says that HBGC, the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition, is "affectionately referred to as their 'first-born' and is a constant reminder of their like-minded passion for advancing Black and Latino LGBTQ communities."

They would like to have a low-key and private Valentine's Day, and explained that "since we are both introverts who happen to always be on the go, we look forward to days like Valentine's Day to just relax."



John Verlinden & Oz Mondejar, Boston, MA

John Verlinden and Oz Mondejar are "best friends, as well as spouses," they said. They have been together for almost 28 years, after meeting in Baltimore on March 15, 1985.

They got married in 2004, when it became legal in Massachusetts, for both legal reasons and to be part of a historical moment in time, explained Verlinden. "I remember at the time we thought it was all a little silly and we didn't think it would make much of a difference in our relationship. After all, we'd already been together 19 years," he said. "But, it did make a huge difference. It was great to have our union recognized officially, and it deepened our commitment to each other."

Verlinden and Mondejar say they went to the Brookline Town Hall the first day they were accepting applications for marriage licenses, and recall that it was quite affirming.

"We were in line with a bunch of other committed couples, both men and women, some with children, some older, some younger. The town had a big cake recognizing the importance of this day, and the staff in the Town Clerk's office were so glad to see us."

The pair is not sure what they're doing yet for Valentine's Day, said Verlinden, "but I know we will enjoy each other's company."

*Will you be
"our"
Valentine?*

FENWAY HEALTH

I AM OWNING MY HEALTH.

I AM ONE OF 500.

I AM SEXUALLY ACTIVE AND HIV-NEGATIVE, AND I WANT TO STAY THAT WAY.

Fenway Health is seeking 500 participants for a new research project that may make HIV testing more accessible. Participants will be asked to use a home rapid HIV test. You may be compensated up to \$430 for your participation.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IF YOU:

- Are a man or transgender woman
- Are 18 years of age or older
- Are HIV-negative
- Have sex with men

FENWAY
500

BE ONE OF 500.

For more info, call
617.927.6450 or visit
facebook.com/beONEof500

Photos not of study participants. COM.11.139

Thinking about the transgender acceptance timeline into the future, what will it be like?

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



It's 2013 and just about everyone in the world knows about transgender people. Some may not fully understand who we are, but they do know now that we exist. Five years ago I would guess that less than 5 percent of the world knew about transgender people, let alone understand who we are. What's it going to be like in 5 years? 10 years? 20 years? I can't say for sure, but I believe that most people will be more understanding and accepting of transgender people, though at the same time, there will probably be some people who will still have some resistance to accept and understand us.

Things have changed immensely in the past 5 years. Five years ago transgender people had no rights or protection from discrimination. Currently there are now 16 states plus the District of Columbia that have laws prohibiting discrimination against transgender people. In the 2013 Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality Index, 252 of the Fortune 500 companies offered transgender rights and medical coverage for their employees.

Many churches are now opening up their arms to transgender constituents. Public accommodations, which are any places open to the public, across the land are also beginning to open up to us. More family members seem to be more accepting and understanding. Things are certainly a lot

gen medicine to her, which will put her physical male puberty on hold. Eventually she will need to take estrogen, the female hormone to feminize her body. Further on down the road she may have genital reconstruction surgery. That's all fine and good for then, but what about now as she

affect Jazz with her future in dating.

In the "20/20" piece, Jazz is filmed texting a prospective boyfriend. Jazz, with the advice of her Mom, decides to out herself as transgender to the boy. The boy doesn't understand so Jazz gives him a link to her YouTube video which explains her situation. The boy views the video and texts back that he likes her no matter what. Awesome step for Jazz and the boy, but I wonder if he will openly admit to his friends that he likes her and if he will still want to date her in the future when the time comes. Will he be fearful of how others may view him?

In the next segment, Barbara Walters asks Jazz about her safety, if she has ever encountered anyone who was not nice to her. Jazz told her that she has seen many hurtful and hateful comments on her YouTube video from people who, as Jazz put it, "do not understand." The camera briefly shows a few of the comments. One comment I saw read "Kill it."

Jazz is a brave little girl.

So, as the transgender timeline unfolds, I wonder what will transpire. Eventually I'm sure that transgender people will be completely accepted into society, but until that time comes, unfortunately, I expect some resistance here and there.

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

Many people accept Jazz and love her for who she is, but what about the upcoming exploration of dating and love for her?

better than before but we still have a ways to go.

I was viewing a "20/20" clip from January where Barbara Walters was showing the world the life of a young transgender child named Jazz. This was actually a revisit, as Barbara and "20/20" had done a piece on Jazz 5 years ago. Jazz was 6-years-old then, she is now 11-years-old. Jazz has been living totally as female for the past 5 years, going to school, playing soccer and has a handful of girlfriends. Puberty is beginning to now hit and thoughts of boys are on her mind. Her parents completely support Jazz, and have given their consent to having her doctor administer anti-andro-

finds herself attracted to boys? She will want to date boys in a few years. What will happen?

Yes, the world is changing and many folks now are accepting of transgender people. Many people accept Jazz and love her for who she is, but what about the upcoming exploration of dating and love for her? As a transgender woman, I personally know that there are many people who would love to be with a transgender person, but they are held back by the fear of how others would view them. As a result many, people will not openly date or openly live with transgender people. It's mostly all hush-hush. I wonder how this will

A manifesto: Being angry, not losing our temper and building the world we want to see

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



gender, my sexuality.

Angry that I, and those like me, my sisters and brothers, zisters and others, are not yet free to simply live our lives. Love who we will. Marry, fight and f#\$k who we choose. Wear the clothes we are comfortable in. Be the gender we know to be right.

If we are wrong about any of those things, to have the freedom to pick ourselves up, try again and reinvent ourselves until we do get it right. To be the judge of what that "right" is.

Isn't that the American Dream?

I like to joke that basically what I do for a living is answer all those crazy questions people have about trans people while trying not to lose my temper.

This is the 50th "Ask A Transwoman" column I've written here in *The Rainbow Times*. At a thousand words a column, more before my editor wisely decided it would be best if I didn't attempt the Great Transgender Novel in every issue, that's a couple miles of column inches dedicated to my particular perspective on being Trans (and Queer and Kinky and ...).

When I tell people in social situations that I write a column about transgender people and issues, I almost always get one of two questions. "What's the most common question you get?" and, "What's the worst question you've ever gotten?"

The answer to the first is pretty simple. Though you won't find any columns written in answer to it, any regular reader probably knows my answer already: No, I have not had "the surgery" and I still haven't decided if I will. Heck, I haven't even decided if I'll decide!

The second question though, that's always the hard one. First of all, my "questions" come from all over the place. To keep things interesting and diverse, I get a

Now, as I mentioned earlier, half the trick of this columnist gig is simply not losing my temper. The thing is, I know there's some pretty awful questions and attitudes out there, but I want you to ask them of me. If nobody answers them, is willing to clear away the misconceptions, the misguided assumptions, and deal directly with the reality of simple human curiosity, then we will never have mutual understanding. We cannot find common ground. Fear and igno-

This is the 50th "Ask A Transwoman" column I've written here in The Rainbow Times. At a thousand words a column, more before my editor wisely decided it would be best if I didn't attempt the Great Transgender Novel in every issue.

lot of them from my sprawling social media reach. I get some from people who find my email address, some through this paper, some from my glorious friends who think too much and some from strangers on the street.

The simple answer is there is no single question which rises to the top as the most offensive. The complicated answer though, is that it is not a single question, but an attitude toward trans people generally that I have found to be the most offensive.

Often, throughout the life of this column, I have found myself answering a lot of questions from folks who seem somehow angry about transpeople. Somehow offended at our very existence. Feel we are traitors, frauds even.

rance will rule the day.

Still though, the idea that I have to defend the very existence of my people, that we must be explained and justified, sometimes sticks in my throat. That I must constantly remind people that transmen, transwomen, genderqueer, gender variant and intersex people are ... People. That is what keeps me awake nights.

And it is why I write. Why I speak, teach and march.

I don't want you to think this is just about anger though. As I said at the beginning, I Love You. All of you. I mean that.

Anger has its place, it wakes us up and gets us out into the streets. It will turn a crowd that just can't take it anymore into a Movement. It gets things done.

But Love, and it's equally important, but lower profile cousins, *camaraderie*, *respect* and *empathy*, are what hold a movement together. They are what is rebuilt when the walls of prejudice, hate and ignorance have been torn down.

So, in celebration of the time we have spent together here in these words, and in preparation for the words as yet unwritten, here is what I would like you to do.

Be Angry. Be angry that you ever have to justify who you are, or who you love, to anyone. Be angry that you are made to live your life in fear and guilt, while the world around you often barely notices there might be a problem. And let that anger drive you to action. Stand up and be proud, be out! Tell them you aren't going to hide anymore, you will not sit quietly.

But be sure to temper that anger with love. We who are marginalized and abused are not immune to such behavior ourselves. We must remember to extend our love and our community to protect and to nurture those we would push aside ourselves.

We must guard against letting our anger poison our family.

But most of all, what I would like you to do is be you. Do not apologize for who you are. Feel no guilt. Despite the messages the world may give you, there is nothing wrong with your gender. Nothing bad about your sexuality.

So here's to 50 more columns! Here's to the future we will build together, making the world we want to see.

And by all means, keep those questions coming. After all, answering them is what I'm here to do. Slainte Chugat!

*Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009. Send your questions about trans issues to her at: loleleerisis@gmail.com.

Screen Queen: For a Good Time, Call; Keep the Lights On; Killer Joe; Game Change;

For a Good Time, Call ...

For a Good Time, Call ... keeps the dirty-girl trend going with a sweet/sexy story of two college foes – they hate each other because of a urine spill oopsy – who bond once they launch a phone-sex operation. Justin Long is their gay bestie who’s responsible for their loathed reunion, while Kevin Smith and Seth Rogen make cameos as turned-on callers. The cheeky-good ’80s throwback, though, is all about Lauren and Katie (Lauren Miller and scene-stealing phenom Ari Graynor) and how they get over their hang-ups, and it’s done with more charm and faux lesbianism than you’d expect from a filthy flick about phone wanking. Special features include an amusing screw-off commentary with Miller, Graynor and out director Jamie Travis examining very important elements of filmmaking (i.e. Ari’s “lesbian outfit” and female pee positions). Check out the deleted scenes, too, for a fun dildo fight.



“Gay film” doesn’t have to be the routine coming-out drama or inflated vanity project, as 2011’s *Weekend* demonstrated with its understated romance about a bitter-sweet gay fling. Now we have further proof that queer cinema can overcome such triteness: *Keep the Lights On*, a four-time Independent Spirit Awards nominee, is an explicit and sensitive exploration of love – and the burdens that drive us out of love – inspired by director Ira Sachs’ own past relationship with literary agent Bill Clegg. Sachs’ very personal story is conveyed through long-term boyfriends Erik (Thure Lindhardt) and Paul (Zachary Booth), a crack addict who up and leaves his partner without any mention of his whereabouts. Years of this flightiness, and a particularly tragic scene in which a meth-influenced Paul screws a stranger in front of the partner he seems to have forgotten about, unravels with rawness and devastating reality. That authenticity is palpable in large part because of Lindhardt and Booth’s subtly powerful performances. Extras are abundant: a making of, Sachs commentary,



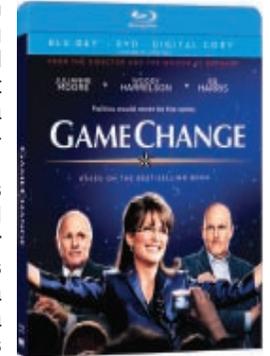
audition clips and some sexy deleted scenes.

Killer Joe

One of the most under-recognized films of last year involved Gina Gershon’s bush, sexually abused fried chicken and a plot so unbelievably bizarre it makes *A Clockwork Orange* look like a Disney flick. Matthew McConaughey as the electrifyingly creepy Joe, a detective who moonlights as a hit man, leads an ensemble of unhinged performances in this hardcore stage-to-screen dark comedy from William Friedkin (director of Al Pacino’s gay thriller “*Cruising*”). Joe’s latest kill involves murdering a woman so her deadbeat family can inherit the life insurance to pay off drug debt. Things go wrong. People die gruesome deaths. McConaughey shows more skin than in *Magic Mike*. It all comes to an absurdly crazy head so disturbing that if any film deserves its NC-17 rating, it’s this one. Aside from the film itself, the other real thrill here is hearing Friedkin’s insight and



rambles during the commentary. **Game Change**
No wonder Sarah Palin didn’t approve of Julianne Moore’s uncanny take of the Alaska governor in HBO’s drama *Game Change*: as if Palin hadn’t already made herself look bad, Moore’s portrayal takes bad to a whole new level with diva tantrums, cattiness and an embarrassing level of political stupidity. But this isn’t a Tina Fey impression; Moore, who deserves every award she’s won for this role, taps into Palin as a human, not a cartoon. This is Moore’s movie, but Ed Harris and Woody Harrelson both deliver fine performances as McCain and his strategist Steve Schmidt, respectively. Sarah Paulson, though, is also quite a revelation. Interview footage with Anderson Cooper and Katie Couric is cut into this political soap opera, but it’s really the backstage bits that reveal, much to our amusement, why the McCain campaign was a failure. Two short featurettes – one focused on the book, the other a presidential how-to – are included.



Keep the Lights On

LET’S TALK ABOUT YOUR SEX LIFE.



FENWAY HEALTH OFFERS FREE 2-SESSION SEXUAL HEALTH COUNSELING FOR GAY & BISEXUAL MEN.

Talk about sex, relationships, and how to take care of yourself on your sexual adventures.

Talk to your counselor about sexual health, avoiding risk, and self-empowerment; and get a rapid HIV test if you like. About a week later, check in about how things are going.

It’s free and confidential! Call 617.267.0159 to find out more and to see if you qualify.

HELP US EVALUATE THIS PROGRAM!
Those who take part in sexual health counseling may be eligible to participate in an evaluation, which involves completing 3 short surveys over the course of 6 months.

FENWAY SIXTEEN

16 Haviland Street, Boston MA TEL 617.267.0159
WEB fenwayhealth.org/16evaluation

Dave Franco talks new coming-of-age film, sex appeal & fearlessness about sexuality

By: Chris Azzopardi*/Special for TRT

James Franco isn't the only one fearlessly exploring homosexuality in his career. His own brother, Dave, is too. With himself, even.

The 27-year-old has attracted a big gay fan base ever since he starred in the 2007 indie *After Sex*, the one where Mila Kunis was a lesbian, and put Channing Tatum in his place after a homophobic mix-up in last year's *21 Jump Street*. But it's Dave's viral Funny or Die videos, where he's had sex with himself and also told actor Chris "McLovin" Mintz-Plasse "I wanna strip you down" (and other homoerotic things), that have really made the gays smitten.

Now the heartthrob is fighting zombies in the film adaptation of the best-selling book *Warm Bodies*, also starring Nicholas Hoult of *A Single Man*. In his first gay press interview, we picked Dave's brain on the outsider theme of his new flick, whether he plans to work on a gay project with James and how his sexually explicit videos are in no way baiting the boys who love them.

Q. Under what conditions could you fall in love with a zombie?

A. I don't think the physical appearance is getting in the way for me. (Laughs) As long as they were a good person in the past life, and there's just some kind of sweetness behind those eyes, I'm in. I don't need much else.

Q. Do you think there's some subtext in the movie's theme about love being boundless and knowing no sex or race – even life or death – that you think your gay fans might appreciate or relate to?

A. Definitely. If you take the zombie element out of the movie, it is still this coming-of-age movie about this outsider who is trying to find himself and eventually does through love. It does speak to the fact that it doesn't matter what your race or your sexual orientation is. Sometimes you can't explain a connection that works.

Q. When were you first aware you had a gay following?

A. My friend I grew up with started calling me out and saying, "Dude, I can't even imagine what people who don't know you think of you." It's not like I'm doing these videos because I'm trying to shock or confuse people. I'm generally drawn toward material that's just different and unique and is gonna maybe surprise peo-

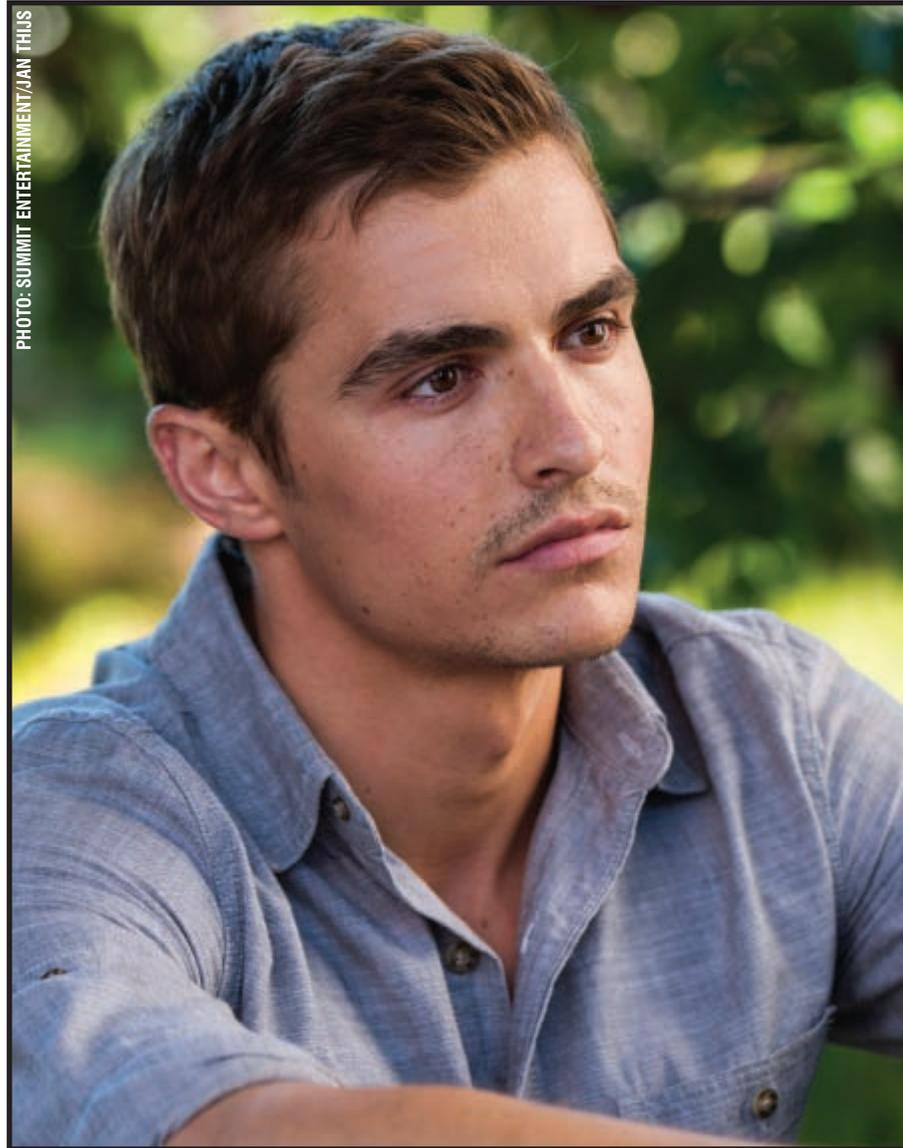


PHOTO: SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT/IAN THUIS

Dave Franco fights zombies in *Warm Bodies*, which just opened up in theaters.

ple a bit. So I was first aware that there was maybe some awareness of me from the gay community when all my friends were telling me there's all this stuff online and if you Google my name, the first thing that comes up is "Dave Franco Gay." (Laughs)

Q. So right around the time you f#\$@&d yourself?

A. (Laughs) That didn't help things.

Q. Whether you're having sex with yourself in "Go F#\$k Yourself" or talking dirty to Chris in "You're So Hot," are these videos your way of showing your acknowledgement and support for the gay community?

A. Yeah, sure – definitely! I have gay friends and of course I'm comfortable enough with my sexuality that I'm open to doing videos like that. I know a huge audience is going to think that I am gay. I'm just trying to blur the lines,

I guess. I'm not consciously trying to do that, but it's not something I think about. Like with my friends who are gay, it's not like that's the first thing I associate with them. They're just another friend, and they just happen to like guys.

Q. Why are all the videos so gay?

A. There are a lot of very overtly gay things in these videos, but for some reason while I was making them, or while I was even initially thinking of the ideas, I swear to god I didn't think, "OK, we're gonna make another gay video that's gonna shock people." The way "You're So Hot" came about: I worked with Chris on a movie called *Fright Night* and in between takes we would play this game. It was a game that he and his buddies played growing up and it just made me laugh my ass off, so when the movie was done and we were back in L.A. I thought to myself, "This would make a really funny short."

Q. Being comfortable with your sexuality seems to be something that runs in the Franco family. Obviously your brother also has no qualms with his sexuality. But whereas you explore it with humor, James has more of a political and sexual agenda. Do you see any overlap in the way you two explore ho-

mosexuality?

A. That's a good question. The main overlap is just how hard we dive into it. There's nothing subtle, I guess, about how we embrace gay culture – and there basically are no boundaries. We both push the envelope.

I don't know why a lot of what we create deals with that subject matter. I get asked that all the time, and I'm not consciously thinking to myself, "I'm gonna make these sexually explicit gay videos." It just comes through us for some reason.

Q. How do you react to the gay community's excitement over you and your videos?

A. I gotta embrace it, right? I love it. At this point, I'm so happy that *anyone* is even aware of me or is a fan of me. It's still something that I don't think I'll ever get used to. From just what I've heard and what I've observed, the gay community, when they revolve toward someone or something or a movie, they come full force and they tell everyone about it. Tell me if I'm wrong.

Q. No, word spreads fast in the gay community if a Franco brother is naked.

A. Exactly. So I totally embrace it.

Q. With your upcoming role in *Now You See Me* alongside some heavy hitters, your career is really taking off. Are you ready for a lead role? Any idea what you might want that to be?

A. I'm definitely ready for a lead role. My criteria for picking a project these days is just wanting to work with filmmakers I admire. I do want to make my own films one day. I've been writing and producing and editing all these Funny or Die videos, and it's kind of been practice on a much smaller scale. I want to work with guys like Jonathan Levine, who directed *Warm Bodies* and who I've admired for years. I just wanna be on set with these guys and see the process and see how they work with actors regardless of how big or small my role. So, honestly, I would be an extra in all of Paul Thomas Anderson's movies. I just wanna be around these guys.

Q. The Funny or Die videos really helped launch your career, as did the "Acting with James Franco" skits. Other than *Broken Tower*, do you have plans to work on any projects with James that might have a gay sensibility?

A. I love my brother and I respect him so much, but in general, I have been trying to distance myself from him just in terms of work, because I need to kind of carve my own path at this point. I don't want to be referred to as "James Franco's little brother" for the rest of my life. So it's hard sometimes, because he is creating so many of his own projects and he asks me to be a part of them and I would love to – but at this point, I just need to distance myself from him work-wise.

Down the line, who knows, man. We do work very well together and our sensibilities are very similar, obviously. We might push the envelope almost too far if we combine our heads. I'm open to the idea. If I establish myself a little bit more, and

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

La pregunta que nos debemos hacer: ¿existimos o vivimos?

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa* / Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Estas dos palabras significan algo diferente. Existir es ir a través de la vida sin pasión o energía. Vivir, vives es poder ir a través de la vida con pasión y energía. La monotonía de cada día puede llevar a una persona en seguirla y sólo existir. Haciendo trabajo comunitario y de activismo social por tanto tiempo, a veces lleva a la persona a existir y no a vivir.

A finales del 2012, yo estaba sintiéndome que sólo existía y mi pasión por activismo y trabajo comunitario estaba desapareciéndose de mi panorama y vida. En enero tuve la oportunidad de ir a la conferencia de Creando El Cambio, organizada por la Organización NGLTF (sus siglas en inglés). Durante esta conferencia pude presentar mi trabajo con la comunidad LGBT en Cuba e ir a varios seminarios. La energía palpada durante

esta conferencia fue increíble. Más de 3,000 participantes de toda la nación y el mundo representando facetas y trabajos de nuestra comunidad LGBT. Durante la conferencia reconecté con líderes LGBT, Latinos, y aliados/as que hacía tiempo no veía y conocí a tantos/as otros/as. El poder hablar con líderes como Wilson Cruz, Rea Carey, José Antonio Vargas, Lisbeth, Jorge, Noris, Marcia, Leti G., David, Monica y tantos/as otros/as que representan la diáspora Latina y LGBT fue increíble. Esto me dio energías para continuar mi trabajo. No sólo me dio energías sino que me recordó porque siempre digo que yo

vivo mi vida en su totalidad. Me recordó de la importancia de hacer trabajo comunitario – en cualquier nivel. Me enseñó que no estoy sólo y que, al igual que otros/as vivo mi vida.

Aunque a finales del 2012 me sentía que sólo existía, ahora puedo decir que vivo y que entiendo (de nuevo) que en la unión está la fuerza y que en todos/as nosotros/as está la semilla que puede germinar, que nos provee la energía y nos enseña la importancia de

importancia de vivir y no sólo existir. Debemos de recordar que el rojo no sólo significa el día del amor y San Valentín sino otras cosas más como la sangre – la energía de nuestros cuerpos – pasión, energía, y celebración. Vamos a aprender durante este mes como vivir, como saborear la vida y vivirla a plenitud. Vamos a reconectar con cosas y personas que nos recuerden la importancia de vivir y no sólo existir.

¡Les deseo a todos/as mucho amor, energía, pasión, y todo lo mejor durante este mes y a través del 2013! Espero que todos/as tengan la oportunidad de aprender de la importancia de vivir y no sólo existir. Les deseo vida a todos/as un feliz mes de Febrero! Y como dijo el filósofo francés Jean Jacques Rousseau: "El hombre (o mujer) que más ha vivido no es aquel que más años ha cumplido, sino aquel que más ha experimentado y vivido la vida".

* Columna escrita por Wilfred W. Labiosa, activista y psicólogo; miembro de Unid@s: La Organización Nacional LGBT Latina y de Acceso: Organización Humanitaria entre Cuba y E.U.

Y como dijo el filósofo francés Jean Jacques Rousseau: "El hombre (o mujer) que más ha vivido no es aquel que más años ha cumplido, sino aquel que más ha experimentado y vivido la vida".

vivir.

Espero que durante este mes de febrero que se conoce por el color rojo, San Valentín, el amor, y la amistad, te recuerdes de vivir. Durante este mes, recordemos la

Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: La Comunidad Transgénero y la Policía

Por: Dru Levasseur/Abogado de Derechos Transgéneros, Lambda Legal



Querido Lambda Legal: P: Soy una mujer transgénero y a veces cuando salgo con mis amigos, la policía se acerca y me acosan, asumiendo que soy una prostituta. ¿Qué debo hacer?

R: Lo primero que debes hacer es conseguir toda la información posible acerca del policía implicada: el número de placa del policía, el número de zona, el nombre, su descripción, y el lugar y la hora de lo ocurrido. La policía tiene la obligación de darte su número de placa de policía y su nombre—pero asegúrate que no te estés arriesgando al tratar de coleccionar esta información. Si la policía quiere interrogarte, pregunta si estás en la libertad de irte. Si te dice que sí, retírate con calma.

Si eres acosada por la policía, es una buena idea llamar a una organización que trabaja en asuntos de violencia policiaca e institucional como el "Anti-Violence Project" (AVP, por sus siglas en inglés) (www.avp.org ó 212-714-1141) de la ciudad de Nueva York u otro grupo bajo la Coalición Nacional de Proyectos Contra la Violencia (www.ncavp.org, 212-714-1184, o info@ncavp.org). Estos grupos proveen no sólo asesoramiento jurídico sino te apoyan con otras cosas.

También llama a la Comisión Evaluadora de Quejas Civiles (Civilian Complaint Review Board, en inglés) de la policía o el Departamento de Asunto Internos (Internal Affairs Bureau, en inglés). Es muy importante presentar una denuncia para construir una medida exacta del problema. El acoso por la policía y los ataques violentos contra personas transgénero son muy comunes.

Según la Encuesta Nacional sobre la Discriminación de Transgéneros (ENDT),

22 por ciento de las personas que han interactuado con la policía han reportado ser acosadas por ellos. El porcentaje es mucho más alto en personas transgénero Afro-Americanos o Latinos (6,450 personas transgénero y personas no sin conformidad a estereotipos de género completaron la encuesta en el 2011). De ellos, casi la mitad informaron que se sintieron incómodos al buscar ayuda de la policía.

Hay demandas legales pendientes en varias ciudades en respuesta a incidentes de registros al desnudo a manos de la policía, personas manoseadas, detenciones ilegales y acciones como el encadenar a personas transgéneros en barandillas antes de colocarlas en celdas. Mientras tanto, los defensores han estado

trabajando con la policía para aplicar reglas que requieran el trato respetuoso de las personas transgénero cuando estén patrullando o en custodia. Estos esfuerzos han resultado en mejores políticas en San Francisco, Portland, Los Angeles, la Ciudad de Nueva York y Washington, DC.

En abril de 2012, la policía de Los Angeles emitió una nueva política en el trato de presos transgénero para "prevenir discriminación y conflicto". Entre las pautas está esta instrucción: "Tratar a las personas transgénero de una manera respetuosa a la expresión del género del individuo, que incluye llamarlos por su nombre preferido

y utilizar pronombres de género respetuosos a la identidad y la expresión de género del individuo".

Para más información puedes bajar nuestra publicación, "Fighting Anti-trans Violence" en <http://tinyurl.com/bmflvhu>. Para información sobre el trabajo de Lambda Legal con derechos transgénero, visita a <http://tinyurl.com/alv4ayu>. Si crees que has sido discriminado/a basado en tu orientación sexual, identidad de género o estatus de VIH, por favor llama a nuestra línea de ayuda al 1-866-542-8336 o visita <http://tinyurl.com/8pda9c8>. Lee en inglés en: <http://tinyurl.com/trtlevasseur>.

¡Anúnciate en la Guía de Orgullo de Boston/Boston Pride

•••••

The Rainbow Times fue el Patrocinador Oficial de Boston Pride, Latino Pride, NAGLY, HBGC, y otros eventos a través de todo el año 2012.

¡Empieza temprano y reserva tu anuncio para la Guía de Boston Pride!

•••••

617-444-9618

caspar

hope for today

CASPAR, proudly serving the LGBT community!

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

CAMBRIDGE AND SOMERVILLE PROGRAM FOR ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG REHABILITATION

www.casparinc.org • 617-628-3850

James Franco, Ira Sachs, Sean Hayes, AbFab, more

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



James Franco is one of the beautiful people, but you knew that

Let's just go ahead and make the man an honorary gay, shall we? Because at

this point in his career, as a movie star/student/artist/culture-creator, James Franco is more than just gay-friendly or gay-adjacent, he's gay-absorbed. A heterosexual who's chosen queer culture as a topic to explore and explore and explore from as many angles as possible, including the much-buzzed about Sundance Film Festival entry *Interior. Leather Bar* (which imagined itself as a documentary about the mythical missing 40 minutes from the film *Cruising*), Franco will now take on *The Beautiful People*, a biopic of Jay Sebring, a straight man in a stereotypically gay profession. You might not know his name but Sebring was well known in Hollywood in the 1960s as the playboy hairdresser to the stars. He had an affair with *Valley of The Dolls* star Sharon Tate and, along with her, was tragically murdered by the Manson Family. In other words, his life has needs-to-be-a-movie written all over it. Franco will direct and star in the project, but there's no other word on casting or a schedule, so this one will most likely show up in 2014 or later.

For Ira Sachs, *Love Is Strange*

If you pay attention to this sort of thing, you'll know that filmmaker Ira Sachs was the breakout gay indie filmmaker of 2012 thanks to his harrowing drug drama *Keep The Lights On*, an autobiographical story of a gay couple in New York caught in the spiral of addiction. Striking while the iron is hot, Sachs has already lined up his next feature, another indie called *Love Is Strange* that is – surprise – about another gay couple (write what you know, they say). This one will star Michael Gambon (Dumbledore, gay after the fact in the



PHOTO: JEAN-CHRISTOPHE HUSSON

A screenshot from Ira Sachs' *Keep the Lights On*.

Harry Potter franchise) and Alfred Molina (whose own career took off in the late '80s playing Joe Orton's lover in the British drama *Prick Up Your Ears*) as a longtime gay couple in New York experiencing the ups and downs of a romance that's lasted a lifetime. After their wedding, the couple finds themselves forced to be apart (for unexplained reasons at the moment), and they experience all the difficulty that comes with separation. Shooting is scheduled for this summer, so expect a highly anticipated 2014 release.

Sean Hayes will not be told which sexual orientation to play

After the *Promises, Promises* flap (in which a gay *Newsweek* reporter took issue with Sean Hayes playing a heterosexual character in a Broadway musical –

yes, really) it was only a matter of time before Hayes decided it was time to prove his non-gay-acting talents on a bigger stage. And after starring in last year's TV pilot about gay parents, one that didn't get picked up, the *Will & Grace* star is back with another untitled pilot from *Better Off Ted* creator Victor Fresco. This time he plays a single father (of no defined sexual orientation, but let's assume the guy is straight, why not?) raising a 14-year-old daughter and dealing with a problematic boss at work. If it works, it'll be one more brick out of the wall of resistance to openly gay actors crossing that boundary. So let's all hope this one gets picked up. Neil Patrick Harris can't carry this kind of sitcom burden all by himself.

fans and, to this day, refuses to go quietly into that good night. No, it's not *Sex and the City*, it's *Absolutely Fabulous*. And after one-off specials and mini-seasons, dormancy and resurrection, brilliantly funny periods and stretches where you wondered why they keep beating this dead horse only to rebound back into funny again, here comes a film. That's right, an *AbFab* movie. Will it be theatrically released or will it stick to the familiarity of television? Nobody's talking just yet, but Joanna Lumley has confirmed that it is, indeed, in the planning stages; that she's fully on board to step back into Patsy's sleek, drunken, vicious couture; that Jennifer Saunders is writing the script; and that she hears it's also a musical (that last bit might just be wild conjecture and probably is). But whatever's true, whatever it turns out to be, whenever it sees the light of day, we're in. We're always in. We always will be in. Until these two characters are a hundred. Or more.

AbFab, Part Eleventy

A touchstone comedy series of the 1990s, one that permeated all of gay culture, won legions of

* Romeo San Vicente is still absolutely fabulous himself. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.



Corporate Chaplaincy provides personalized, confidential services for LGBTQ people of faith, who are spiritually hungry or healing from the abuse of organized religion.

Corporate Chaplaincy offers spiritual health and wellness services to senior executives and their organizations in an interfaith, non-denominational way with a particular sensitivity to LGBTQ faith.

Paul Peter Jesep, JD, MPS, MA
518-496-2096 — www.corporatechaplaincy.biz

Pon Tu Anuncio en el Orgullo de Boston 2012 con TRT!

Patrocinador Oficial del Orgullo de Boston (Boston Pride), otra vez en 2012.

617-444-9618

<p>The Highlands Inn A Lesbian Paradise</p>	<p>"One of the most romantic lesbian destinations on the planet." -Planet Out</p> <p>www.highlandinn-nh.com 1-877-LES-B-INN Bethlehem, New Hampshire</p>
--	---

Thinking Out Loud: Is The Constitution Passé? Are we over it?

By: Abby Dees*/Special for TRT



Despite my radical spirit, my committed feminism and deep distrust of old establishments, after I went to law school I became a fawning, dorky fan of the U.S. Constitution. It's normal for lawyers to do this. We see in the Constitution all this promise of equality and jus-

tempt to be enlightened, to be better. The framers understood that it was inherently flawed and subject to the prejudices of the times. Thomas Jefferson probably embodied this contradiction as much as any of the founding fathers: he was a seeker of truth and also slave owner. I make no excuses for this, but he was at least somewhat aware of his failings. He wrote, "I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the

My point is, the Constitution isn't a crumbling piece of parchment; it is, like lawyers are fond of saying, a "living document." In that spirit, LGBT rights are poised to be the next logical step in its - and our - growth. I'm all for deleting the Electoral College text, and who cares about the "framers' intent" if it can't guide us today.

tice, even though we know all too well what a problematic document it is, and how very bloody its failings have been. We will fight for it like rabid dogs.

I was, therefore, gobsmacked to hear esteemed constitutional law professor Michael Seidman calling it "an ancient and outdated document" on CBS Sunday Morning last week. I almost threw my cereal at the TV. I refrained, and instead, continued to watch while suppressing a twitch. OK, he made some sense. His question was why are we so beholden to a bunch of dead guys?

Come to think of it, is there really a good reason for the Electoral College or a two-year term for members of the House other than, "because the it's in the Constitution"? All those provisions have done for us is Bush II and unending campaign robocalls. Even beyond its pragmatic failings, Seidman points to the gun-control debate to illustrate our misguided obsession with what people thought 200 years ago. Instead of discussing the role guns should play in our society today, we get bogged down on what the framers meant in 1790. One's opinion on the matter then becomes needlessly elevated to a litmus test about who's most patriotic, all because of the 2nd Amendment, written back when guns coughed out a lead gumball. At this point, forget rational debate.

I can't really argue with him, but I'm not willing to concede so quickly, especially since this year promises to be a turning point in LGBT rights. There's no doubt that the Constitution got many things profoundly wrong - for example, the notorious provision that counted slaves as three-fifths a person, or the fact that only rich white men got to vote. Whoops.

I also see in it, though, a good faith at-

tempt to be enlightened, to be better. The framers understood that it was inherently flawed and subject to the prejudices of the times. Thomas Jefferson probably embodied this contradiction as much as any of the founding fathers: he was a seeker of truth and also slave owner. I make no excuses for this, but he was at least somewhat aware of his failings. He wrote, "I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the

progress of the human mind...We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors." There is nowhere else in our legal canon such a document that allows for improvement to our collective wisdom or marks so well where we've been. The 3/5ths provision still exists in the text of the constitution, but it has been superseded by the extraordinary historical moment of the 14th Amendment (1866), recognizing the equality of all American citizens. And we've bumped along toward full equality for women, despite the failure of the ERA. The Supreme Court, as interpreter of our Constitution, has enshrined our biases, and then at other times, pushed us well out of our national comfort zone. In recent history, we only need look at the shameful Korematsu case of 1944 in which the internment of Japanese-Americans was held to be lawful. Then, just ten years later, the Court declared segregation on the basis of race to be unlawful in Brown v. Board of Education.

My point is, the Constitution isn't a crumbling piece of parchment; it is, like lawyers are fond of saying, a "living document." In that spirit, LGBT rights are poised to be the next logical step in its - and our - growth. I'm all for deleting the Electoral College text, and who cares about the "framers' intent" if it can't guide us today. But I still have faith in the Constitution's unique power to urge us forward. Absent a better alternative, I'll keep it.

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

Creep of the Week: Pastor Terry Jones; hypocristian spews hate at Obama

By: D'Anne Witkowski*/Special for TRT

CREEP NEWS

Hey are you pissed that President Obama has been all nice-nice with the gays lately? Then you should totally set him on fire. Or at least a life-size Obama doll strung up on a gallows on the front lawn of your church with an upside down American flag flying in the background. Because that's what Jesus would have done.

And that's what Pastor Terry Jones did to show everyone that he was not pleased with all this gay lovin' the President was lavishing on the queers. You may recognize Jones' name because he's the asshole that burned the Quran to show those Muslims who's boss.

"In times of universal deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act," says Jones in a YouTube video of the effigy burning. Jones is decked out in a black leather jacket and mirror sunglasses while standing in front of a trailer with "National Burn

ness."

Rah rah rah!

As you know, if it's not on YouTube it didn't happen. So thankfully there's a heavily edited video of the burning you can watch with your own eyes if you must.

"Do you know what bestiality is?" Jones asks the crowd (several people say no). "Sex with animals. "He," Jones said pointing to the Obama doll, "he said it was okay." People in the crowd understandably react in disgust and anger at "learning" that Obama is totally cool with animal f#\$@ing.

"And people wonder why we're so upset," Jones says as he takes a gun out of his jeans pocket in what I suspect was supposed to be a cool move but the gun gets caught and he has to tug a separate time to free it. Setting the gun on the lectern in front of him he says, "And people wonder why we're mad." He puts the gun back in his pocket. "People wonder why we call for a revolution. Sex with animals. Our president says it's okay our senate says it's okay. And we do nothing."

"Do you know what bestiality is?" Jones asks the crowd (several people say no). "Sex with animals. "He," Jones said pointing to the Obama doll, "he said it was okay." People in the crowd understandably react in disgust and anger at "learning" that Obama is totally cool with animal f#\$&ing.

Effigy of Obama Day" written in red on it. Next to the trailer is a giant tombstone that reads "Obama Dead" sitting on a pile of dirt.

On Jones' website he writes, "President Hussein Obama is a disgrace to this nation. He is an illegal president, the poster child for abortion, a frontrunner of the homosexual movement, a destroyer of the U.S. Constitution, and the great friend of Islamic terrorist governments."

Did you know all of this? I did not know all of this. Jones is what you might call an information man. Always schooling. I certainly did not know Obama was the "frontrunner of the homosexual movement." I'm not even sure what that means. But if Terry Jones said it, why it's as good as God's word. If God were a hateful man with a handlebar mustache.

"On Saturday, January 19th, 2012, we burned an effigy of Obama as a public expression of our disgust for his immoral, destructive, and deceptive leadership," Jones announced proudly on his website. "It is time for a new American revolution. Let us organize, unite, and hit the streets in order to bring this nation back to great-

Now I do not remember when the President and the Senate of the United States of America passed the pro-animal sexing act. My guess is that it's a provision buried in some kind of appropriations bill. Sneaky bastards.

An African-American man, identified in the YouTube video as, no s#!t, "Michael the Black Man," addresses the crowd next surrounded by seven other African-American men. "You see we have an effigy of Obama and one of Mr. Clinton. President Clinton," MBM says. "The reason why he's up there with Obama is because he deserves to be burned in hell, too."

Oh, thank you MBM for explaining that. Because I was having trouble wrapping my brain around why Clinton was being burned on National Burn Effigy of Obama Day (which, I should add, is not a federal holiday). Personally I think Clinton deserves his own day, but hey, I didn't organize this event.

**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.*

BOSTON PRIDE 2013 ... ADVERTISE!

Ocean State making waves toward New England marriage equality, tide is turning

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

RHODE ISLAND NEWS

Last month, the Rhode Island House of Representatives approved a marriage equality bill with a vote of 51-19. This bill will now move forward to the Senate, although a date has yet to be set. This is the closest that RI has ever gotten toward same-sex marriage, having had the legislation brought to the attention of the General Assembly every year since 1997.

Over 100 people showed up to the House galleries for the Thursday afternoon vote, reported *The Providence Journal*. The final tally took place after over an hour of discussion on the House floor. Five representatives did not participate in this vote for varying reasons, from lack of attendance to illness: Spencer Dickinson, Deborah Fellela, Brian Kennedy, Peter Palumbo and Donna Walsh.

"I wasn't particularly surprised, however, I was overwhelmingly happy to hear the news," said Jonathan Rubins, a freshman at Brown University whose family owns a house in Westerly, RI. "I had heard about many of the LGBT supporters in the State House, so the real case was just hoping that no one would lose their footing and back down their support."

The bill was initially introduced in the 2013 legislative session on Jan. 3 by Dem-



Democratic Representative Art Handy
ocratic Rep. Arthur Handy. The legislation, H 5015, proposed the redefinition of marriage as the "legally recognized union of two (2) people." From there, it proceeded to receive a unanimous vote from the House Judiciary Committee on Jan. 22, which is what sent it to win by 32 votes and move on to the Senate.

"[I] thought we'd get a few more than 48 [votes in favor] and was pleased that the spread was far better than 2-1," said Chairwoman of the House Judiciary Committee, Edith Ajello to *The Rainbow Times*.

A democrat from Providence, RI, Ajello, remains hopeful in what she predicts will still be a battle in the Senate.

"Individual Senators will get a lot of attention from their constituents on this issue. I think that, as we've seen in House Judiciary Committee, the opposition will be ugly, hurtful and filled with too much talk of religion," said Ajello. "I hope that attention will sway enough Senators to join the 11 signers of the bill in support. A simple majority on the committee and in the Senate as a whole is all that we need."

If the Senate were to pass Rhode Island's marriage equality bill, it would make New England the first entire region of the United States that supports same-sex marriages. Currently, the country allows marriage equality only in the District of Columbia and nine states: Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hamp-

shire, New York, Vermont and Washington.

"I was proud to witness such a historic moment for the state of RI and its LGBTQ community," said Anthony F. DeRose, the Chairman of the RI Democratic LGBTQ Caucus. "Passages of this bill send a very loud message that the tide has turned here in RI. The momentum is there and now we must work together and focus on the Senate. All Rhode Islanders should be able to marry the person they love regardless of gender in the state that they work in, play in and call home."

Currently Rhode Island Senate's upper chamber is led by 32 democrats, five republicans and one independent. But DeRose believes that this should be looked at as more than just an issue between two political parties. He cited RI Democratic Party Chairman Ed Pacheco as having the right attitude when he said, "This is not a democrat issue or a republican issue, this is a civil rights issue," in front of the House Judiciary Committee in support of marriage equality.



Edith Ajello, the Chairwoman of the House Judiciary Committee.

For instance, despite being a democrat, Senate President M. Teresa Paiva-Weed is openly opposed to same-sex marriage. She had cited her top priorities this year as improving RI's business climate as well as the economy. Even with her own personal differences, she has decided not to block a committee hearing in the Senate for the marriage equality bill.

"There will be a genuine debate and discussion in the Senate on this issue ... I don't anticipate changing my position on the bill that has passed the House," said Paiva-Weed when she spoke with WJAR-TV's 10 News Conference on Jan. 27. "I'm

being very cautious in the words I say and the things that I do to ensure that this bill has a full and fair debate, because it's important to both sides of this debate to ensure it stays civil, that tolerance is demonstrated by both sides and that it's a meaningful discussion on the Senate."

Others opposed include: Dominick Ruggerio, the Senate Majority Leader, and Chairman Michael McCaffrey of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Another option the Senate will debate includes the possibility of making same-sex marriage legislation a referendum, therefore allowing the general public to vote, rather than elected officials.

"We don't believe that the rights of a minor class of citizens should be subjected to the popular vote of the majority," said Ray Sullivan, campaign director for Marriage Equality RI. "This legislation has been closely watched and intensely debated for nearly two decades, we believe it's time for the General Assembly to call the vote. We're appreciative of the fact that the House is already done and it's up to the Senate now. More broadly, the Governor and the Speaker and even the Senate President have all said that they don't favor putting this issue on the ballot as a referendum."

An openly gay resident of Coventry, RI, Kate Miechkowski, said, "Last year, Speaker Fox didn't even put it up for a vote because he knew we wouldn't get it. Instead, he put civil unions up for a vote. People were frustrated but, politically, I understand why he did it."

The state's first independent Governor since the late 1700's, Lincoln Chafee is expected to sign the bill if passed by the Senate. A longtime supporter of marriage equality, he signed a bill in 2011 legalizing civil unions and in 2012 an executive order to recognize same-sex marriages that took place outside of RI.

"Although this vote is indeed historic, there is still a long way to go. Now that the House has swiftly acted, I urge Senate leadership to 'call the roll' - for our economy, for our gay and lesbian friends and neighbors, and for history," said Chafee in a public statement on Jan. 24.

For more information about RI's fight for marriage equality, visit: www.marriageequalityri.org/blog/.

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. A Perfect Ending
2. Jessica Clark 2013 Calendar
3. Strange Frame
4. Kiss Me - Best Lesbian Movie of 2012!*
5. A Perfect Ending: Auto-graphed Photo + DVD
6. Jack & Diane
7. Lost Girl: Season 1
8. The Guest House
9. Joe + Belle
10. The Lovers & Friends Show Season 5: The Final Season

GAY TOP 10

1. What Happens Next
2. The Wise Kids
3. The Men Next Door
4. Gayby
5. Keep the Lights On
6. North Sea Texas
7. Sexual Tension: Volatile
8. Weekend
9. August
10. Any Day Now

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: MONDAY 12-8pm | TUES.-THURS. 11am - 9pm
FRI.-SAT. 11am - 10pm | SUN. 12-8

268 Wickenden St. • Providence RI 02903 • 401.421.6969

Unexpectedly Gay

THE ADVOCATE MAGAZINE
TOP 15 GAYEST CITIES

SPRINGFIELD, MA
www.GLBTSpringfield.com

This size ad color? \$50 per month!

617-444-9618

Biker Chicks From page 12

her ECBC-branded baseball cap, and her many community connections.

"I was a marketing genius," Belcamino laughs when she recalls those days. "I always wore my cap. It was a black cap with big, white letters. That was all I had. And all it said was 'East Coast Biker Chicks.' But people were intrigued. Men and women would stop me and say, 'That's such a cool hat! Is that a club?' And then I'd get to talk about it."

Belcamino would put on her cap and pound the pavement, hitting up all the local gay bars and LGBT publications. ECBC is LGBT-friendly, but opens its arms beyond the LGBT community.

"One thing I love about ECBC is its willingness to be inclusive. I am a 'Butch' identified person and I've always felt welcome," says Demerle. "We have had past members that were trans and gay and straight and bi and everything in between. I love that. And I hope me being me puts potential members at ease and they too feel welcomed."

Belcamino attributes her success to many community members who helped her along the way, like Matty of "Matty in the Morning" on KISS 108 FM, the club's sole honorary male member, and two of her best friends, Yosi Fernandes and Heather Adamian—women she has been close with for over two decades—who Belcamino says came up with the idea to start the club.

"They're fully responsible for putting the bug in my ear," she says. "They had said, 'Yeah, you're The Mayor, you know everybody, you should get a gang together and get some t-shirts and we'll go out and wear them on charity rides.' Well, here we are, ten years later."

Belcamino even credits her tuxedo cat, Basil, with providing inspiration for the group's logo. Belcamino says Basil sat on her lap when the perfect name came to her, after she had entertained monikers like "East Coast Riders" and "East Coast Biker Babes." The club's black and white colors are a tribute to the cat's formal black tie markings.

Belcamino talks about the moment she thought of the name almost as a founda-



ECBC President Lucky Belcamino (right) and Vice President Shel Demerle (left).

tional rite, a birth by fire for an organization that would grow from being nothing more than an idea in the heads of a handful of friends in a basement in 2003, to a group hundreds of women strong spread across the nation ten years later.

"I remember feeling the tingling of goose bumps on my arms, and then it came to me, and it just resonated in my brain and I knew that was it. It just clicked," says Belcamino.

According to Belcamino, she knew "babes" wasn't right for the group: it was too infantilizing and sexualizing, whereas "chicks" was liberating and empowering. She says, "Chicks are like fun, funky, eclectic, rock 'n roll, hardcore – they can be anybody, you know?"

ECBC members Demerle and Savard both offer the idea that Belcamino's leadership style is one of the reasons the club has been successful.

"Like most things, what makes something successful is how it's run from the top," says Demerle. "Lucky's passion and deep love for the group keeps it strong and the members loyal. After the leader

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



Valentine's Day Exclusive for TRT Subscribers!
15% OFF! Use Code Rainbow15 at checkout.

www.vicemerchants.com/collections/shop-all [Shop Now](#)



Delightfully Reviewed:

OUT ^{WEEKLY} Us Fab. AFTER ELTON

100% Egyptian Cotton - 400 Thread Count - Sateen
Complete Sets - Duvet Covers - Shams - Throw Pillows

[Buy Now](#)



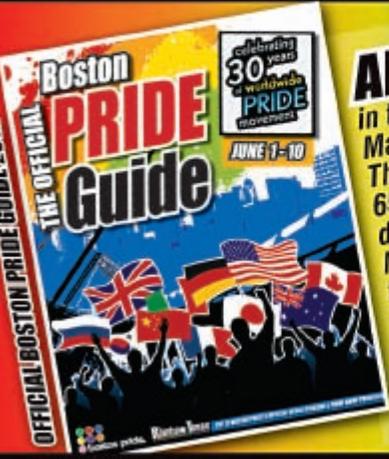
Sign-up for our Newsletter and be eligible for a Free Set Giveaway!
*Sign-up from the link on this newsletter. We will select a winner in 1 week. Winner's choice!

[Sign Up!](#)

vice

BOSTON PRIDE GUIDE

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE NEW ENGLAND GUIDE TO BOSTON PRIDE



ADVERTISE
in the only Boston Pride Guide Magazine, produced in its entirety by The Rainbow Times. Reach more than 65K+ readers through the magazine's distribution in The Rainbow Times' New England Circulation. Additionally, the Guide will reach thousands more throughout Pride Week at the largest Pride celebration in New England. We're proud to be producing the Boston Pride Guide 2013!

CONTACT SALES@THERAINBOWTIMESMASS.COM OR 617.444.9618

LGBTQ news from around the country: The good, the bad and the ugly

By: Emily Scagel/TRT Reporter

Boston, MA **AIDS Action Committee disapproves funding cuts**

The AIDS Action Committee has released a statement voicing concern of Gov. Deval Patrick's recommended funding of HIV/AIDS and viral Hepatitis in the budget. AIDS Action president and CEO said that this is a disappointing step backward for the fight against HIV/AIDS. State funding for HIV/AIDS has been cut 38 percent since 2000, and the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts has increased 40 percent.

Brattleboro, VT **New LGBTQ organization formed in New England**

A new organization for the LGBTQ has formed in Vermont. Green Mountain Crossroads will support the local rural LGBTQ community in being connected and visible throughout southeastern Vermont, southwestern New Hampshire and northwestern Massachusetts. It aims to keep the community informed of events and activities, as well as maintain information and resources.

Sexual assault rates higher within LGB community

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released national data pertaining to LGB partner violence, sexual violence and stalking victimization. Data showed that bisexual individuals, lesbian women and gay men reported equal or higher levels of partner and sexual violence than heterosexuals. The Massachusetts Department of Health's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey reinforced this, reporting that LGB adults experience sexual assault at more than double the rate of heterosexuals in Massachusetts.

Chicago, IL

Mayor supports marriage equality in Illinois

Illinois Mayor Rahm Emanuel has signed the I Love Marriage Petition, supporting marriage for same-sex couples in the state. Lambda Legal released a statement from the regional director for Lambda Legal's Midwest Regional Office stating that Emanuel has been on the forefront in advocating for marriage equality in Illinois.
[New Brunswick, NJ](#)

Study shows African American gay males face unique challenges

Gay black males face a unique set of challenges from themselves, their family and society. The director of the Master of Social Work program at Rutgers University recently completed a study of African American gay youth and their families. The study, *African American Gay Youth and Their Families: Redefining Masculinity, Coping with Racism and Homophobia*, found that gay black males struggle with intersecting oppressions. The author calls for more research to identify this population's needs, and states that education is paramount to the resolution of homosexuality and black male gender role expectations.

New York, NY **Cub Scouts pack must decide to keep or remove non-discrimination policy**

GLAAD and Scouts for Equality have spoken out against the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, who has threatened to take away the charter of a Cub Scouts pack that does not allow discrimination due to sexual orientation. The pack, in Maryland, will have to decide if it will keep their non-discrimination policy, or have their charter revoked. They have posted an online poll asking if they should keep the current policy and continue to operate as an independent scout group that welcomes all families, or to return to a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Portland, ME **Maine residents still in support of marriage equality**

A survey conducted by Public Policy Polling showed that a majority of voters still remain supportive of the new law allowing same-sex couples to marry, and that the vast majority of Mainers have not felt a negative impact, despite overhyped predictions of marriage equality opponents. Even those who voted against marriage equality now say that it is not having an adverse impact on their lives.

Providence, RI **RI House passes marriage equality bill**

For the first time, the Rhode Island House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly in support of same-sex marriage legislation. The marriage equality bill has been introduced every session since 1997, and is sponsored by Rep. Art Handy. The bill will now move to the Senate. The campaign director for Rhode Is-

landers United for Marriage said that there is incredible momentum behind this movement.

Religious coalition forms in support of marriage equality

A Rhode Island coalition that represents over a dozen welcoming and affirming denominations has announced its commitment to continue working toward marriage equality legislation. An ordained minister in the united Church of Christ and chair of the Rhode Island Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality stated that the coalition contains over 100 clergy and will focus on building an active grassroots network, affirming Jesus' commitment to tolerance and justice.

Coalition launches to give voice statewide to marriage supporters

A broad coalition of local and national organizations has launched a campaign to win full marriage rights in Rhode Island. The non-partisan coalition of organizations, Rhode Islanders United for Marriage, is focused on giving voice to marriage supporters in every corner of the state. The Gov. of Rhode Island has voiced support for the coalition, and stated that he would like to finally sign marriage equality legislation.

San Francisco, CA **Scout not allowed to become Eagle Scout, even after petition**

A California Boy Scout Council has approved a gay Scout's eagle application after his mother created a petition that gained over 460,000 supporters, despite the anti-gay policy of the Boy Scouts of America. The Scout was denied the rank of Eagle Scout after his Scoutmaster refused to sign the application due to his sexual orientation. His mother launched a campaign on Change.org with help from the founder of Scouts for Equality. The national organization has since rejected the application, and will not allow the Scout to become an Eagle Scout.

Tampa, FL **Organization calls for inclusive immigration reform**

GetEQUAL has released a statement responding to Senator Marco Rubio's attempts to offer an immigration framework that ignores a large percentage of immigrants. GetEQUAL's national field director stated that they know firsthand how detrimental this plan would be, being, themselves, a gay undocumented Floridian. GetEQUAL is calling on Congress to pass an inclusive and comprehensive immigration reform bill, as well as calling on Obama to use his executive power to stop mass deportations.

Washington, D.C. **Service members discharged under DADT will receive full pay**

Former service members honorably discharged for "homosexuality" will receive their full pay after a settlement of a class action lawsuit challenging a policy that cuts half of their separation pay. This policy was not changed when "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was repealed, and the ACLU and the ACLU of New Mexico filed a class action lawsuit against the policy, representing approximately 181 honorably discharged veterans who had their pay withheld due to the discriminatory policy.

Church supports marriage equality

The Washington National Cathedral has announced that it will embrace marriage equality and begin celebrating weddings of gay and lesbian couples. Deputy Director of HRC's Religion and Faith Program stated that this is a milestone in the Episcopal Church. The Cathedral is the most visible community of faith in Episcopalianism.

Chuck Hagel voices support for LGBT military families

Former Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel, who is currently in nomination to become Secretary of Defense, has voiced support for gay and lesbian military families, promising to provide equal benefits to the families of services members. Army Veteran and executive director of OutServe-SLDN responded to this commitment by saying that this is a turning point for gay and lesbian military families.

Inaugural prayer service includes lesbian Reverend

President Obama's inaugural prayer service included the Reverend of the Metropolitan Community Churches, a denomination founded as a church open to LGBT people. Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson, who recently celebrated her 35th anniversary with her wife, stated that was profoundly meaningful to read the Bible during Obama's second inaugural interfaith service.

Defense Secretary called upon to extend benefits to LGBT military spouses

The HRC is calling upon Defense Secretary Leon Panetta to ensure same-sex military spouses receive the same benefits that all other service members currently do, by issuing military IDs to same-sex spouses. These changes can be made independently of DOMA, though some, like access to health care benefits, still cannot be extended because of the discriminatory law. Panetta has taken steps toward equality, such as lifting the ban on women in combat, and recording a Pride message for gay service members.

Business coalition launches in support of DOMA repeal

A business coalition of Fortune 500 and other brand name companies that support ending discriminatory federal laws has been launched. Because of DOMA, legally married gay and lesbian couples are denied over 1,100 federal rights and benefits. The new Businesses Coalition for DOMA Repeal will support the repeal of DOMA and recognize all legal marriages for federal purposes through the Respect for Marriage Act. There is bipartisan support for this act. Members of the Business Coalition for DOMA Repeal include Marriott, Aetna, eBay and MassMutual.

HIV prevention programs receive funding in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rican community-based organizations will now have expanded capacity for important HIV prevention services, due to \$155,000 in grants from AIDS United. In 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ranked Puerto Rico in the top 10 AIDS case rates in the U.S. states and territories. The rate of HIV infection in Puerto Rico is 33.8 compared to 19.7 in the United States.

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

SOLD

www.GayRealEstate.com

Find Your Perfect Agent Online:
www.GayRealEstate.com

Or Call Toll Free:
1.888.420.MOVE (6683)

The OutField: Phillippe Kahn, A role model for anyone

By: Dan Woog*/Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



As a volunteer assistant wrestling coach, Phillippe Kahn had an easy relationship with the athletes at South High School in Torrance, California. They respected his talents, but like teenagers everywhere, they were wrapped up in their own lives.

Occasionally though, they'd ask about his wrestling career. Where, for example, was he competing now?

"I was honest," Kahn says. "Still, I'd fudge things. I'd say, 'Cologne,' instead of 'The Gay Games in Cologne.' But kids aren't stupid. They have access to Google. You can't conceal something like that."

One day after practice, a freshman yelled across the crowded locker room: "Hey, coach. Are you gay?"

Kahn responded, "Sorry to disappoint you, but I already have a boyfriend. You're out of luck."

Most wrestlers laughed, defusing the situation. Kahn followed up: "See you tomorrow."

"No you won't," the ninth grader replied.

The reason, Kahn learned later, was that the boy was leaving on vacation. At the moment though, his disappearance seemed ominous.

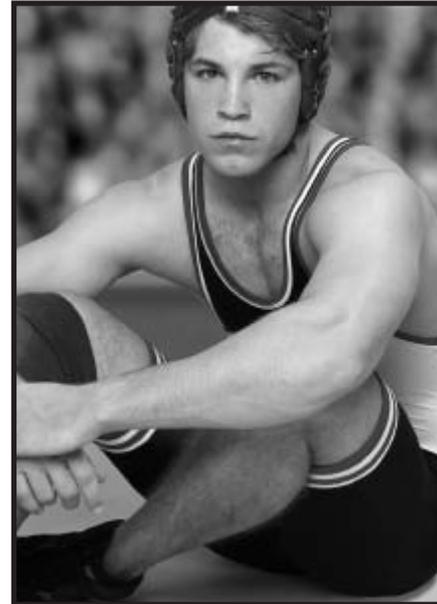
"He was a smart kid. He was testing the limits," Kahn says.

The assistant coach was already out to the rest of the staff. "I'm upfront," he explains. "I don't lie, deny or misrepresent who I am." Some of the older wrestlers already knew too. They didn't care.

Part of their nonchalance was generational. Teenagers today – even athletes – know far more about gay issues than their parents, even their older siblings. They have LGBT friends. They see out gay people on the news, in the media, and (finally) the athletic world. To many teens, homosexuality is a non-issue.

Part of the wrestlers' ease with Kahn is because of their activity. Wrestling, the coach notes, is "a minority sport." There is little glamour, and plenty of drudgery. Crowds are small. Friends and family members often treat wrestling with disdain. "Why do you want to roll around on a mat with another guy?" they wonder – and ask aloud.

Wrestlers are passionate. They love the sport's intense physical and mental demands, its one-on-one competition, the self-confidence it breeds. They revel in being part of a misunderstood minority.



They overcome their own doubts, and the questions of others. They learn to laugh when someone calls it a "gay sport."

In that, his South High charges were no different from Kahn. He discovered wrestling at age 12 in Florida, and was immediately hooked. "The intensity was amazing," he recalls. "I hadn't done well in team sports. But I liked being on a wrestling team. At that age, that's so important."

It was especially important because, even then, Kahn knew he was gay. He did not look or act "obviously" gay, he says, so he was spared harassment. But as a 140- and 145-pound high school wrestler, he was deep in the closet.

The University of Florida did not have intercollegiate wrestling, so he competed on a club team. Kahn graduated with a degree in journalism and telecommunications, then worked as a news anchor at stations in Florida, Oklahoma and Texas.

Ad dollars dried up after 9/11, though, and after moving to California he became

a car salesman. He began with Mini Coopers; soon, he sold BMWs.

But Kahn never lost his love for wrestling. By then totally out of the closet, he found Gene Dermody – the founder of a gay wrestling club in San Francisco, and former president of the Federation of Gay Games. Through Dermody, Kahn learned of gay wrestling organizations in Southern California, where he lived.

He trained for the Gay Games with the Southbay Wrestling Academy, a straight club. Their connection with South High led to Kahn's coaching career.

In the beginning, he was "standoffish" with the high school athletes. "It was still all about me," he says. "I was training and competing. I had my own baggage about coaching kids. I worried about things like the perceptions of other people."

But the more time he spent with teenagers, the more he realized they didn't care he was gay. And the more he worked with the South athletes, the more he understood the unique role he could play.

He was a role model to the gay wrestlers – without knowing who they were. Yet with 70 student-athletes in the program, Kahn says, "the statistics say they're there."

He was a role model to the straight ones too. They ask Kahn questions about life – college, relationships, etc. – that have nothing to do with sexuality. He's gratified by the respect they show him, and inspired by their maturity.

Phillippe Kahn returns that trust and respect. He's a true role model, showing that being gay is far less important than being a strong wrestler, and an even stronger person.

On and off the mat.

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

To cook is to love: A foodie's journal; recipe for the flu

By: John Verlinden*/Special for TRT

iMUCHO GUSTO!



There's a nasty cold going around, and flu season is in high gear. These bugs are particularly vicious. Boston and other cities have declared public health emergencies, and your local ER is probably full of folks looking for relief. Getting the flu can be serious business, especially for the elderly, the very young and others with weakened immune systems.

But, for most of us, cold and flu symptoms are just something we have to deal with and struggle through. I know it's a cliché, but I recommend chicken soup. This recipe, from my new book, "To Cook is To Love," won't cure your cold, but it will warm your insides and make you feel better. Chicken is a lean protein, the garlic and onion are natural antibiotics and antioxidants and the tomatoes are rich in vitamins A, C, E and K. Warning: This soup may cause drowsiness and a longing to curl up under a blanket and watch old movies, so don't drive or operate heavy machinery after eating.

Sopa de Pollo (Chicken Soup)

Serves: 10

- 1 4-5 pound whole chicken (cut into pieces)
- 3 quarts water
- 1 large onion (peeled & coarsely

chopped)

- 6 cloves garlic
- 2 large tomatoes (coarsely chopped)
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon dried leaf oregano (crushed)
- ½ pound vermicelli noodles or your favorite pasta

1. Place all ingredients except pasta in a large stockpot and bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer for 2 hours.

2. Remove soup from the heat, then remove the chicken pieces from the soup and set aside to cool. When cool, chill in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours.

3. When the chicken can be handled, discard the skin and bones, cut the meat into bites and refrigerate.

4. Remove the soup from the refrigerator and skim off all of the fat on the surface.

5. Return the soup to the stockpot, add the chicken and bring to a boil.

6. For a thick broth, dissolve 2 tablespoons cornstarch in a cup of cold water, add to the boiling soup and stir to mix thoroughly.

7. When the broth has thickened, break the vermicelli pieces into thirds, add to the soup, and continue cooking for about 10 minutes or until pasta is tender.

*Share your thoughts, 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!



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

© 2012 OraSure Technologies, Inc.
OQ-C008 0712



It's not a black thing.
It's not a white thing.
It's not a gay thing.
It's not a straight thing.

Testing for HIV is
everyone's thing.



Introducing the first in-home oral HIV test

- FDA approved
- Results in 20 minutes
- Same test used by Healthcare Professionals
- Oral swab, no blood required
- 24/7 call center support

Knowing is the best thing.™

Available at your local retailer or OraQuick.com

• A positive result with this test does not mean that you are definitely infected with HIV, but rather that additional testing should be done in a medical setting. • A negative result with this test does not mean that you are definitely not infected with HIV, particularly when exposure may have been within the previous 3 months. • If your test is negative and you engage in activities that put you at risk for HIV on a regular basis, you should test regularly. • This product should not be used to make decisions on behavior that may put you at increased risk for HIV.