

# The Rainbow Times

• Your LGBTQ News in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut & Vermont •

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to keep his  
motor running*  
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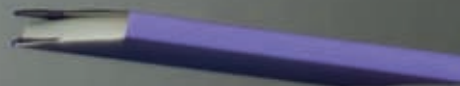
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## Healthcare disparities perpetuate in our community

**By: Grisel M. Ocasio\*/TRT Publisher**

**OPINIONS** This issue of The Rainbow Times is devoted to a very important cause that we all face—healthcare. The New Year is often a time when people talk about resolutions. Many of those resolutions, I have witnessed throughout the years, have to do with health. Because of that, we dedicated this January, 2011 issue to LGBT healthcare. We hope you enjoy it!

When my wife and I have had to change doctors, or when my wife has called to make appointments for me, we always find ourselves asking questions such as: “Do you see gay patients? Is your doctor understanding of LGBT issues? Do you treat other married gay couples?” The questions go on and on, because we want to ensure that we are treated with respect and dignity—most importantly with rights. Believe it or not, we have had answers to these questions that still baffle us. Some of them have been: “We do not see LGBT patients. What does LGBT mean?”

You are a same-sex couple? You are partners (not married)? What did you say was your husband’s name was? Is she your sister/daughter?” These things still happen in Massachusetts—they still happen to us. And, if they still happen to us, chances are they also happen to you! That is why we continue our work to end LGBT ignorance. We need comprehensive education outside of the LGBT community too. Because of such questions and actions, we are often turned off by the healthcare system and opt not to see a practitioner, even when such treatment is needed. Because of that, we at TRT have tried to compile, through this issue, some of the most open and affirming LGBT hospitals, clinics and institutions, which showed interest to let our community know who they are, their commitment to LGBT health and the variety of services that they will offer to us—respectfully and openly.

According to the CDC’s website (cdc.gov), the LGBT community is defined as being “diverse, coming from all walks of life, and it

**See Healthcare Disparities on page 16**

## Queeries: Breast cancer makes me feel anxious about sex

**By: Steven Petrow\*/Special for TRT**

### Gay cop faces harassment

**ADVICE** *Q: I started working as a police officer just last year. When I was first hired, pretty much everyone asked me why I’m not married. Then came the gay jokes. I’ve tried to let it go since I’m still a rookie, but it seems like they know I’m gay and want to push me out the door. How would you handle this?*

**A:** As a law enforcement officer yourself, you may know that the workplace you’re describing pretty much fits the description of “hostile” and your treatment verges on harassment. It may even be sexual harassment, depending on various factors such as whether your harassers know you’re gay. Often, people think that sexual harassment only happens to women, but that’s not the case. In fact, it was only recently that same-sex sexual harassment

became widely accepted as real. The law now extends its protections to all of us, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

However your workplace mistreatment might eventually be categorized, there are things you can do about it. Start by talking informally and off-the-record to a supervisor or ombudsman (someone whom you think is generally supportive), to decide whether or not to file an official complaint. At the same time, do your best to make sure you have communicated that the “jokes” offend you or make you uncomfortable. This communication can be in person, by letter or through email. In addition, keep a diary of what’s going on, including dates, times, places and what exactly has been said and done and by whom. Also keep track what you have done in response.

If all else fails, make an official report to the department and/or contact an LGBT rights

**See Queeries on page 14**

## Wishing one and all a Happy New Year

**By: Jenn Tracz\*/CABO’s Executive Director**

CABO wishes everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. We have many great things going on throughout 2011 and encourage you to check us out when you can. During this year CABO is holding 4 regular monthly events and hope you join us at the one closest to you. We have morning breakfast networking events in New Haven, West Hartford and Westport and a rotating evening networking event in New Haven County. For more details on CABO events in your area, visit www.TheCABO.org.

CABO has also created many great partnerships and initiatives within the CT community and with our members statewide. The first partnership of the New Year I’d like to take a moment to talk about is the True Colors Conference taking place at UConn on March 11th and 12th.

True Colors is a CT based non-profit that works to create a positive environment for LGBT youth; they are a great partner of CABO’s and at this year’s 18th annual conference we are proud to announce our involvement as a Rainbow Sponsor. This year’s conference theme is about belonging, a very timely topic when reflecting back on the tragic events that took place in 2010 involving LGBT youth across the country. If you are interested in finding out more about True Colors and its role in the LGBT community, visit www.ourtruecolors.org or call (860) 232-0050.



**Jenn Tracz**

We are always looking for ways we can improve and maximize our relationships with members, partners, supporters and friends. If you have a suggestion for what we can include in this column each month, don’t hesitate to let us know. The better we can serve our audience the better we can serve the community.

CABO’s corporate partnerships include; Aetna, Foxwoods, Murtha Cullina LLP, Comcast Business Class, Clear Channel Radio and The Rainbow Times. Each of these businesses has something great to offer and their commitment and support to the LGBT community is what separates them from the rest. We highly encourage you to do business with one or all of them. As a CABO member there are many great exclusive offers to take advantage of.

*\* In her role as Executive Director, Jenn is responsible for maintaining and growing membership, developing strategic business partnerships and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. In addition to being CABO’s executive director, she also is a small business owner specializing in marketing and design services.*

## Fighting for civil rights and then attaining them: Validating the system’s ways or losing ourselves?

**By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist**

On December 22nd President Obama signed the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell. Many gay and lesbian people around the country have heralded this as an incredible accomplishment for civil rights for our LGBT communities. The money, resources, and time that have gone into this campaign are countless, so many people’s lives dedicated to this fight. It is without question that many people have passionately fought for the freedom to join the military and fight openly as a gay, lesbian, or bisexual person. This fight was fought and the fight for the repeal is over, but what has this accomplished for us?

Queers for Economic Justice, QEJ, wrote in a press release on the 22nd that, even as so many have claimed this repeal as a victory for poor and working class LGBT people in the military, “military service is not economic justice, and it is immoral that the military is the nation’s de facto jobs program for poor and working-class people. And since QEJ organizes LGBTQ homeless people in New York City, we wanted to remind the LGBT community and progressive anti-war allies that militarism and war profiteering do not serve the interests of LGBT people.” They then go on to list four essential points of how the military is not serving LGBTQ people including the rates of sexual violence within the military, the realities of the lack of resources available for veterans, and the epidemic of PTSD that is tearing at the minds

and hearts of veterans. Not only is the treatment of the soldiers immoral, what the U.S. military sends these people to do around the world is one of the greatest forces of immorality in the world. These soldiers, including openly gay ones, will be responsible for operating drones that kill civilians in Pakistan, marching through Arab cities taking people’s lives to steal resources, and other global military atrocities.

Queers for Economic Justice continued in their statement, “We stand in solidarity with other LGBTQ people around the globe, and do not condone violence against them or their home countries so that ‘our gays’ have the ‘right’ to serve openly in the military.” Yet, the moment has come, the ban has been lifted, and openly gay people will be joining the violence of U.S. militarism. The question we must ask ourselves is which side of the queer family are we fighting for now? Must we continue to fight for assimilating into the system of hetero/homo-normative gender conforming systems of domination? Is that our greatest possible achievement? Will we achieve true success if



**Jason Lydon**

**See Civil Rights on page 5**

## Letters to the Editor

To Senator Scott Brown,

I never served in the military. But through my job had contact with Air Force officers and enlisted men. I came to realize that the military was perhaps the last bastion of honor and honesty in our post-Reagan era of greed, dishonesty, and selfishness. Thank you for helping to foster that sense of honesty, honor and integrity in the people who serve in the military. This is a victory for civil rights, the military and the American people.

Thank you for having the courage and integrity to vote for the repeal.

I am beginning to think that you are more than a good-looking man that drives a truck.  
—Gerald Swanson

Dear Editor,

It was refreshing and very instructive to read your Fenway Health story about AIDS/HIV because as your reporter pointed out, HIV is not perceived as a problem or a disease that is killing millions of people anymore. Your in-depth reporting on this issue and the incidence of it for men of color was shocking and also educational. I find that your coverage is, by far, one of the best out here.

—Mia Gonzalez, Jamaica Plain

Dear Editor,

Your consistent and accurate coverage of Trans issues still amazes me. At first I thought you’d do this for a while, like most publications, I must admit. Later on, as time went by, I saw that you’re in it for the long run and I must say I like it. I commend you for it and was very interested in the Trans Public Awareness Initiative by Chuck Colbert. Gunner Scott is a pioneer and an amazing leader. Thank you for highlighting the MTPC’s efforts.

—Raul Slim, Boston, MA

**See Letters on page 5**

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# LGBT Health in MA, CT, & RI: A special report on nearby agencies supporting inclusive health care

## Organization lists LGBT friendly national healthcare providers

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

For many members of the LGBT community, going to a doctor can be a nerve-racking experience. The greatest fear is being exposed to a medical professional who has a bias against LGBTs. Fortunately, there are many health organizations which offer services specific to the New England LGBT community.

One of them is Boston's Fenway Community Health, which treats over 70,000 patients and has 220 staff members. Fenway offers primary medical services, and provides referrals for patients regarding infectious disease, gynecology, psychiatry, gerontology, dermatology, nutrition, and podiatry. There are also dental and eye care services.

Complementary therapies (known as holistic medicine) are available include chiropractic, acupuncture, and massage therapy.

Fenway provides immunizations for Hepatitis A and B, meningitis, and tetanus.

There are also therapy and support groups and substance abuse counseling, as well as HIV counseling, testing, and referrals. Victims of domestic violence and hate crimes can seek guidance from Fenway's Violence Recovery Program.

There is also a Transgender Health Program, Family and Parenting Services, and a GLBT Helpline and Peer Listening Line. For more information, go to [www.fenwayhealth.org](http://www.fenwayhealth.org).

Another resource for LGBT patients is Partners Health Care, which includes several Boston-area hospitals, including Brigham and Women's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, North Shore Medical Center, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, McLean Hospital, and Faulkner Hospital. For information about medical providers and services, go to Brigham's and Women's Hospital's website at [www.partners.org](http://www.partners.org).

In Western Massachusetts, Baystate Health, which includes Baystate Medical Center in Springfield and Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, offers a range of services to the LGBT community.

The facility offers invitro fertilization for lesbian couples, primary care physicians, and a support group for the transgender community. The hospital also hosts a transgender health conference every year.

"We treat everyone with dignity and respect," explained Visael "Bobby" Rodriguez, Chief Diversity Officer for Baystate Health.

Rodriguez said Baystate Health is always working to improve the level of services they provide to the LGBT community.

Baystate Health's web site is [www.baystatehealth.com](http://www.baystatehealth.com).

Last June, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation gave Baystate Medical Center a perfect rating for the hospital's inclusive policies and treatment of LGBT people.

Baystate Health's LGBT employees are very visible in the community. They attend Northampton Pride every year and provide in-



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

**The Fenway Health team (L-t-R): Chris Viveiros, Associate Director of Communications; Marcy Gelman, Chris Chianese, Vanessa Marquez, and Ron Bill.**

formation about programs and services. The hospital is also the largest employer in Western Massachusetts.

In Connecticut, The Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective (HGLHC) provides counseling and treatment for people suffering from HIV/AIDS, in addition to dental care, STD testing, support groups, breast examinations, and Hepatitis A and B screening and immunization.

HGLHC was founded in 1983 by a group of volunteer health professionals and supporters to address the medical needs of the LGBT community, particularly those suffering from HIV/AIDS. HGLHC also provides services to the transgender community.

"All of our staff is trained on transgender issues and all of our services cater to the transgender population as well," said Drew Needham, who serves as a HIV counselor and grant writer for LHGLHC.

In Rhode Island, there isn't a clinic or hospital which is devoted solely to LGBT health. The Rainbow Times solicited feedback from members of the LGBT community to learn where people go for medical services.

One respondent, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "For my PCP I go to Anchor

Medical (1 Hoppin St., Providence). It is a very welcoming practice. I came out after being an established patient, but I've learned since that there was a doctor there before that had a large caseload of LGBT patients. He left that particular practice and most of his patients stayed."

Michael Airhart, of Providence, said the lack of LGBT health services "is a real problem."

"When I moved (here), I knew that the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association offered a referral service for gay-friendly doctors. That GLMA service had worked well for me before. But few of Rhode Island's doctors have signed up. Then I talked with a referral desk at Lifespan. They wanted to be helpful, but the referrals weren't very accurate -- the docs seemed to have no special knowledge of LGBT patient needs."

A national resource, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) is the world's largest and oldest association of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) health care professionals. The GLMA is a non-profit

**See LGBT Health Providers on page 20**

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# Cooley Dickinson Hospital



# New HIV prevention tool is effective; though implementing 'PrEP' remains a challenge

By: **Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter**

The results of a groundbreaking HIV prevention study are indeed encouraging. Men who had sex with men (MSM), taking oral antiretroviral medication daily, decreased their HIV risk by almost half compared to those taking a placebo pill.

And yet health care providers, public health officials, and community activists readily acknowledge that the spreading word — getting accurate information out — among populations at risk won't be easy.

What's next with the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, as a new HIV prevention tool?

A panel of experts addressed the challenge recently at the Boston-based Fenway Health Center, during a community forum, held on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1. The forum drew with more than 50 people.

Gay and bisexual men, particularly men of color who have sex with men, are "bearing the brunt of the disease," said panel participant Gary Daffin, executive director of the Multicultural AIDS Coalition, a non-profit organization based in Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood.

"Disparities, denial, and dollars" Daffin said, summarize his primary concerns about the new prevention tool.

PrEP "is an intervention that requires [folks] to know about HIV," he explained. "They know

that it's transmitted in their community, but they don't think it will happen to them. They deny their own personal risk, particularly young black gay men" and other populations.

PrEP "also requires you to disclose to your [primary] care giver your risk," Daffin said. "You have to acknowledge with the current regimen: 'I am a man who has sex with men and that I have to take this pill every day,'" although some men may be inclined to take a "drug holiday," which "we know from the study that's not something people can do and still be protected."

Indeed, sticking to the daily medication regimen is paramount. Study participants taking medication daily had a 44 percent lower rate of HIV infection compared with those in the placebo group, the study found.

Better yet, participants who reported "high adherence" — taking at least 90 percent of the medication — their protective effect against infection surpassed 70 percent.

And for study participants with medication levels detected in their blood, risk of infection decreased by more than 90 percent.

*The New England Journal of Medicine* was the first to report about the new HIV prevention study, which tested the use of a daily tablet containing two widely used HIV medications, the antiretroviral drugs emtricitabine and tenofovir.

The full article, "Preexposure Chemoprophylaxis for HIV Prevention in Men Who Have Sex with Men," is available at [www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1011205](http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1011205).

Manufactured by Gilead, Truvada is the brand name of the antiretroviral pill, which combines emtricitabine and tenofovir also known by the initials FTC and TDF respectively.

A total of 2,499 gay and bisexual men, other MSM and transgender (male-to-female) women at high risk of HIV infection participated in the six-country, four continent iPrex study.

All study participants received a comprehensive package of prevention services designed to reduce their risk of HIV infection throughout the trial, including HIV testing, intensive safer sex counseling, condoms and treatment and care for sexually transmitted infections.

The Fenway Institute, along with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, was one of two U.S. sites that enrolled study-volunteer participants. Additionally, there were nine international sites in Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, South Africa, and Thailand.

The iPrex study is the first evidence that oral PrEP prevention reduces HIV infection in people at increased risk. An earlier study, CAPRISA 004, found that topical PrEP, a microbicide, protected at risk women.

The name iPrex comes from the Spanish *Iniciativa Profilaxis Preexposición* or Preexposure Prophylaxis Initiative in English.

During the community forum, Dr. Kenneth H. Mayer, MD, a principal investigator on the study and an author on the journal article, gave an overview of the results.

Dr. Mayer co-chairs the Fenway Institute and is its medical research director.

The iPrex "Achilles heel," he said, is non-adherence to the daily pill regimen and the other com-



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

**L-t-r: Left to right: Panelists at Fenway Health's community forum for World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 2010, include Dawn Fakuda, director of the Office of HIV/AIDS in the Bureau of Infectious Disease at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Gary Daffin, executive director of the Multicultural AIDS Coalition, Robert Pomaes, executive director of Health and Policy at the Latin American Health Institute, and Dr. Lenord Alberts, speaker for the New England AIDS Education and Training Center.**

ponents of the PrEP HIV- prevention protocol. Still, other challenges remain. "Pockets of populations at risk are difficult to reach," said Robert Pomaes, executive director of health policy and partnerships at the Latin American Health Institute. Among Latinos, for example, 20 percent of people who show up at health clinics are uninsured, 50 percent are undocumented, and 70 percent live below the poverty line, he said. "These factors make it difficult for clients to access an intervention."

In making PrEP available, Pomaes asked,

**See HIV Prevention Tool on page 8**

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# Tough times for NY homeless youth shelter

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

The Ali Forney Center, which provides housing for homeless LGBT youths in New York City, is experiencing severe financial hardships as a result of city budget reductions.

The facility has had \$150,000 in funding pulled by the city, in addition to \$300,000 in federal funds, according to Executive Director Carl Siciliano, who called the budget cuts "heartless and stupid."

"We have kids show up here because they have nowhere else to go," said Siciliano.

Without a place to live, many LGBT youth resort to drug-dealing, stealing and prostitution in order to survive, all of which "has a much higher cost to the city than providing them with the care that they so desperately need," said Siciliano.

Siciliano said there was an "enormous gap" between the amount of homeless youth on the streets and the beds and services available to them. 40 percent of those homeless youth are LGBT and many of them rely on drop-in centers to survive, Siciliano noted.

The center was named in honor of Ali Forney, a homeless queer teen who was forced to live on the streets of New York during the 1990s.

Forney was dedicated to the safety of other homeless queer youth; he was a committed HIV prevention worker, and advocated that the NYPD investigate a series of murders of the homeless queer youth he had befriended. Ali became a hero to those who knew him.

In December of 1997, Forney was murdered on the streets. His tragic death called attention to

the deplorable conditions for homeless LGBT youth in New York. Ali's murderer has never been identified.

The center was founded in 2002 and has an annual budget of \$3.4 million, and 50 staff members. Ali Forney provides services to over 1,000 LGBT youth every year.

The Ali Forney Day Center in the Chelsea section of Manhattan provides street outreach, case management, primary medical care, HIV testing, mental health assessment and treatment, food and showers, an employment assistance program, and referral to the center's housing programs.

Ali Forney also offers a scattered-site emergency housing program with sites in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and a Transitional Housing Program which currently offers housing to 20 youths in 4 different sites in

Brooklyn and Manhattan. The residents are able to live in a transitional housing program for up to two years, while staff members assist them in maintaining employment and in continuing their education.

Siciliano intends to seek funding from individual donors. A rally is being planned to be held on the steps of City Hall.

"I'm really focusing the majority of my effort on trying to persuade the city not to do this," Siciliano added. "I want the gay community to be very loud about the fact that it's wrong to let this happen to our kids."

For more information, visit the center's web site at [www.aliformeycenter.org](http://www.aliformeycenter.org).



PHOTO: COURTESY ALI FORNEY CENTER

Ali Forney Center staffers

## Civil Rights from page 2

we get a GLB and/or T president in the White House? When we simply fight for civil rights it seems to me that we are losing our greatly creative selves. When we fight to join the systems that are hurting us it seems to me that we are simply validating their existence and the harm they cause to other communities. I am sad that the fight to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" took so much of our resources and time as a community. Now that you have won that fight the next struggle must be taken on, so how will that decision be made?

When a movement exists there are endless campaigns within it fighting toward some beautiful end goal. The demands are made clear and tactics are decided upon after the targets of power are understood. Visionary ideas are essential at this moment. Decisions need to be made by those most directly affected by oppression. This means that poor queer/trans people, queer/trans prisoners, queers/trans folks with disabilities, queer/trans youth, Palestinian queers/trans folks, queers/trans folks of color, and so many others need to be heard at any decision-making table about their lives. Are we willing to take the time to reflect on what the actual priorities should be or are we rushing so quickly to assimilate that we are unwilling to hear other voices? I am hoping that in 2011 one of our resolutions can be to listen and to move forward creating campaigns and demands that meet the needs of our collective liberation, not our mainstream assimilation.

## Letters from page 2

Dear Editor,

I must say I am not enjoying the constant jumps to your website. When I read a story I tend to like it to end or be jumped, not sent to the web.

—Richard Lee, Cambridge, MA

Dear Richard,

Although we would like to send less stories to The Rainbow Times' home site, we are also trying to stay as green as possible while showcasing as many relevant stories as we can. Because of that, at times, we have to jump stories to our website. In addition, we love our readers' visits to it and have more informative articles on the website from website-only reporters and writers. I exhort you to visit our website and see what else we have to offer. In the meantime, I will keep your suggestion in mind and thank you for your readership and support!

—Best, TRT Editor

Dear Editor,

I really liked your Publisher's story about regarding a tendency of female and male behaviors observed in society and animals. As a lesbian, I see that women in our community are still trying to cause trouble amongst themselves, so I agree with her assessments. I also think that the idea of getting closer to other lesbians without wanting sex from them is not an easy one. Perhaps, like men, lesbians are seen as a threat personally and professionally.

—Nancy Bearstheim, Hartford, CT

## NEXT ISSUE: WEDDINGS & VALENTINES

# MY T MATTERS

## Currently Looking For:

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Participants must be able to come to study visits for at least 1 year.

*All participants receive confidential HIV counseling and testing at no cost. Compensation also provided.*

**\*FACT: You cannot get HIV from participating in an HIV Vaccine Research Study.**



Photography by Stefany Cunningham

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BRIGHAM AND  
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



HIV VACCINE  
TRIALS NETWORK



## Brigham and Women's reaches out to Trans community for HIV Vaccine study

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Researchers at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital are recruiting HIV negative male-to-female transgender persons (ages 18-50) who have sex with men to participate in a vaccine trial to determine the effectiveness of an HIV vaccine. All participants will receive confidential HIV counseling and testing at no cost.

Dr. Lindsey Baden, principal investigator of HIV vaccine studies, said that HIV "is one of the biggest problems of our generation."

Estimated HIV infection rates among specific transgender populations range from 14 to 69 percent; according to several transgender HIV/AIDS needs assessments and sexual risk behaviors studies.

Baden notes transgenders are a "vulnerable and at risk population," explaining the *My "T" Matters* campaign is an effort to encourage the transgender community to participate in this very important research.

This HIV vaccine study nationwide has enrolled almost 700 people. The response locally has been very favorable, according to Baden.

"We do education about HIV and HIV prevention," Baden said. "That's something which we are very committed to and want to do what we can to engage the community, particularly the communities that have higher rates of infection because they're the ones that need the interaction the most."

In the past 15 years, more than 30,000 volunteers have enrolled in HIV vaccine studies worldwide. Brigham and Women's Hospital receives funding from the National Institutes of Health for this research.

Many HIV studies have been conducted at Brigham and Women's, as well as affiliated hospitals such as Beth Israel Deaconess, Harvard Medical School and Fenway Community Health. Participants are healthy volunteers who are at low risk of contracting HIV.

Baden said the studies have shown "very encouraging" results.

One of those is the HVTN 505 Study, which focuses on men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women who have sex with men. It is very important for

transgender persons to be represented in these studies to ensure that as vaccines are developed they are effective in this population. This particular study will use a DNA prime/rAd5 boost vaccine regimen developed by the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Parts of this vaccine regimen are similar to the vaccine used in Step and Phambili.

While this vaccine is not on the path to licensure and is not expected to prevent HIV infection, the results of HVTN 505 will help researchers to better understand and develop T-cell-based vaccines. The vaccine used in this study cannot cause HIV infection.

All participants will receive the best available

**See Brigham & Women's on page 23**



PHOTO: BRIGHAM & WOMEN'S  
**Dr. Lindsey Baden**

## The National Coalition for LGBT Health applauds launch of Healthy People 2020

### Coalition Director Hutson W. Inniss, explains proposal's goals

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Coalition for LGBT Health ("the Coalition") welcomed the release of *Healthy People 2020*, the federal blueprint for building a healthier nation between 2010 and 2020. The Coalition is particularly excited that *Healthy People 2020* will include not only numerous objectives important for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community throughout many topic areas, but also an entire topic area devoted specifically to LGBT health.

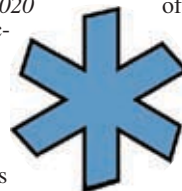
The Coalition was founded ten years ago by advocates working to achieve LGBT inclusion in *Healthy People 2020*. In 2000, our work bore fruit in the development of the *Healthy People 2010 Companion Document for LGBT Health* and several dozen objectives recognizing the disproportionate impact of conditions such as HIV/AIDS and tobacco use on the health of the LGBT community. During his plenary speech at the Coalition's recent annual meeting, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Howard Koh recognized this history by personally inviting the Coalition's members to celebrate the launch of *Healthy People 2020* and to take a leading role in supporting objectives important to the health not only of LGBT people but of our families, friends, and the larger communities in which we live and work.

"The Coalition is thrilled that *Healthy People 2020* includes many new and updated topic areas in fields such as LGBT health, the social determinants of health, and access to health services. *Healthy People 2020* is a centerpiece

of the Coalition's efforts to spur a national dialogue about health, wellness, and prevention for communities impacted by health disparities, particularly the LGBT community," said Hutson W. Inniss, Interim Executive Director of the Coalition.

*Healthy People 2020* represents a significant advance in several aspects over previous versions. Most notably, the target areas and objectives will now be available in an interactive online format, and the entire document will be constantly updated to reflect progress made toward the objectives by participating communities, providers, and public health advocates from around the country.

"The Coalition applauds the work of its founders, members, and partners, including the Department of Health and Human Services, in fostering the development of such a promising framework for initiating a broader conversation about the health of everyone in America, including LGBT people," continued Mr. Inniss. "We look forward to helping to make the promise of *Healthy People 2020* a reality over the next ten years." The *Healthy People 2020* target areas and objectives can be found at [www.healthypeople.gov](http://www.healthypeople.gov).




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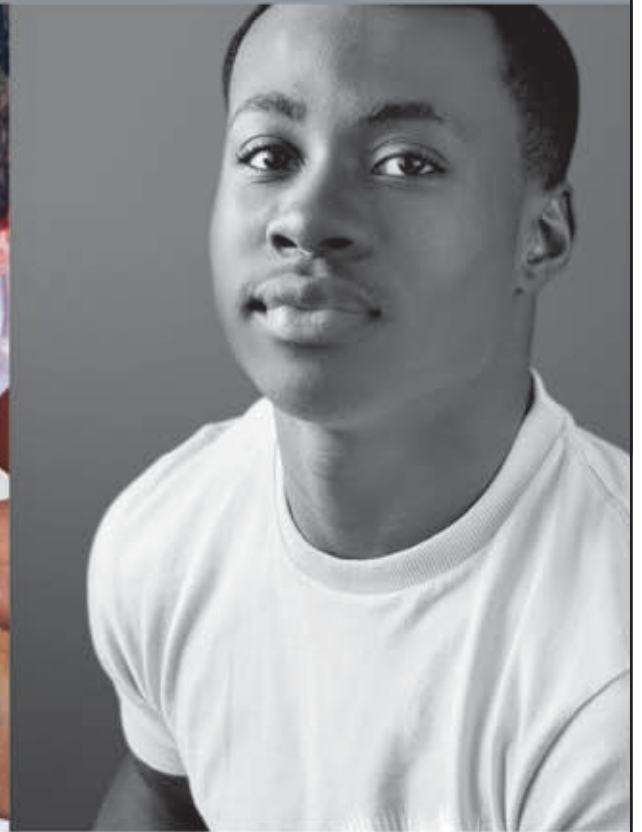
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# Faith, Family, and God: Hyacinths

By: Paul P. Jesep\*/TRT Columnist

IN THE NAME OF GOD

Another holiday season has passed. Tofurkey (a tofu product made with a stuffing as gross-sounding as the name) made it onto the Christmas menu. I made a sincere effort to eat healthier. Call it a lapse in judgment. Okay. It was a huge lapse in judgment. No offense to vegans or vegetarians is intended. The Tofurkey was worse than pressed over-salted, imitation turkey at a mediocre diner where the cook's ashes from a cigarette pinched in his teeth drop onto the plate.

One holiday tradition that I started several years ago compensated for the dinner whose name must never be acknowledged again. Every year I force hyacinth bulbs. In September, they're planted in pots, watered, and placed in the refrigerator's vegetable bin for fourteen weeks. If bunny food ever comes in the form of chocolate covered celery, carrots, squash, etc., then I'll consider finding another cold storage for the hyacinths.

In late December, I took the hyacinths out and placed them in the warmth of a sunny window. Not long thereafter green stalks pushed their way up from the dark, potted earth. Soon there will be fragrant flowers of reds, whites, and purples reminding me and those to whom I give a gift of hyacinths that even in the cold winter there is always life, beauty, and hope.

Winter is symbolic of the challenges we face in our personal and professional lives. It also foretells of new beginnings. The season is a time of reflection. Ask yourself how you become a better person in 2011. What do you need to do that goes beyond personal drama to make a small contribution that improves the world? Winter is a time to watch good movies, read great novels, and plan for the future.

The hyacinth reminds me of St. Therese of Lisieux. She thought of herself and every person she met as one of God's flowers. Although she is a Catholic saint often referred to as the "little flower," I mention her not to promote any faith (Jew, Hindu, Muslim, Pagan, or in this case Christianity) or a denomination (Wiccan, Catholic, Orthodox, Episcopalian, Pagan-Unitarian, etc.), but to highlight a wonderful message that you can learn from her, although her Christian denomination does not always represent God in a positive way. All faiths, religions, and denominations have truths to teach. They are manifestations of the Giver of Life (one of God's many names). The flowering bulbs I give to friends and acquaintances remind them of their own unique beauty that

can change lives.

In some ways God's children (that's us) haven't learned much over the centuries. War, injustice, and financial exploitation haven't gone away. Sisters and brothers, no matter their race, faith, gender, language, or sexual orientation still find a reason to hate, hurt, and take advantage of one another forgetting that they are given life from the same source.

Yet the world has changed. It is better than a hundred, two hundred, or three hundred years ago. Why? Because you're in it! The world is more beautiful for what you bring to it. You're a hyacinth. If you're not sharing your inner beauty then you're holding back on the world.

This year think about how you share your beauty with neighbors and the community. Think about how you can make life better for someone who lost their job even if he or she is homophobic or a cantankerous homebound senior citizen next door. Be a hyacinth or other flower in the New Year. Share your beauty.

*\*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. His book Crucifying Jesus and Secularizing America – the Republic of Faith without Wisdom, is available on Amazon.com. He may be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.*

## HIV Prevention Tool from page 4

"How do we prepare to implement without increasing [such] disparities?"

The cost of the medication is yet another concern. "Who's going to pay for the drugs?" asked Daffin.

The cost of one Truvada pill is \$30. While physicians can write prescriptions for the antiviral medication, it's not clear if third-party health insurance companies will pay for it. "That's a gray zone," Dr. Mayer said.

Still, "Who is going to pay for the public health [education] campaign?" asked Daffin, who also sees the potential for a right-wing backlash.

"Society is not all of a sudden going to embrace gay sex," he said. Social conservatives might well say: "No we are not giving these gay people drugs so they can go out and have more sex."

Yet for all their apprehensions, panelists voiced hope the iPrex study would help save lives.

"I've been waiting for this news for two-and-a-half decades," said Rhoda Johnson-Tuckett, manager of the Boston Public Health Commission's education and outreach office. "I am very, very happy."

# Cooley Dickinson has nurses' backs with newly installed patient lift devices

## Investment of nearly \$1 million prevents back and other injuries

NORTHAMPTON, MA—New nurse grad Laura Vanguilder gives the patient lifts two thumbs up. "The lifts will extend my career as a nurse." Registered Nurse Maria Etkin says the lifts "will save our backs." And Naira Francis, RN, says less strain on her back means she "can move the patient more safely."

Cooley Dickinson is getting encouraging reviews from its nurses as well as the Massachusetts Nurses Association for the Northampton hospital's commitment to safer care for staff and patients.

Last month, Cooley Dickinson completed the installation of nearly \$1 million in patient lift systems and mobile-lift devices. By completing this milestone, Cooley Dickinson joins just six percent of hospitals nationwide – primarily teaching hospitals – that have implemented a comprehensive safe patient handling program.

"By making this investment in safer care, we are preventing back, musculoskeletal and other injuries associated with lifting and repositioning patients," says Chief Nursing Officer Lee-sa-Lee Keith, RN.

According to Derek Strening of Beacon Health Care Products, Cooley Dickinson is the only community hospital in central and western Massachusetts to have extensive safe-patient handling program.

"Most hospitals have some sort of lift system," says Strening, a representative from the company that installed the lifts. Strening says Cooley Dickinson is by far the only community hospital that has made such a large investment "by providing full coverage of all patient care areas with overhead lift systems."

The benefits to patients are many, including reduced bruising and tearing of patients' skin, reduced fear of falling, gentler lifting and an overall preservation of patients' dignity. Staff benefits from fewer injuries and are more ef-

ficient throughout their workday.

During a pilot of the patient lifts on several hospital units, there were no injuries among staff that used the lifts. Further, overall data from the safe-patient handling initiative on

those units shows a 59 percent decrease in days away from work and a decrease of days of restricted work.

Cooley Dickinson Hospital has been able to purchase the lifts and other improvements to its facilities and equipment because the organization maintains a yearly \$5 million reinvestment fund. Having a reinvestment fund allows us to invest in quality and safe care. It allows projects such as patient lifts that prevent staff and patient injuries and make patients more comfortable.

"We consider an investment in patient lifts an investment in the future of our nurses," says Keith.

According to the Massachusetts Nurse Newsletter, MNA officials praise Cooley Dickinson Hospital's purchase of the patient lifts, saying that the "lifting equipment will help protect

nurses while they are on the job. Each year, thousands of nurses and health care workers across the country are injured from manually lifting patients."

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommends that manual lifting of patients be minimized in all cases and eliminated when feasible and that employers should put an effective ergonomics process in place that provides management, involves employees, identifies problems, implements solutions, addresses injury reports, provides training, and evaluates ergonomic efforts.

For a demonstration of safe-patient handling practices and the patient lifts at contact the Marketing Communications office at (413) 582-2421.

**By completing this milestone, Cooley Dickinson joins just six percent of hospitals nationwide – primarily teaching hospitals (and only community hospital in central & western MA) – that have implemented a comprehensive safe patient handling program.**

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# Boxx-ing Match: An interview with Pandora, *Drag Race* contestant and “drag professor”

ENTERTAINMENT

By: Mikey Rox\*/Special for TRT

As Pandora Boxx, Michael Steck stole the show on season two of “RuPaul’s Drag Race” – even if he didn’t take home the title of America’s Next Drag Superstar.

In a recent interview, the drag diva dishes about losing the catty reality competition, why second place is sometimes better than first, his stint as a “drag professor” on “RuPaul’s Drag U,” how to handle gay bullies, and falling in love with a man who loves him for who he is – Texas-sized wigs and all.

**MIKEY ROX:** Before certain interviews, I ask my Facebook friends if there’s anything they want to know about that person. It helps me gauge what the general public wants to read. The first question I got was about your name. So, let’s start there – why Pandora Boxx?

**PANDORA BOXX:** According to Greek mythology, Pandora was the first woman ever created and she opened the forbidden box and let out all the evil unto the world, leaving only man’s hope inside. I thought the name conjured up so many images right away. You would never know what to expect with a name like that. I am also a huge Madonna fan, so Pandora and Madonna seemed similar to me.

**MR:** When you were eliminated from “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” Entertainment Weekly named you their pick for America’s Next Drag Superstar. Did that endorsement lift your spirits?

**PB:** It definitely did! We were shooting “RuPaul’s Drag U” while “Drag Race” was playing. That helped me be a little less upset too, because I was on another show.

**MR:** Why do you think they picked you for “Drag U”?

**PB:** I actually laughed at them when they called me and told me they wanted me to help come and style women. I said, “You want the one who got her style ripped to shreds to come and help style women now?” I found great humor in that. I think they picked me because of my sense of humor and that I was the nice one on “Drag Race,” and “Drag U” needed some nice queens who also realized they were making a television show.

**MR:** Had you won “Drag Race,” what do you think would have happened? And in your opinion, does finishing first give the winner a better shot at stardom than the runners-up? Look at “America’s Next Top Model,” for instance. Can anybody name a single winner from that show? I can’t. And from “American Idol,” several second-placers have bigger careers than those who took home the title. No offense to Tyra Sanchez, of course, but she won your season of “Drag Race” and I’ve never heard of her.

**PB:** I think that, like you said, all you have to do is look at other reality competition shows to know it’s not always the winner that gets the most attention. Now I think that getting kicked off may have actually been better for me. Al-

though, winning that prize money would have been lovely.

**MR:** There’s a show on the Logo network that you’re probably familiar with, called “The A-List.” Recently, one of the characters, Derek, hosted a drag party and Reichen Lehmkuhl showed up looking, well, let’s just say, rather interesting. What advice would you give to those queens out there who end up looking less feminine and more Frankenstein when they dress in drag?

**PB:** I say fly your freak flag! If you can’t be a beauty queen, don’t even try. Drag is just about putting on something different than what you normally would wear. Campy drag is such fun. I love campy queens. I consider myself a campy queen, even if I go for a girlier look. For me, I just love beautiful woman who can be total goofballs too, like Goldie Hawn.

**MR:** You’re from Rochester, N.Y., and despite your national fame within the gay community, you still live there. Why haven’t you moved

to Los Angeles or New York like the rest of the world’s homos?

**PB:** [Laughs] I’ve actually been traveling so much I haven’t had time to sit down and map out my move. I do plan to move but haven’t decided on whether it’s going to be L.A. or NYC. I’m kind of seeing where my life will take me next.



PHOTO: KEVIN THOMAS GARCIA

Pandora Boxx

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## 3rd Annual Mamma Mia! Sing-Along and Costume Contest - A cure for winter blues

NORTHAMPTON, MA—"Mamma Mia, here I go again! My, my, how can I resist you?" Back by popular demand, Out! For Reel LGBT Film Series presents the Mamma Mia! Sing-Along on Saturday, February 5, at 7:30 p.m., at the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a social hour and the Anything Goes Costume Contest. For more information, visit [www.OutForReel.org](http://www.OutForReel.org).

"People get such a high from singing upbeat ABBA songs with 800 people. They can't stop talking about how much fun they had," says Jaime Michaels, Executive Producer/Director of Out! For Reel.

"It was a totally amazing experience! The sheer energy and joy of the audience is unforgettable," says Heather Jackson, who attended the Sing-Along last year.

"Every year this event sells out so I recommend people buy their tickets very early," says Michaels.

Audience members are encouraged to wear costumes and to participate in the Anything Goes Costume Contest with three local celebrity judges. There is no entrance fee. Prizes will be awarded to three winners. All ages, genders, and costumes are welcomed. Contestants should arrive by 7:00 p.m.

"Over 50 contestants, from ages 2- 80+, participated in the contest last year. Everyone has

a blast dressing in island or wedding attire or in flippers, boas, beach hats, blonde wigs or overalls in the middle of winter," says Michaels.

Join 800 fun-loving fans from all over New England for an unforgettable evening of pure joy. Sing those ABBA songs as loud as you want - everyone else is too. Closed caption will be used for lyrics and for the deaf community.

"Even the skeptics whose partners dragged them to the theater came up to me afterwards absolutely thrilled," says Michaels with a laugh.

Don't miss out on this fabulous evening of entertainment - starring Meryl Streep and all of us!

Tickets are \$11 in advance, \$14 at the door, \$9 for students with current ID at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased online at [www.OutForReel.org](http://www.OutForReel.org). Tickets may also be purchased at these ticket outlets: State Street Fruit Store, Northampton, Food For Thought Books, Amherst, and World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield. Tickets may also be purchased at the Academy Box Office (box office fee applies).

*Out! For Reel's mission is to create and strengthen our LGBT community through cultural events, build connections to our heterosexual allies, and work toward the eradication of homophobia through the arts and entertainment.*



PHOTO: UNIVERSAL FILMS

The cast of Mamma Mia!



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# Mimi Imfurst to take on *RuPaul's Drag Race*, and light up Hartford's Chez Est this month

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Entertainer Mimi Imfurst will be competing along with the country's most celebrated drag queens on the third season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, premiering January 24 on LOGO. Mimi will also be bringing her musical stylings to Hartford, Connecticut's Chez Est on January 21.

Mimi is a veteran of the stage, having appeared in several shows, such as *Rhoda Heartbreak*, *The Diary of Anne Frankenstein*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and *The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode*.

Mimi was thrilled at the opportunity to work with the drag icon, for whom she has a lot of love and admiration: "Ru is genuinely one of the most beautiful people I have ever met in my entire life. She's flawless. She has not aged a day. She really genuinely loves other drag queens."

Mimi believes her unique style made her a

standout among the competition on the show.

"What I do as a drag artist is very different from a lot of the girls," Mimi explained. "My drag is a bit more theatrical-based than traditional drag. For me, it was an amazing experience to get to show the world what I do."

Mimi, who grew up in Massachusetts and Maine, has been doing drag since she was 10 years old.

"The first time I ever did drag was for vacation Bible school," Mimi recalled. "The theme was Jesus Undercover and my mother dressed me and my 10-year old brother up in drag. We were aging beauty queens."

Mimi has a fun show prepared for Chez Est, and promises diversity: "I like to keep my shows eclectic. I really like to pull material from lots of different places."

In addition to contemporary top 40 songs, the show will also feature references to movies and television shows, which Imfurst believes will ap-



PHOTO: WILSON MODELS

Mimi Imfurst

## Deep Inside Hollywood: Lesbian surgeons to traumatize CBS

By: Romeo San Vicente\*/Special for TRT

**Paltrow & Baldwin getting a piece of the Rock?**

The casting continues for Adam Shankman's big-screen adaptation of the hit stage musical *Rock of Ages*. You know, the one where all the songs are big hair-metal pop hits of the 1980s. The biggest news, of course, has been the courting of Tom Cruise and most-popular-girl-of-right-now Taylor Swift. (And Seth Rogen for what must be dude-cred reasons.) But the most recent names being tossed around are also stirring excitement. Gwyneth Paltrow, who's been proving she can sing with a vengeance lately on *Glee* and in the movie *Country Strong*, has been offered a role. And Alec Baldwin may be joining the rockin' lineup as well. This could go on and on, naturally, and it should. There's plenty of room for everyone to rock. But why does it feel like by the time this is over Dame Judi Dench and Jimmy Kimmel will also be involved?

### Lesbian surgeons to traumatize CBS

CBS, the home of medical and police procedural programs your parents watch (OK, yes, we like *NCIS*, too.), is going to let *The L Word*'s creator Ilene Chaiken try her hand at it all with a doctor drama called *Rhodes to Recovery*. The series has been green lighted and will feature a lesbian trauma unit surgeon and her hetero male colleague as they stitch together patients and unavoidably mix their professional and private lives. Coolest twist: early in the story one of them begins dating the other's ex-wife. Now all you have to do is guess who and wait it out until this thing survives the annual chopping of the pilot forest. Meanwhile, the people in charge need to do whatever it takes to get Pam Grier involved. Or really, what's the point?



PHOTO: COURTESY SCREEN GEMS

Gwyneth Paltrow

### An afterlife partner for *Vampire Diaries*

Kevin Williamson's *Vampire Diaries* is such a big hit for the CW that the network wants more. So the *Scream* master is developing a new companion series, a supernatural drama about a group of people who investigate paranormal activity. It only makes sense, given that everything



Romeo San Vicente

spooky, undead and bloodsucking continues to be all the rage, showing no signs of a weakening pulse whatsoever. For the moment, all anyone knows about this new series is what it will not be. As in, it will not be a proper spin-off, with no overlapping pilot characters showing up on *Vampire Diaries* first (or so they say now), and it will not be coming down a fast track. It's currently in the talking stage. There's no script, no cast, no network interference; all that fun stuff will have to wait until Williamson has some great ideas that the Suits want to crush. So be patient.

### March of the *Glee* copycats

ABC wants their own *Glee* and they'll stop at nothing until they get it. To that end, they nabbed occasional *Glee* co-star Idina Menzel and are developing a musical drama series around her. They're also setting up a musical comedy series with *Sharpay Fabulous* writer Robert Horn. But the most ambitious current idea floating around the network involves Oscar-winning composer Alan Menken (*The Little Mermaid*) and Oscar-nominated lyricist David Zippel (*Hercules*) who are set up with a musical comedy of their own. The untitled show, described as *St. Elmo's Fire*-meets-*Rent* (yes, they still pitch projects this way, apparently), is supposed to involve young sexy musicians trying to make it in the world and will feature at least a couple original songs each episode. Let's hope they're all underdogs with can-do attitudes and pitch correction technology at their disposal.

\*Romeo San Vicente feels like he's living a teenage dream. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

peal to audience members of all ages.

Recently, Mimi appeared as Cher in an off-Broadway production of *Boylesque*, a spoof of Cher's movie *Burlesque*.

Getting to play the beloved pop diva was a "dream come true," Mimi explained.

"Whatever she does, she does the best," Mimi said. "There's nothing she can't do. She's had a number one song every decade for the last five decades. No one else has done that."

Mimi said working on *Boylesque* was "a really fun experience."

Mimi is also a member of girl group Xelle, featuring "real" girls JC Cassis and Rony G. The group's debut single "Party Girl" unveils on January 1 on iTunes. A full-length album is in

the works.

Party Girl is a "fun song", Mimi said, noting the lyrics poke fun at infamous party girls such as Lindsay Lohan and Paris Hilton.

"We want everybody when they hear the song to forget their problems and to be able to have fun," Mimi noted.

Mimi also appeared on stage in *Thank You For Being a Friend*, a spoof of the popular 1980s television comedy *The Golden Girls*.

"You can watch it today and it's still really funny," Mimi said. "The comedy (in the show) I think is still cutting edge."

Mimi enjoys performing and intends to keep doing it for a long time to come: "What I love most is making people laugh."

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# TRT Heroes: Belle Pellegrino, Rhode Island's champion of LGBT equal rights

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Belle Pellegrino has been one of the champions of LGBT equality in Rhode Island for more than three decades. Pellegrino was one of the participants in the state's first-ever Gay Pride Parade held in 1976. The marchers had to wage a legal battle for the right to publicly demonstrate their pride in their sexual identities. Pellegrino has also been a member of the Imperial Court of Rhode Island, which raises money for LGBT organizations. The Rainbow Times sat with Pellegrino to find out more about her TRT Hero nomination.

**The Rainbow Times:** Which people in the LGBT or allied community have been most influential in your life?

**Belle Pellegrino:** Foremost credit goes to my parents and my religious upbringing that taught me to value all people and to help when/wherever I could. Next would be Rev. Joseph H. Gilbert, former pastor of MCC Providence who encouraged me and showed me I had strength I didn't know existed. Rev Troy D. Perry, founder of Metropolitan Community Church and Jose Sarria, founder of the Imperial Court System. In the 50's and 60's there was NO LGBT visibility: both stood up and fought for what they believed in spite of the odds.

**TRT:** How can the average member of the LGBT community make a difference in our struggle?

**BP:** Every person can make a difference. Taking the time to talk with someone who is alone can change that life for the better. Stepping up to speak out about injustice; talking to family, friends and co-workers helping them understand who we are; volunteering to help any of our

community organizations; all the 'little' things contribute to creating change in attitudes toward the LGBT Community and bring us closer to equality.

**TRT:** What is the best advice you have ever been given to do the proactive things you do today for our community?

**BP:** A good many years ago, Rev. Troy Perry, visited my congregation in Albany, NY. At some point during the weekend, he said something I have never forgotten. He said, "If you see a problem or something not right and do nothing ... you are as much to blame as if you caused it." So, whenever I recognize an issue, etc., I feel obliged to do whatever I can to correct it.

**TRT:** What have you done for the LGBT community individually or collectively that you are proudest of?

**BP:** I have been active in the community for quite a while. I am so proud to have been part of many efforts to improve our lives and position in the greater community. But, what I am proudest of, are the seemingly 'little' things ... the middle of the night phone calls on the "Gay Helpline" from individuals who were desperate to find someone who would care if they lived or died; the 5-6 individuals who called the Church phone in Albany to say 'good by' and I was able to get them help before their suicide attempt was successful who still live; the time spent talking LGBT youth who felt lost, alone and hopeless.

**TRT:** What motivates your work within this community?

**BP:** I am an adoptee. I am most fortunate to have been raised by two wonderful people who taught me to care about others. I like people. I can't bear to see someone in pain. If I can do

something to ease that pain, I have to do it. It is the only thing that makes sense to me. Injustice and inequality make me crazy.

**TRT:** What can be done about teen suicides that happen as a result of bullying or anti-gay sentiment?

**BP:** I really think that the most difficult time

in life are the teen years. It is a time of searching, seeking and discovery. Most teens feel that they are somehow different. To be a LGBT teen compounds the turmoil of those years. As a community, we need to make ourselves as visible as possible; as accessible as possible and to continue the fight for full equality. Most of all, we need to educate the greater community. Bullying comes from ignorance. Laws that make us less than equal provide validation to bullies. History has proved, while it certainly helps, changing laws to give 'equality' to a group doesn't eliminate discrimination or provide acceptance. It takes many generations of education to make the laws effective. We need to provide a mechanism for teens to reach out to strong LGBT leaders and individuals for guidance, to lessen their sense of being alone, to find like-minded people who care. Our young LGBT people are our legacy to the world. We need to watch over them and protect them and guide them to be leaders of future generations of LGBT people.

**TRT:** What are the top three issues that affect our community the most?

**BP:** When I came out in 1968, the biggest threat to the LGBT Community was the widespread ignorance of who and what we are and, in 2010, that hasn't changed. The more we can educate and correct the misconceptions about us, the more we gain acceptance, the closer we come to full equality. About 1975-6, someone asked the question, "What would you consider the best thing that could happen to help the LGBT Com-

munity to gain full acceptance in the world?" I replied, "If one morning, all over the world, every LGBT person woke up and found their skin had changed color to purple [green, etc.]. If that happened, our existence could not be denied by ourselves or others. People would discover their parent, spouse, child, boss, best friend, etc.

was 'one of them.' No longer could anyone say they didn't know any LGBT person and would have to deal with the truth...we are everywhere! The top three can be condensed to just one: Ignorance. Ignorance leads to intolerance, injustice and inequality. To change that means we all must do all we can to be teachers of the truth.

**TRT:** Do you consider yourself a hero for the LGBT community?

**BP:** No. I have been called that by some, but I don't see it myself. I have always done what I felt I had to do.


In 1976, walking down my street in the early evening hours going to Cumberland Farms for milk and bread was brave; living my life every day as an open Lesbian was/is brave; looking for an apartment or job hunting was brave. Leading a parade down the streets of Providence in broad daylight June 26, 1976 with a Federal Court order to back me, was not brave to me; it was an act of defiance.

**TRT:** Will full LGBT equality be achieved in this country during the next 10 years? 20 years?

**BP:** I have seen so much change in RI, across the U.S. and the world, in the last 42 years. Changes I would have laughed at the mere mention of back then. It would not surprise me if the laws changed in the next 10 years. Changing the attitudes that make it 'popular' to hate us, to permit bullying of our youth and others, and give license to "Gay Bashing" will take many lifetimes. But, it will happen one day as long as we keep on working and teaching.



PHOTO: COURTESY BELLE PELLEGRINO  
Belle Pellegrino



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## Point Foundation announces opening of its 2011 application season and new Named Scholarships

**BACK TO SCHOOL** LOS ANGELES, CA—Point Foundation (Point), the nation's largest scholarship-granting organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students of merit, announces the opening of its 2011 application season starting December 10, 2010. Students who will be enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs for the 2010-11 school year are eligible to apply for the prestigious, multi-year scholarships. The application deadline for this year's scholarships is February 11, 2011.

2010 Point Scholar Kyle Inselman who is pursuing a BFA in film studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder said, "By working with my fellow scholars and everyone in the Point family, I'm able to flourish as a leader playing my part for the larger movement, and encourage my fellow scholars to accomplish the same. This truly is a community of support and encouragement, and having it gives me the confidence to pursue my individual and collaborative goals, whether they are through my film work, advocacy, or more."

Point's rigorous selection process for its prestigious scholarships is highly competitive and requires demonstrated academic excellence, leadership skills, community involvement and financial need. Particular attention is paid to students who have lost the financial and social support of their families and/or communities as a result of revealing their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The selection process begins with on-line applications and

concludes with face-to-face interviews with selected finalists in April 2011.

For the first time, others can also recommend a deserving student by accessing [www.point-foundation.org/recommendastudent.html](http://www.point-foundation.org/recommendastudent.html).



The average amount of annual support devoted to each scholar is between \$22,000-\$31,000, which includes men-

toring, leadership and media training and direct financial support. Point's multifaceted support extends far beyond the scholars' time in school as Point provides leadership training and mentoring.

Attending some of the nation's foremost higher educational institutions, Point Scholars agree to maintain a high level of academic performance and to give back to the LGBT community through the completion of an individual community service project each year. In addition, scholars are matched with mentors from the professional world through Point's Mentoring Program; mentors lend their professional expertise and career guidance and become important role models to scholars. The Mentoring Program and Point's professional support network equip scholars with skills to ensure a lifetime of leadership, success and well-being.

Since its inception in 2001, Point Foundation has invested over \$4.8 million in the education of outstanding LGBT students. The organization's growth over a short period of time is noteworthy. In its first year, Point received 268 applications and granted eight scholarships. In 2010, approximately 1,641 applications were submitted of which

*See Scholarships on page 22*

## Creep of the Week: McCain, not so "Maverick" after all

By: D'Anne Witkowski\*/Special for TRT

"Today is a very sad day," sighed a doddering and out of touch John McCain on the day "don't ask, don't tell" was finally repealed by Congress.

Oh, shut up, McCain. Your completely indefensible and fear-mongering position lost. Suck it.

"I hope that when we pass this legislation that we will understand that we are doing great damage," McCain said before the vote.

The only thing that the DADT repeal is going to do great damage to is McCain's reputation. He's staked his claim to the wrong side of history. As DADT's staunchest defender in the face of possible repeal, he's made himself the George Wallace of this issue.

What's especially unseemly is McCain's complete about-face. While he stands with the anti-gay right-wingers he's so capriciously aligned himself with, three years ago he was Mr. "DADT repeal is fine with me so long as the top brass are cool with it."

"I listen to people like Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and literally every military leader that I know. And they testified before Congress that they felt the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy was the most appropriate way to conduct ourselves in the military," McCain said in 2006. "But the day that the leadership of the military comes to me and says, 'Senator, we ought to change the policy,' then I think we ought to consider seriously changing it because those leaders in the military are the ones we give the responsibility to."

But of course, as soon as "the leadership of the military" was cool with it, McCain was not. McCain went out of his way to insist that

DADT was "effective" policy and that only military folks who agreed with him were worth listening to.

"They're saying if it isn't broke, then don't fix it," McCain said. "I understand the other side's argument because of their social-political agenda, but to somehow allege that it has harmed our military isn't justified by the facts."

What exactly does McCain mean when he calls DADT "effective policy?" Effective at what? Ruining people's lives? Punishing members of the military who are doing a job the vast majority of Americans are too chickens\*\$ to do? Coddling members of the military who think that gay people are too "icky" to work alongside?

And how does kicking trained personnel out not harm the military?

In 2007 McCain said, "We have the best-trained, most professional, best-equipped, most efficient, most wonderful military in the history of this country. There just aren't enough of them." Did he mean there just aren't enough straight ones?

It takes a lot of time and money to turn a new recruit into a fully trained member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines. And yet we've been kicking service members out simply because, say, he's a soldier who doesn't get turned on by big jugs, or she's a soldier who does. That's the policy McCain has been so rabidly defending?

As Joe Sudbay of AmericaBlogGay wrote, "They're on the front lines, putting their lives on the front lines for the rest of us."

By saying that repealing DADT is simply another notch in the belt of some "social-political agenda" McCain is essentially saying to the

*See Creep of the Week on page 16*

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## Facebook Co-Founder gives GLAD a Huge Gift

Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes, along with his partner Sean Eldridge, has given GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders) a boost of support in the form of a \$50,000 matching gift.

As a Harvard undergraduate, Hughes worked on GLAD's Legal InfoLine, helping LGBT students with legal problems. Hughes and classmates Mark Zuckerberg, Dustin Moscovitz and Eduardo Saverin launched the social networking phenomenon known as Facebook in 2004.

Hughes also designed MyBarackObama.com, an online organizing campaign which helped aid the president's historic election in 2008.

Hughes and Eldridge gave an interview for GLAD's newsletter, *Briefs*, where they explained their passion for LGBT equality. They also appear in a YouTube video, which can be seen at GLAD's web site - www.glad.org.

Eldridge, who is political director for the national organization Freedom to Marry, said, through that interview, "GLAD has proven to do incredibly smart, effective litigation that has really moved the ball forward. We feel indebted to the work GLAD has done and continues to do."

"I knew that I wanted to volunteer for an organization that was working for GLBT Equality," Hughes said. "I thought [the InfoLine] was really interesting because I would have an impact on people who were struggling

with so many of the issues of what can and cannot be done as a GLBT citizen in New England or even nationally. It was exciting. I felt like I had a really tangible effect on people who were struggling with important problems."

Eldridge feels that winning full equality for LGBT Americans requires a three-pronged strategy of legislation, public education and litigation, and that GLAD's work is integral to that strategy.



Chris Hughes and Sean Eldridge

PHOTO: COURTESY OF GLAD

"GLAD has proven to do incredibly smart, effective litigation that has really moved the ball forward," he explained. "When we think about the litigation element of the work, GLAD is the first group that we think of and we feel indebted to the work that you've done and the work that you continue to do."

Hughes hopes that his and Eldridge's year-end donation challenge will motivate others to donate to GLAD.

"GLAD is a phenomenal organization, [that] is working on and prioritizing the issues that are important to both Sean and me," Hughes said. "[W]e couldn't be any happier to support you guys."

*Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders is New England's leading legal organization devoted to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status, and gender identity and expression.*

### Queeries from page 2

group or an attorney specializing in employment law to find out your options. But be careful: Lesbians and gay men can be fired at will simply because of their sexual orientation. And until Congress enacts the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, that will remain the case.

### Breast cancer makes me nervous about sex

**Q:** I'm a lesbian who's had breast cancer. I've been dating a little but am uncomfortable about my body and not sure when to discuss the various health issues and the marks they've left. Before we have sex - or after?

**A:** Starting to date and then going to bed with someone new can raise all kinds of anxieties; add into the mix feeling self-conscious about scars and/or the loss of body parts and I can understand why you might feel uncomfortable. Your question is part and parcel of one of the most common of dating concerns: When do you talk about the "skeletons" in your closet? The answer is slowly. As the relationship deepens, offer up the basic facts of your medical history and be open to any questions. Not surprisingly, that's why many of us with body image concerns (full disclosure: I have a testicular prosthesis) choose to wait to have sex until we're comfortable enough with a new partner to discuss these issues. Still, steel yourself for the possibility of rejection. Once, after I told a new boyfriend that I had had testicular cancer, he thanked me for being honest and sent me on my way, saying: "I just buried my partner who died from cancer. I can't go down that path again."

The last word: Don't forget that each of us is the composite of our experiences (surgery included), and these make our beauty unique.

### Gay couple (plus cat) contemplates a holiday photo card

**Q:** Many of my straight friends send holiday cards with their kids front and center. Since my partner and I don't have any offspring, can we send a card with just us as the cover models? We could add in our cat if you think that would help.

**A:** Most holiday photo cards feature kids ("aren't they adorable!") or vacation destinations ("look at how fabulous we are!") as key elements. The truth is that these images are just another example of the deep narcissistic streak in our culture ("look at me and my beautiful family"). But there are limits: It's actually pretty rare that couples alone -- straight or gay -- pose for their close-ups without a supporting player. Since equality is all about parity, I'd say do go ahead with your close-up—just don't forget your cat ("isn't she beautiful?")

One last note: If you're not already out, this is quietly effective way to do so. Imagine the photo: two husbands and their cat in front of the fireplace. ("The warmest of holidays from Justin, Benji, and Garfield!")

*\*Steven Petrow writes for the Huffington Post, Advocate.com and 365Gay.com and is the author of the forthcoming book, "Steven Petrow's Complete Gay & Lesbian Manners" www.gaymanners.com. Have a question? Email him at ask@gaymanners.com.*

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# Repeal of *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* no threat to counseling by military chaplains

**By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter**

Will lifting the ban on gays in the armed forces endanger military chaplains' First Amendment religious liberties?

Not according to the Pentagon's *Report of the Comprehensive Review of Issues Associated with Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell,"* which concluded that "existing policies on chaplains' protections and obligations are adequate and strike an appropriate balance between protecting a chaplain's First Amendment freedoms and a chaplain's duty to care for all."

The report also found that chaplains voiced "some of the most intense and sharpest divergence of views" on the topic of openly gay service.

In fact, during hearings earlier this month before the Senate Armed Forces Committee, the topic of clergy's concerns over repeal surfaced when Senator Joe Manchin III (D-W. Va.) asked Jeh Johnson, co-chair of the Pentagon study group, about moral and religious objections to repeal among the 3,000-member chaplain corps.

"We heard a lot of concern: Will this require me to change my religious beliefs or my religious counseling?" Johnson said. "The answer to that is, 'No.'"

Manchin's follow-up question asked about chaplain retention. "Is there any inkling how many religious orders would not continue to serve" if "don't ask, don't tell" is repealed?

"There were definitely some pretty strong views among the chaplain community," Jeh said. "I would not for a minute assume that every single chaplain would continue to stay in the military. If the law were appealed, we should assume that we

would lose some."

Nonetheless, he added, "I also heard from many chaplains who take very seriously their obligation to care for all. So I anticipate just as many feel strongly that repeal is the right thing to do."

In its study, the Pentagon Working Group contacted approximately 200 ecclesiastical agencies that endorse military chaplains. Among the 77 agencies that responded, which represents nearly 70 percent of active duty chaplains, most voiced opposition to repeal "based primarily on theological objections to homosexuality," according to the report.

Chaplains serve as commissioned officers, active duty or reserve. Their endorsement means that their ordinations to the clergy are verified by a religious denomination recognized by the Department of Defense.

But "none [of the ecclesiastical agencies] stated it would withdraw its endorsements for military chaplains" if the law were repealed. In fact, only three of 145 chaplains who participated in the study indicated they would separate or retire if Congress lifted the ban.

Active duty service members also voiced strong objections.

"For me personally, it's morally wrong and socially unacceptable," said one focus group participant.

Yet another respondent said, "Homosexuality is morally offensive. Like adultery and drug use, I cannot tolerate homosexuality. I will not work side by side with someone that is an adulterer, a drug addict, or homosexual."

The Pentagon's comprehensive review found, however, that with the reality of a "pluralistic American society at large," service members with "sharply" different "religious convictions and moral values — including those who believe

abortion is murder and those who do not, those who believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and those who do not — and those who have no religious convictions at all, already co-exist, live and fight together on a daily basis."

Harry Knox, religion and faith program director for the Human Rights Campaign, noted that "Historically, from the time of Washington and Lafayette, chaplains have served people of faith different from their own and people of no faith, equally," he said.

Father Geoff Farrow, an openly gay Catholic priest who served in the Air Force as a chaplain from 1989 to 1993, said his military experienced demonstrates First Amendment religious liberties are not in jeopardy. "Nobody ever came to me and said this Sunday's homily should not say this or that," he explained. "Abortion is the law of the land," Farrow added. "But there is nothing stopping a chaplain from saying abortion is immoral."

Strongly worded opposition to repealing "don't ask, don't tell" springs from two of the nation's largest Christian denominations. The Southern Baptist Faith and Message, for example, states "Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography."

While the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered," Archbishop Timothy Broglio for the Military Services USA caused a stir by comparing homosexuality to alcoholism.

Writing in the *Washington Post*, he said, "Like homosexuality, there is rarely a cure. There is a control through a process, which is guarded by absolute secrecy. It is an equivalent to 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' The process has worked well for some time without the charge that it is discriminatory."

But a Catholics for Marriage Equality spokesperson took strong exception to the prelate. "As a psychotherapist for over 30 years," said Charles Martel of Boston, "Archbishop Broglio's comments about homosexuality reflect a lack of understanding that it is not a disease, and therefore does not need to be 'cured.' One of the primary tenets of Alcoholics Anonymous, in which he makes a curious comparison, is that telling the truth of who you are is key to good mental health. Denial kills you."

Ironically, 17 years ago when then President Bill Clinton signed "don't ask, don't tell" into law, the religious right, including Reverends Jerry Farwell and Lou Sheldon, played religion and morality cards to rally social conservatives against openly gay service. As Nathaniel Frank notes in his seminal work, *Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America*, the Christian right's orchestrated campaign "was widely credited with helping turn public and political opinion against Clinton's proposal to lift the ban on gay service."

Not this time around. Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said religious and moral concerns did not gain "any traction" among lawmakers on Capitol Hill.



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT  
**Father Geoffrey Farrow,  
a Catholic priest and former Air Force chaplain.**

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# To Cook is To Love: A Foodies Journal Changes, not resolutions, for the New Year

By: John Verlinden/TRT Cuisine Columnist

**¡MUCHO GUSTO!**



PHOTO: RACHIEL POWERS

I can't believe another year has passed. So have you made any resolutions? My New Year's resolution for 2011: *Make No Resolutions!* A resolution's a surefire way to disappoint

should my best laid plan not quite work out. No matter how reasonable and thoughtful we are about setting our goals, some jerk always seems to come along about January 2nd to mess things up.

Just because I'm not making resolutions, doesn't mean I don't intend to make some changes, I'm just making wishes this year instead. Cubans have a great tradition to ring in the New Year which I love; it's called *doce uvas* (twelve grapes). Along with your midnight glass of champagne to toast the New Year, you get a dish of 12 grapes. The grapes symbolize the months of the coming year, and as you savor each one, you make a wish for each month. As I ate my grapes and concentrated on my wishes, something strange

happened. It occurred to me that even though I wished for something different each month, all my wishes (once I'd put aside the "new Mercedes," the "beachfront villa" and the "winning megabucks ticket," that is) basically boiled down to this – spend more quality time with family and friends, improve my health and do something creative. Sound familiar? Once I figured that out, I knew I could make all those wishes come true and I could do it all at the same time. You can too!

Each month, let's make a special dinner party (get out the good china and tablecloth) for someone special in our lives. We'll make it with them (family and friends) – there's no better way to bond than when prepping a meal together. Make it nutritious (better health), by making it the old fashioned way – from scratch with whole food ingredients. And, make something you haven't made before (creative opportunity); I'm finally going to tackle the fresh artichoke.

And, if you should miss a month or we have to order in pizza because our soufflé falls flat ... no biggie, we've got eleven other chances to get it right.

Have questions? Need a recipe? Want to suggest a topic? Contact me: [john@muchogusto.com](mailto:john@muchogusto.com) or [www.muchogusto.com](http://www.muchogusto.com).

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

## Healthcare Disparities from page 2

includes people of all races and ethnicities, all ages, all socioeconomic statuses, and from all parts of the country." In other words, treatment for our community is not simple, for we do not fit the norms established by this society. The site also states that "social inequality is often associated with poorer health status, and sexual orientation has been associated with multiple health threats. Members of the LGBT community are at an increased risk for a number of health threats when compared to their heterosexual peers."

Needless to say, LGBT health care is often a very nerve-racking experience, unless you are one of the few who is being treated by an open and affirming LGBT practitioner. The

healthcare disparities affecting our people are not going away unless facilities and organizations start training their staff, working together to reduce the healthcare incongruences and combat such ignorance.

Happy New Year and may all of your resolutions come true!

*Gricel M. Ocasio*

*\*Gricel Martínez Ocasio is the co-founder, co-owner and Publisher of The Rainbow Times. She is a graduate of Marylhurst University (MBA, 2010) and of Temple University (1991). She has been in the journalism and publishing field for almost 20 years. You can reach her at: [publisher@therainbowtimesnews.com](mailto:publisher@therainbowtimesnews.com).*

# Items of interest in our local gayborhoods and beyond

**NEWSBRIEFS**

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

## Massachusetts News:

• The Fenway Institute has issued preliminary guidance for medical providers on the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as an HIV prevention tool. This guidance follows publication of a November 23 *New England Journal of Medicine* article on the results of the iPrex trial showing that PrEP reduced HIV infection in gay and bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women.

Those taking the medication daily had a 44 percent lower rate of HIV infection than those in the placebo. When looking at only those with a high adherence level who reported at taking at least 90% of their medication, the protective effect exceeded 70 percent. For those in whom medication was detected in their blood, risk of infection decreased by more than 90 percent. The Fenway Institute was one of two American sites involved in this study and Dr. Kenneth Mayer, Medical Research Director and Co-Chair of The Fenway Institute is one of the study authors. More about the iPrex study and results at [www.fenwayhealth.org/iprex](http://www.fenwayhealth.org/iprex).

Steve Smith is stepping down from his position as Executive Director of the Boston Gay Men's Chorus in February in order to pursue a leadership role with another performing arts organization this winter.

Over his sixteen years as Executive Director, Smith tripled the BGMC's annual audience and grew its annual operating budget from \$120,000 to \$600,000. The Board of Directors has initiated a transition and search process to hire Steve's replacement; more details will be announced by mid-January. For inquiries about the transition and search, please send email to [ed\\_search@bgmc.org](mailto:ed_search@bgmc.org).

• MassEquality will be holding phone banks

## Creep of the Week from page 13

thousands of gay and lesbian service members who have lost their careers under DADT, "You're worthless."

In the end it's McCain himself who is worthless. A man who once seemed to have a shred of integrity but who now barely clings to a shred of dignity after he's sold out his career trying to appease the anti-gay right. It looks like that isn't exactly "effective policy."

*\*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.*

for volunteers to call residents of Rhode Island in an effort to identify supporters of marriage equality. The effort began in December and will continue throughout January.

MassEquality is holding the Red Party, a major fundraising event on February 19. The event will be held at the Estate, 1 Boylston St., Boston. Tickets are \$100.

For more information, contact David Samson at 617-878-2302.

## Worcester News:

• The Trustees of the Nathaniel Wheeler Trust awarded AIDS Project Worcester a one-year grant in the amount of \$1,450 to support the purchase of perennials for the agency's Green and Gold Community garden. Some 70 plants will be purchased come spring 2011 and installed in the community garden. The project brought together students from WPI, staff from the Regional Environmental Council, volunteers from the Toxic Soil Busters and Worcester Roots Project, and staff, volunteers, and consumers from AIDS Project Worcester.

## Connecticut News:

• The Imperial Court of Rhode Island is holding their annual Coronation from February 18-20 at the Hartford/Windsor Marriott in Windsor. The theme is Yule Ball: A Night of Mystery and Magic in the Great Hall of Hogwarts. For more information, go to their website at: [www.iscofallct.org](http://www.iscofallct.org).

• Connecticut Trans Advocacy's Fifth Annual Transgender Lives: The Intersection of Health and Law Conference will be held on April 30, 2011 at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Ct. For more information, go to their web site at: [www.transadvocacy.com](http://www.transadvocacy.com).

## Rhode Island News:

• AIDS Project Rhode Island will soon be launching a search for a new Executive Director. Stephen Hourahan, who has held that position for the past year, will be serving as a Senior Advisor to Governor-elect Lincoln Chafee. Hourahan will advise Chafee on a range of issues. Hourahan also was a senior advisor to Chafee's gubernatorial campaign and served as Chafee's Director of Communications for his U.S. Senate office.

Hourahan, 52, was employed as the first director of development at the AIDS Action Council in Washington in 1989. At the time, there was no action regarding the epidemic at the government level. AAC was the first national AIDS organization.

After leaving the staff of AIDS Action, Hourahan served as an APRI board member and remained in that position until 1993. In 2008, Hourahan was presented with the organization's Richard Katzoff Leadership Award.

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## The A-List: New York's Ryan Nickulas bears soul Cape Cod Native on family, lover, the new season and bullying

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

Ryan Darius Nickulas, a Cape Cod native and star of LOGO's "The A-List: New York," met up with *The Rainbow Times* to discuss show secrets, coming out and children. It was just another Saturday morning in New York City's West Village for Nickulas, who was seated at the front desk his salon as if just another employee; despite the fact that he has worked with stars like Pamela Anderson, Rachel Ray and Isaac Mizrahi.

Nickulas' obsession with hair began from a young age in his hometown of West Barnstable, MA. While his older brother Eric was playing ice hockey, and would eventually be drafted by the Boston Bruins, Nickulas was French-braiding his Barbie doll's hair. "[The Barbie's would] be in the tub with me, because for a little gay boy it's lonely; you don't identify with the other boys: I don't want to play soccer, Mom. I don't want to go climb trees, or play manhunt, or whatever the game is," he recalled.

Nickulas came out of the closet at 16 and became president of Barnstable High School's Gay Straight Alliance by 1999 when he graduated. "Truly because of living in the state of Massachusetts and on the Cape, and the laws that were in place at the time, I was able to evolve as a young teenage man and not repress myself. I'm just so grateful for that," said Nickulas.

He went on to earn a degree from Beauty Creators Academy in Everett, MA while simultaneously attending the University of Massachusetts at Boston. It was in his college years that 20-year-old Nickulas first met and began dating Desmond Smith, his future husband. "It wasn't the right time. I was young and crazy but the connection was electric," said Nickulas. Despite a break up, the two stayed in touch. They have now been married for three and a half years and live together in New York City; this past August the couple was featured in a New York Times article (<http://nyti.ms/hQZQqP>) about their fish tank.

Nickulas opened his salon in 2007 and it was while doing a friend's hair overheard about the casting call for "The A-List: New York." After consulting with his husband, parents and brother, Nickulas put himself out there.

**The Rainbow Times:** Did they have a casting call?

**Nickulas:** Huge, huge casting [of over 6,000 people]. There are a lot of bitter bi%#\$s in New York City, who auditioned for the show and won't admit it. I swear that's why we got so much hate in New York, because so many people didn't get cast, felt like they were more... At first it was "The Real Househusbands of New York" and then it was "The Gay Socialites of New York" and then they named it "The A-List: New York," which we didn't even know until seven weeks into filming and we were all like, "S&%t."

**TRT:** Did you feel like you had to live up to the name?

**RN:** Well you know, I've never truly said that in my life, that I'm A-List... I'm myself the entire time and I think people can tell. That's the most response I get, 'You're so real, we love your advice.' In an unnatural situation, so to speak, with cameras and lighting and a pretty set up- 'We're going to film at this restaurant and you guys are going to have lunch. Then have your conversation.' I tried to just truly just stay myself and even though I knew there was a shit show going around me, I just tried to give an honest perception of me and that was the best way I could do it.



PHOTO: ANDREW WERNER

### Ryan Nickulas

**TRT:** The first episode sets the premise that the cast is good friends, who did you know before filming?

**RN:** I knew TJ [Kelly]. Of course I knew of Reichen [Lehmkuhl] and we have a mutual friend. And I know of Mike Ruiz, like who doesn't? I'm sorry if you're young, and gay, and like fashion, and famous people, you know Mike Ruiz because he's just brushed elbows with everybody. And we've all watched his career going, "[moans] I wish I could be him."

So then Derek, and I and TJ were the only original cast to film the pilot. A lot of people don't know that. So I met Derek a year ago filming the pilot for the original series and then when LOGO decided to go a different route they kept us three, and the other four boys fell to the wayside.

**TRT:** Did you watch the show religiously every week?

**RN:** Yeah I did. You know we were sent a copy on Friday before everyone else saw because a lot of us do interviews, so we have to know what's kept in. Eighty percent of what shot this summer is left on the floor, if you can imagine that. So all the times that we went to lunch or talked about this thing-I went to a few Patricia Fields parties, I did a few salon trainings because I do a lot of platform artist work for companies and I'm an educator for people. We filmed all of that part of my career but didn't show up.

**TRT:** Aside from TJ Kelly, your assistant, who do you still talk to on a regular basis?

**RN:** I talk to Derek and Austin all the time. Reichen and Rodney [Santiago] are kind of too cool for school right now. But I think as viewers you all knew that. And they're actually badmouthing the show right now, which is really sS&%ty. Rodney is acting like a true Brazilian h\*\*\$#r. The show made him famous, he was truly a no one and they enticed him to do a calendar. He's now getting paid substantially off this calendar. So he's got the show, so he got the job. He did the deed, so he got his money. Now he's flipping the bird like I don't need you. So it's kind of sad and then in the next Facebook post he'll be like, 'Come see me in Miami at my next appearance!' Which he's getting paid for because of the show. It's so shitty and I'm really not happy about it.

**TRT:** Is Austin Armacost still in the U.K.?

**RN:** He runs back and forth. So he should be here this week and we're all going to have dinner;

To continue this story, please visit us online at: [www.therainbowtimesmass.com/01062011/ryan](http://www.therainbowtimesmass.com/01062011/ryan).



# Taking a look back at the modifications in transgender thought since 2000

TRANS OPINION

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw\*/TRT Columnist

The other day I was thinking back to the year 2000 and of all the changes that have occurred in my life and in the lives of other transpeople. I remembered 10 years ago when I was just starting to come out of the closet and was starting to accept and discover myself. Of course, I was very deep in the closet back then and scared as anything, not to mention very confused, but I was also very intrigued of the possibility to “change genders” and amazed at the process to do so. It was all very new to me and as I came into the trans community, I saw how others were dealing with being trans. Back then it was all about going stealth and being secretive whether you cross-dressed or whether you transitioned (living full-time as the opposite gender that you were physically born into). The cross-dressers did not want to be outed nor did the transitioners. It was all hush-hush and no one could ever dare outing someone! There also was a kind of unsaid but duly noted “Be quiet and learn” message that I received when I was first being introduced into the support groups. I wasn’t sure what was going on with me and I didn’t really identify with most of the transgenders who I met. Yes, I liked to wear women’s clothing but I didn’t feel totally comfortable being a cross dresser and I was so far from being a transitioner at that point, I didn’t know who I was. I just kept my mouth shut and I took the unspoken advice. I listened and learned.

After several months of “listening and learning” I finally started to ask questions and tried to figure out where I stood in this new life that



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

I was entering into. I remember looking at the transitioners and hearing all the awful and depressing stories of how they lost their jobs, their wives, their family members and their friends. They would tell me, “Deja, do not transition unless you really have to. Your life will be very different and it’s not easy.” To me, the transitioner support meetings were very dark and depressing and not something that I really wanted to explore. This group was way too unhappy for me so I then looked at the cross dressers.

The cross dressers were generally very happy folks who were in the closet, but they loved to go out in public dressed up in women’s clothes and they had fun, partying and dancing at trans events. They were all working and many had pretty good jobs so money was really no object or concern for them. Because this group was happy and was not even thinking about changing their gender and possibly having a tougher life, I was drawn to them. I loved to be happy and I loved to party and dance, so I figured that I was some kind of cross dresser. I say some kind of cross dresser because I didn’t really identify with this group either. Some of the CDs were so meticulous in their female presentations and I knew that I was not like that. Some of the CDs didn’t like to dance and I loved to dance. Some of the CDs loved to dress up, but also liked to go back to being men and I knew that I was not like that. I knew that I wanted to be female,

but I had so many self-doubts that I knew that I could never transition (or so I thought!). I didn’t want to have a sad life like most of the transitioners had and I loved the happy CD life but I really didn’t identify with anyone. Yes, I was different.

Then I attended Fantasia Fair, an annual transgender week in Provincetown in 2003 and I met trans activists like Ethan St. Pierre and Vanessa Edwards Foster. These were transitioned folks who were jobless because of discrimination and they were constantly fighting for trans rights. Something clicked with me and this crowd. At first I didn’t know what it was but I felt at home with this group. I somehow identified with them. Next thing I know I was in our nation’s capital, dressed as female and lobbying in Capitol Hill for trans rights. We even picketed outside of HRC (Human Rights Campaign) because they always indicated that they were supporting our rights, but they always withdrew their support whenever it came to crunch time. Suddenly, I was a radical transactivist, yet I still had this smile and this penchant for fun and dancing and partying. I identified with these other transactivists because they were not stealth, they were out and they were fighting for our rights. There was a sense of

“realness of life” and “deeply caring about the trans cause” about them and I was impressed. Now, I was a happy CD who was also a radical transactivist and although I was still in the closet, it was then that I knew that it was only a matter of time before I would transition.

It was also around then when I met Keri Stebbins and the UniTy group, the Springfield, Mass. transgender support group. It was there that I saw this same kind of positive realness, purposefulness and socialness that I had identified with in DC with my radical friends. I had also met transmen in DC and again in the UniTy group. I never even knew that transmen existed! Up until DC and UniTy I thought that transgender was all some kind of male-to-female thing. That’s what I was led to believe by therapists and other transwomen. Now

this female-to-male thing was very evident to me. Realizing that there are transmen as well as transwomen in the world, the idea of “it’s only males who want to be females” was thrown right out the window! I finally got the idea of being in the wrong gender. It all started to make sense to me and I was on my way to identifying myself!

See Transgender Thought on page 23

## I am now officially a girl named Robert! Pronouns usage and love of shoes

By: Lorelei Erisis\*/TRT Columnist

Dear TransWoman,

I have a question. One of my clients is facing a claim of transgender discrimination, among other claims. My question is this: Their ex-employee lives as a man and claims transgender discrimination because of that; however, he has filed the claim as a female, using his female name and using female pronouns.

In responding to the claim, I want to use the appropriate pronoun. Honestly, I would think it would be the male one seeing as that is how he lives (and when he was hired, he told them he was transitioning to a man; his co-workers referred to him as such, etc.). I looked through his personnel file and on the employment documents he checked the female box. What do you think would be appropriate under these circumstances? I will undoubtedly need to use a pronoun in responding to the claims or, alternatively, I could just constantly use Plaintiff, such as “the Plaintiff went to the Plaintiff’s office” but I never would write that way as it would sound weird.

—Curious In Cali; Esq.

Great question CiCe!!! Just the sort of thing I thrive on.

A couple of things to clear up: I’m assuming this is a female-to-male transgender person? If that is the case, the discrepancy you are seeing may arise from the lack of legal document changes. In my own case for instance, I live and work as a woman, but my documents being not yet entirely changed often indicate that I am a “male.” So, on most documents I fill out, including work records, my resume and so on, I use “female” and feminine pronouns. This is generally okay, even in combination with my un-changed legal name, as it’s understood to be reflective of my “full-time,” day-to-day status.

However, certain very official, especially government/bureaucratic (Health Insurance for instance) or official ID reliant documents require that I use male pronouns. Which I hate, but I have to do sometimes.

When I had a run-in with the Holyoke Police recently after my car was improperly towed, they refused to even use female pronouns in speaking to me directly, despite my very, dressed-for-the-office, feminine presentation and polite request that they do so. They would only go by what the information on my Driver’s License gave them, including that dreadful other name.

It is worth noting here that just days ago, I finally received my brand new Massachusetts Driver’s License, which while it still carries my old legal name, now properly lists my gender as female! (Whooo-Hoooo!!!) Making me now officially a Girl Named Robert! So you see how these things can get confusing.

My advice, assuming that the Plaintiff’s situation is similar is to use male pronouns. The best choice is always simply and politely to ask. When that’s not possible, as I assume it might not be here, observation as to the dominant gender of presentation is appropriate. Your observation would seem to indicate a “male” identification, so male pronouns are most likely to be appropriate.

Alternately, if the gender is simply unknown or a matter of question/debate, the gender non-specific pronouns, “ze” and “hir” are really quite useful (pron. “zee” & “here”). I use them all the time when I don’t want to needlessly “gender” an individual whose gender is unknown to me, either because it’s unclear or I have not enough information to go on. Some folks, especially genderqueer identified folks, will use these to self-identify even. The usage has some flexibility but generally speaking I use “ze” where



Lorelei Erisis

I would use “she” or “he” and “hir” where I would use “him” or “her.” The most flexibility seems to incur where I am indicating possession. I will often use “ze’s” instead of “hir’s,” but that’s really just a matter of personal taste.

If you’re ever looking for more legally specific advice about transgender people or you ARE a transgender person in need of legal help or advice, I would strongly recommend contacting the fine folks at the Transgender Law Center right there in Cali-

fornia or GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders) here in New England. They are both excellent organizations doing fine work for the transgender community. I’ve had the pleasure of meeting folks from both organizations and I’m glad (!) to have them on our side!!

Good luck CiCe!

Dear Lorelei,  
Where is the best shoe store near Northampton (size 12)??  
JC

As a woman who loves to have good shoes, this is a question I spend an absurd amount of time trying to figure out. I’m a 12/13 myself and I can tell you, it’s not easy.

See A Girl Named Robert on page 22

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# Professional racecar driver Evan Darling needs Gay Inc. to keep his motor running

By: Mikey Rox\*/Special for TRT

Professional racecar driver Evan Darling is at a crossroads in his career: his engine is revved, but he's running out of gas.

"The LGBT community has been very supportive and happy to see me doing what I am for the community – just not financially," says the 42-year-old openly gay athlete.

And it's that lack of sponsorship that may force the adrenaline junkie to trade in his fire suit for a grease monkey's jumpsuit sooner than later.

"Things are not looking good for next season and I may have to go back to being a mechanic," admits Darling, who competes in NASCAR's Grand Am series. "I have had many say I would not get support, and I would

hate to prove them right. I will always put effort into trying to get sponsors and race on a pro level – and I have put all of my resources into it over the last few years. But the well is dry."

It's not as if the Massachusetts-born, Oakland Park, Fla., resident hasn't tried to secure sponsors, either.

Darling says he has approached LGBT political supporters to sponsor him – with the promise of using their money to place a large Trevor Project logo on his car to bring awareness of the initiative to race fans – but they're not typically interested in sporting events.

Which is interesting considering how Gay Inc. makes a big stink about wanting pro athletes to live and play out and proud.

Yet it seems to obtain sponsorship one must create a spectacle; it's just not worth it to Gay Inc. investors if the gay athlete isn't making a scene.

"I told my publicist I would be way more popular if I wore a pink sequenced blouse under my racing suit," Darling quips. "But that's not me; I'm a regular guy that happens to be gay."

Much to the chagrin of his teammates, too. Professional sports are notoriously homophobic – and perhaps none more so than NASCAR, which caters

to rednecks, rappers and religious organizations, groups that aren't particularly fond of the LGBT community.

"Many people have made derogatory remarks about my sexuality. I was fully expecting that going in [to racing]," he says. "I am a mechanic by trade and have had to put up with this mentality my whole life, so it's not new to me."

In fact, Darling's dealt with bigots since birth.

His father, an attorney, represented the Irish American War Veterans in preventing Boston's LGBT community from participating in its annual Veterans Day parade. His brother, Brian, director for U.S. Senate Relations for the ultra-conservative Heritage Foundation, famously feuded with Rosie O'Donnell on "Larry King Live." And his mother, well, she's still in denial about her son's sexuality.

But at least he can shrug that last one off.

"Things are a bit better now between us," he says. "I visit them at Christmas and sometimes if I am in the area I stop in. I also call them every week as they're getting up there in age."

Darling's tepid relationship with his family is indicative of how he's approaching this new chapter in his life – one that may see him fixing cars instead of racing them. Much like his parents, he suggests, NASCAR just isn't ready for a gay driver – and, as he's realized, there's nothing he can do to change the minds of the unwilling.

"I think it would be great for the sport and the LGBT community," he says, contemplating what would happen if someone like Sprint Cup superstar Jeff Gordon came out of the closet. "[But] there would be huge fallout from the NASCAR community. It would be very difficult for anyone that came out with that kind of



PHOTOS: DARLING ENTERPRISE

Evan Darling

career. I'm sure it would be interesting to see how his sponsors would react."

The truth is, some of his current sponsors would abandon him. But with the media frenzy an announcement of that caliber would create, new sponsors would step up to the pit, checkbooks in hand – and none faster than Gay Inc.

Because as Darling knows all too well: "It's all about the bottom line."

Even if that should be, "supporting the community that supports you."

*\*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriting and creative consulting company in New York City. He can be reached at mikey@paperroxcissors.com.*

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8. The Real L Word - Complete First Season
9. Loving Annabelle + Mädchen In Uniform
10. Purple Sea

#### GAY TOP 10

1. David's Birthday
2. Plan B
3. Men's Coming Out 6-Pack
4. Role/Play
5. Arizona Sky
6. Is It Just Me?
7. Howl
8. Pornography: A Thriller
9. Handsome Harry
10. 8: The Mormon Proposition

## LGBT Health Providers from page 3

organization devoted to ending homophobia in healthcare. GLMA represents more than 70,000 LGBT physicians and medical students, in addition to millions of LGBT patients across North America who seek equality in healthcare access and delivery.

GLMA promotes quality health services for HIV positive individuals and supports members challenged by discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. For more information about LGBT-friendly providers, GLMA recent studies, or other concerns, visit: www.glma.org.

Thomas Koch, from Providence, has been going to Fenway Community Health for his medical care.

"The main thing for me is I like being able to talk openly without feeling judgment - real

or perceived," Koch said. "As gay men, we sometimes have issues straight men don't have or admit to. ...In the 17 or so years I have been going to the Fenway, I have felt at ease discussing my concerns and know that the clinician understands me and is able to make recommendations based on their own experiences or their experience of working with the community. Recommendations which are not based on assumptions or stereotypes someone not familiar with the community might have."

Koch doesn't mind driving the extra distance to get the medical services he desires.

"I will likely stay with Fenway for the foreseeable future," Koch said. "It has meant driving up there when I was not feeling well but I think having a gay or lesbian doctor has been worth it."

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# Chicago cardinal archbishop asked to explain his opposition to civil unions at Boston College

By: Chuck Colbert\*/TRT Reporter

The Catholic spiritual leader of Chicago visited Boston College recently, where a doctoral student pressed Cardinal Francis George about the Church's recent opposition to civil unions legislation passed by the Illinois General Assembly.

George told John Falcone his "argument was not with Mother Church but with Mother Nature," adding, anyone who advocates same-sex marriage or its equivalent "has lost touch with the common understanding of the human race."

"No one has the right to change marriage," George went on to say, neither "the Church" nor "the state."

While it is one thing "creating laws so that people don't feel persecuted," the cardinal explained, "don't create a law that says apples are oranges." For a lawmaker to do so, George added, he "betrays his vocation to pass good law," especially problematic for a "Catholic lawmaker."

Like many Catholic families with LGBT family members, even his own, Cardinal George acknowledged his oldest nephew is gay and a "fine man."

The cardinal archbishop came to Boston College at the invitation of the university's School of Theology and Ministry and the Church in the 21st Century Center. The school and the center co-sponsored George's lecture on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 7. His talk drew upon themes from his recently published book, *The Difference God Makes: A Catholic Vision of Faith, Communion, and Culture*.

The Church in the 21st Century serves as "a catalyst and resource and renewal" for the US Catholic Church. Originally established in 2002 as a two-year initiative at Boston College in the wake of the clerical sex abuse scandal, the center is now permanent, with a mission to explore

"neuralgic issues" facing the Church today.

Cardinal George spoke for 35 minutes and then took several questions from the audience of more than 125 people. Tape recording was not permitted because, he said, "When I give lecture as a bishop, snippets are put together and taken out of context," becoming "an exercise of manipulation, a game of gottcha."

Falcone and another Boston College graduate student, Ryan Nocito, both wore rainbow color sashes, widely regarded as visible indicators of solidarity with LGBT rights and full participation in the Catholic Church. Other students wore rainbow armbands and ribbons.

Falcone said that he attended the lecture after reading a Facebook posting about George's lobbying against civil unions. "I was upset about that," Falcone said. "People should not be able to say things with impunity. I want to remind them that they are causing trouble, and they cannot get away with it."

Falcone said that he wrote to the dean of the School of Ministry and Theology ahead of time, informing officials that he would be at the lecture. George appeared not to be taken by surprise with the question.

"What I heard in his response," Falcone said, "is that most important aspect the Church's lobbying against same-sex unions is that marriage is between a man and woman, and homosexuality

is unnatural."

George's talk focused on a theme of "Catholic communion in our time and the future." The Church teaches that the human "sense of self is essentially related," he said. "We are born related and spend a lifetime growing into those relationships."

At the same time, the Catholic Church holds up universal truth claims based on faith, George argues in his book.

But contemporary culture privileges individual rights, George said. Downplaying the communal, American culture encourages a self-understanding "defined by personal choices" he said.

At the same time, secular culture is suspicious of faith-based claims about universal truth. "The postmodern mind," George argues in his book, "deconstructs tradi-

tional truths."

Nonetheless, George encourages dialogue, or conversation, between faith and culture. But if the Church bumps up against cultural norms it cannot accept, then "We have to change the culture," he said.

A primary vehicle for cultural change, George suggested, is the legal system. In America, there is a near "religious veneration for the Constitution" and the law, he explained. "The law is an arbitrator of what is right or wrong. The law teaches us the rules of the game."

Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of Dignity USA, attended the lecture. "It crystal-

ized for me very clearly in a way that I hadn't heard before so compellingly, why opposition to same-sex marriage has become such a priority for the bishops and their focus on laws as the only arbitrator of morality in the country."

Duddy-Burke spoke with George briefly after the lecture and said she would write the cardinal to see if he would meet with her for conversation.

Chris Pett, president of the Chicago chapter of Dignity, said he was encouraged by the cardinal's openness to dialogue. "He can be very pastoral, he can listen and be respectful," said Pett who has met with George twice over years but was not in Boston for the lecture.

Still, for Pett, there is a disconnect. "We have a body of knowledge," he said. "We know more about human sexuality than we did 100 years ago. And the Church doesn't acknowledge any of that. They keep coming back to Adam and Eve."

There is yet another disconnection for the Church. As the *New York Times* reported on Dec. 15, the Catholic Church has relented in France, citing the National Confederation of Catholic Family Associations, which now says civil unions do not pose "a real threat" to marriage and the family.

A larger issue also remains: "The debate within the church is whether to view innate attraction to the same sex as a deformity of human nature or as an alternative form of human sexual nature," said Prof. Lisa Sowle Cahill, a professor of Christian ethics at Boston College, quoted in the *Times* on Dec. 17.

\*Chuck Colbert holds a master of divinity (2002) and licentiate degree (2005) from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, now a part of the Boston College School of Ministry and Theology. He is a Jew by choice (2004) in the Reform movement.



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

Doctoral candidate John Falcone and master of theological studies student Ryan Nocito at Boston College for Cardinal George's lecture.

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### Pandora Boxx from page 9

fact, are. You just have to think of that and rise above it. It's not easy, but it can be done.

**MR:** I remember when Kevin Aviance was severely beaten a few years ago after leaving a nightclub in Manhattan – the last place you'd think something like that would happen. Are you ever afraid for your safety when you're dressed in drag? Has that fear heightened now that more people recognize you?

**PB:** I always have been. I mean, I'm dressed up to look like a woman and women are victimized all the time. I'm usually very cautious and careful whenever I'm out. I keep my eyes open. I also try to have someone with me. It can be scary to think of what people can do to other people solely based on hatred or fear.

**MR:** What about your love life and dating? Has anyone ever reacted negatively after finding out that you're a drag queen? I suspect that it's a hard pill to swallow for even some of the most "open-minded, liberal" gays. Do you tell guys immediately if you meet them out of character?

**PB:** Drag queens are like car accidents – every wants to see one, but no one wants to be involved with one. It's hard because people can't see behind the drag image. Or they have a certain image of what a drag queen is. I know that people haven't wanted to be involved with me because of drag. It is a lot to deal with sometimes. It's a lot for me to deal with sometimes.



PHOTO: KEVIN THOMAS GARCIA

### Pandora Boxx

Fortunately, I have been with my boyfriend for four and half years. The drag doesn't bother him at all, and he's also not into drag either. He's always saying the people think he's a "tranny chaser" or "drag sniffer." He's totally not. He's not dating Pandora; he's dating Michael.

**MR:** What's your mission as a performer? Why Pandora instead of Michael?

**PB:** It was never really intended that way. I wanted to be an actor since I was five. I still consider myself more of an actor than a drag queen. Pandora just sort of happened and I went with it. I'd love to do more things as myself but right now she's at the forefront and that's cool.

**MR:** Where do you go from here?

**PB:** I've learned a lot these past few years and realized that you can be the master of your own destiny. You can really make things happen if you want them to. I really hope to continue to be able to share my talents with people and keep them entertained.

I truly love making people laugh and would love to be able to keep being an entertainer for the rest of my life.

*\*Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer and journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriting and creative consulting company in New York City. He can be reached at [www.paperroxscissors.com](http://www.paperroxscissors.com).*

### Scholarships from page 13

25 students were granted scholarships. As of June 2010, there are 66 Point Scholars currently enrolled in school and 97 Point Alumni.

Point Foundation's Named Scholarship Program allows individuals, organizations, foundations and corporations to provide substantial support to Point Foundation by honoring the name of an individual or organization and to demonstrate a public commitment to Point's vision of valuing education, leadership and diversity.

A Named Scholarship is a commitment of \$100,000 over four years. This gift can be made as a one-time gift or through a commitment of four consecutive \$25,000 annual installments.

Three new Named Scholarships have been created this year from the generous donations by the following corporations, individuals and/or supportive organizations: George Benes M.D. & Michael Mallee EdD, Darden Restaurants and Toyota Financial Services. They join Point's existing Named Scholarships: Jan Aronson, Thomas & Sara Branton, The Calamus Foundation, Walter M. Decker, Bob Fennell, Dr. Joan W. Shelley Fernandez, Allan Gilmour & Eric Jirgens, Gregory Grosh, HBO, Joan R. Heller, Kevin Hummer, Johnson & Johnson, Lawrence King/Jeffrey FashionCares, Bryan L. Knapp, Jonathan D. Lewis, Phyllis Mandler & Gary Elden, Minton-Spidell, Point Honors LA & NY, Casey Sakir, Rand Skolnick, Paul W. Speier, Time Warner, University of Phoenix, and Wells Fargo.

For additional information on Point Foundation, please visit: <http://www.pointfoundation.org>.

For information on how to apply for a Point Scholarship, please visit: <http://www.pointfoundation.org/apply.html>.

### A Girl Named Robert from page 19

When I lived in Hollywood I could find all the hooker shoes I wanted all the way up to size 19 (seriously, they were like small boats with spiked heels!!). And, don't get me wrong, I love a pair of outrageous heels as much as the next girl, but God's forbid, I should want a pair of cute flats, or need something for the office.

There are several great places online like Zappos that have shoes in my size. And those are an excellent resource for a style minded transwoman. But for me, there's nothing quite like the Cinderella-thrill of walking into a store and finding just the right shoe.

About the only place I've found nationally and definitely the only place I've found locally where I can consistently find anything is Payless ShoeSource. The selection is slim, but if I'm diligent about looking in every store I pass, I can usually find something.

Well that's it folks! Keep those questions coming, don't be shy and don't be afraid, I'm here to answer them!! Happy New Year friends!

Slainte!

*\*Lorelei Erisis, former Miss Trans New England, can be contacted at: [loleleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com](mailto:loleleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com).*



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# CT PRIDE CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY IN SEPTEMBER, 2011 MAJOR HEADLINERS! NEW FESTIVITIES! NEW PERFORMERS! DETAILS TBA SOON!!

As always, The Rainbow Times is partnering with CT Pride to bring you their 30th Anniversary CT Pride Guide 2011. This separate printed piece will feature magazine-like glossy pages and will have all the information pertaining to CT Pride events, headliners/entertainment, festivities/activities, after-hour parties, etc. This is your opportunity to target the LGBTQ community and show your support for the CT Pride organization and its 30th Anniversary through participation in the CT Pride Guide. The CT Pride Guide is designed and produced by The Rainbow Times.

To sponsor CT Pride 2011, please contact: [info@connecticutpride.org](mailto:info@connecticutpride.org), or to advertise in the 30th Anniversary CT Pride Guide, contact: [sales@therainbowtimesnews.com](mailto:sales@therainbowtimesnews.com).



## Expectativas que deben ocurrir para el año 2011

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa\*/Columnista de TRT

**LATIN VISION**



Wilfred Labiosa

**¡**Les deseo a todo/as un Feliz Año Nuevo 2011! Espero que su Navidad, Hannukah y Kwanzaa estuviera llena de felicidad, armonía y salud. En este nuevo año todo/as tenemos expectativas. Aquí incluyo algunas de las que yo espero que se hagan realidad en el 2011.

Primero, espero que todo/as nos podamos unir más y en ocasiones pararnos junto/as como una comunidad Latina y LGBT.

Recuerden la celebración de Orgullo de Boston de Junio 3 al 12 y las otras celebraciones de Orgullo a través del año, que comienzan en Northampton y terminan con Orgullo Latino. Aunque estas celebraciones son importantes, más importante son las protestas y demostraciones que ocurren a través del año, en estas SI necesitamos unirnos como comunidad. No debe haber excusas ya que en la unión está la fuerza.

Segundo, tengo la expectativa de que todo/as nuestro/as hermano/as que están afuera de nuestra nación peleando en las guerras puedan regresar a casa pronto sanos/as y salvos.

Espero también que la violencia y alto homicidio observado en el 2010 no vuelva a ocurrir en 2011. ¡Tenemos que detener esta violencia! Además, vamos a unirnos y dialogar con nuestros jóvenes ya que ellos/as son nuestro futuro, no importa su orientación sexual o expresión de género.

Tercero, tengo las expectativas de que nuestra economía va a mejorar y que nuestro/as senadores y representantes se unirán y podrán traer una resolución positiva para todo/as nosotros/as que trabajamos tan duro. También espero que

estos políticos puedan abrir un diálogo al respecto de una reforma migratoria justa. Espero que puedan escribir una resolución positiva en relación a la reforma migratoria ya que nos afecta a todos/as. Tengo estas expectativas y ¡espero que los cambios ocurran en el 2011!

Cuarto, espero que todos/as tengamos la expectativa de que nos vamos a cuidar más unos/as a otros/as como comunidad LGBT. Espero que participemos más de la medicina preventiva, que comamos más saludablemente y que disminuyamos el consumo de lo malo que pueda afectar nuestra salud. Les deseo a todos/as mejor salud.

Quinto, espero que en el 2011 podamos aprender más sobre los temas que nos afectan como individuos y como comunidad Latina LGBT. Que todo/as puedan participar de la 1era Asamblea de Latino/as LGBT a llevarse a cabo en

Julio en Boston (para más información visita: [www.unidoslgbt.net](http://www.unidoslgbt.net) o [www.somoslatinoslgbt.org](http://www.somoslatinoslgbt.org)). La fuerza se construye con educación y en la fuerza está la victoria.

Sexto, tengo expectativa de que todo en la vida de ustedes y mía va a mejorar en el 2011. Les deseo a todos/as todo lo mejor y espero que Dios, Buddha y los Orishas nos bendigan y que nos brinden un mejor año 2011.

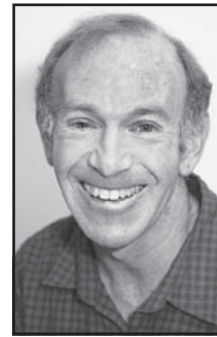
En conclusión, les deseo todo lo mejor a todo/as en el 2011 y tengo muchas expectativas para el 2011. Sé que si tenemos expectativas quizás nos frustramos si no se hacen realidad, pero

creo que si “mandamos y hablamos” de estas expectativas con el ‘universo’ y rezamos/meditamos al respecto entonces estas expectativas se pueden hacer realidad. ¡Qué todos nuestros sueños, resoluciones y proyectos se hagan realidad! ¡Feliz Año Nuevo 2011 y Feliz Día de los Reyes a todos/as! ¡Muchas bendiciones a todo/as mis lectores de Visión Latina en TRT!

*\*Escrito en ambos idiomas por Wilfred W. Labiosa, líder comunitario y Director de Unid@S La Organización Nacional LGBT Latina.*



## The OutField: Keelin Godsey has a hammer



Dan Woog

By: Dan Woog\*  
/Special for TRT

**W**hile a high school student in Palmer, Colo., Keelin Godsey dabbled in track's throwing events. Shot put and discus were OK; soccer, basketball and softball were much more interesting.

Heading east to college, Keelin planned to play basketball. But Maine's Bates College

offered a strong track and field program, and Keelin suddenly found enjoyment in throwing.

Bates helped Keelin discover something else: “My sexuality had always been undefined. I'd just felt wrong. I'd read about lesbian history, but that was all I knew.” A freshman seminar introduced Keelin to the concept of “transgender.” Books by Leslie Feinberg and Kate Bornstein helped Keelin figure out that a binary definition of sexuality does not work for everyone.

“I'd always been classified as a butch lesbian,” says Keelin. “I hated that. I never thought of myself that way.” It was harder for Keelin to identify as lesbian than as transgender.

“I am who I am,” Keelin says.

It was, surprisingly, very easy to identify as an athlete. Erica Rand, who teaches courses on contemporary culture – with particular attention to sexuality, race and gender – helped Keelin talk to coaches and athletic administrators. Keelin calls Rand's help “crucial to how smoothly everything went.”

Track and field coach Jennifer “Jay” Hartshorn was brand new to Bates, Keelin notes, and had “every right to worry” about a transgender athlete.

But, Keelin says, “she was awesome. She asked all kinds of questions about how she could support me. She made sure I didn't have to deal with any intrusions. She helped me talk to the team, and always stood up for me.”

And, Keelin adds, “she never messed up my pronouns.”

Keelin began referring to himself as “he” in the summer of 2005, prior to his senior year at Bates. However, without going through hormone treatment or gender reassignment surgery, Keelin is still biologically female – and thus competes as a woman, not a man.

Keelin attributes Hartshorn's instinctive, from-the-get-go support to the simple fact that “that's who she is: an open, understanding person.” And, Keelin laughs, “she got her coaching degree at Smith.”

Opponents were not always so kind. Keelin was occasionally called “she-male” and “tranny girl.” Keelin shrugged them off, saying, “People are afraid of what they don't know.” Generally, though, Bates made sure “I didn't hear about any drama.”

A track and field website posted something about the trans athlete. “They said I was cheating and wanted to have everything. People are entitled to their opinions. I just tried to prove I'm a good competitor. Just had to keep doing what I was doing.”

Keelin found it harder to come out in the trans community than in the athletic world. “This is my experience – I can't speak for anyone else – but because I didn't plan on transitioning, trans people didn't understand my choices. I just wanted to concentrate on my sport. I focused my attention on athletics, and I still do.”

It was a difficult decision. “I can't look the way I want to look,” Keelin says. “I can't do what I want to do.”

The focus on training paid off. Keelin is a two-time NCAA national hammer champion, and placed seventh at the 2008 Olympic trials. Last year, at the USA Track & Field championship, Keelin took fifth.

Throwing the hammer takes tremendous patience (“like being trans,” Keelin points out). It's an extremely technical event. Strength is important – and Keelin spends hours in the weight room, working on speed and explosiveness – but so is technique.

In the post-college track and field world, Keelin's sexuality is “rarely mentioned. I assume a lot of people know. People think I'm cheating and taking hormones, but I'm not.”

Keelin wants one more shot at the Olympics. The next Games are set for 2012. Before that, the world championships loom. Keelin says, “I want to go as far as I can competitively. It's a hard choice not to transition. Once I stop competing, we'll see what happens.”

Training and competing is only part of Keelin's day. The rest is spent as a physical therapist in the Berkshire Mountains of New England. Keelin also helps coach hammer and discus throwers.

Yet thoughts of sexuality – even of physical therapy – are secondary. For now, Keelin concentrates on track and field. The structure of each day, the physical exertion and the mental preparation provide an important outlet.

But, sexuality aside, Keelin is no different from any elite-level athlete. Competition is key.

“When I have a bad day at practice, I do question why I'm doing this,” Keelin says. “But after a good day, I know why.”

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

### Brigham & Women's from page 6

prevention services, including risk reduction assessment and counseling, condoms, and access to local prevention services.

“I think if we can develop a vaccine to prevent HIV, it would be a really important advance and interest to all of us, particularly communities which are disproportionately affected by HIV,” Baden added.

*To learn more about the HIV vaccine research studies being conducted at Brigham and Women's Hospital, you can visit their Twitter page at [www.twitter.com/mytmatters](http://www.twitter.com/mytmatters) or call 617-525-7327 or email [vaccines@partners.org](mailto:vaccines@partners.org).*

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### Transgender Thought from page 19

From then on, I met and noticed that more and more transpeople began coming out and living openly as transgender and they were unafraid of being called trans. More and more of them were choosing to be visible. I considered this to be a very healthy sign, being comfortable with whom you are instead of hiding from who you are! Up to then most transgenders were deeply stealth and were extremely afraid of being recognized as trans. If you don't know, let me tell you, it is very hard on trans people to go stealth and it can drive you crazy as you are always constantly afraid that someone will “be on to you” or will somehow “figure you out.” Now the tide was turning. This new breed of transfolk were very open and very proud of who they were. There was no hiding or worrying or driving yourself crazy by constantly worrying about being “found out.” I totally identified with this new breed! I never understood, agreed nor identified with the old school trans thought, but this concept I immediately grasped!

Today, there are still those who are stealth. There are stealth CDs and there are stealth transitioners. It is truly up to the individual on whether to go stealth or not. I say “good luck”

to these folks as it really is a constant battle, and it does weigh on you unbearably. Me? I much prefer living as an out transgender and living proudly as transgender. I am who I am and I have this incredible peace coming from within myself now. This was virtually unheard of back in 2000. Back then, very few, if any, of the trans were living openly as trans. They were all hiding. That's why you never noticed them before. There has always been lots of transfolk around, but they were on the down low in their very secret stealth closets!

Looking back, it's truly amazing how things have changed and I wonder what it's going to be like, say ten years from now, around 2020. I can only imagine that as more and more of us begin feeling good about ourselves as trans and begin living openly and not hiding, we will become more and more visible and more and more accepted and respected. This will happen only if we continue to live out and proud! I am excited and feel very positive about the future and the day when transpeople will be completely accepted into society!

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



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