

The Rainbow Times

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

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HOT PERFORMERS OF 2011
Beyoncé, Adele, Lykke Li, Bon Iver & More **p7**

PHOTO: COLUMBIA PICTURES



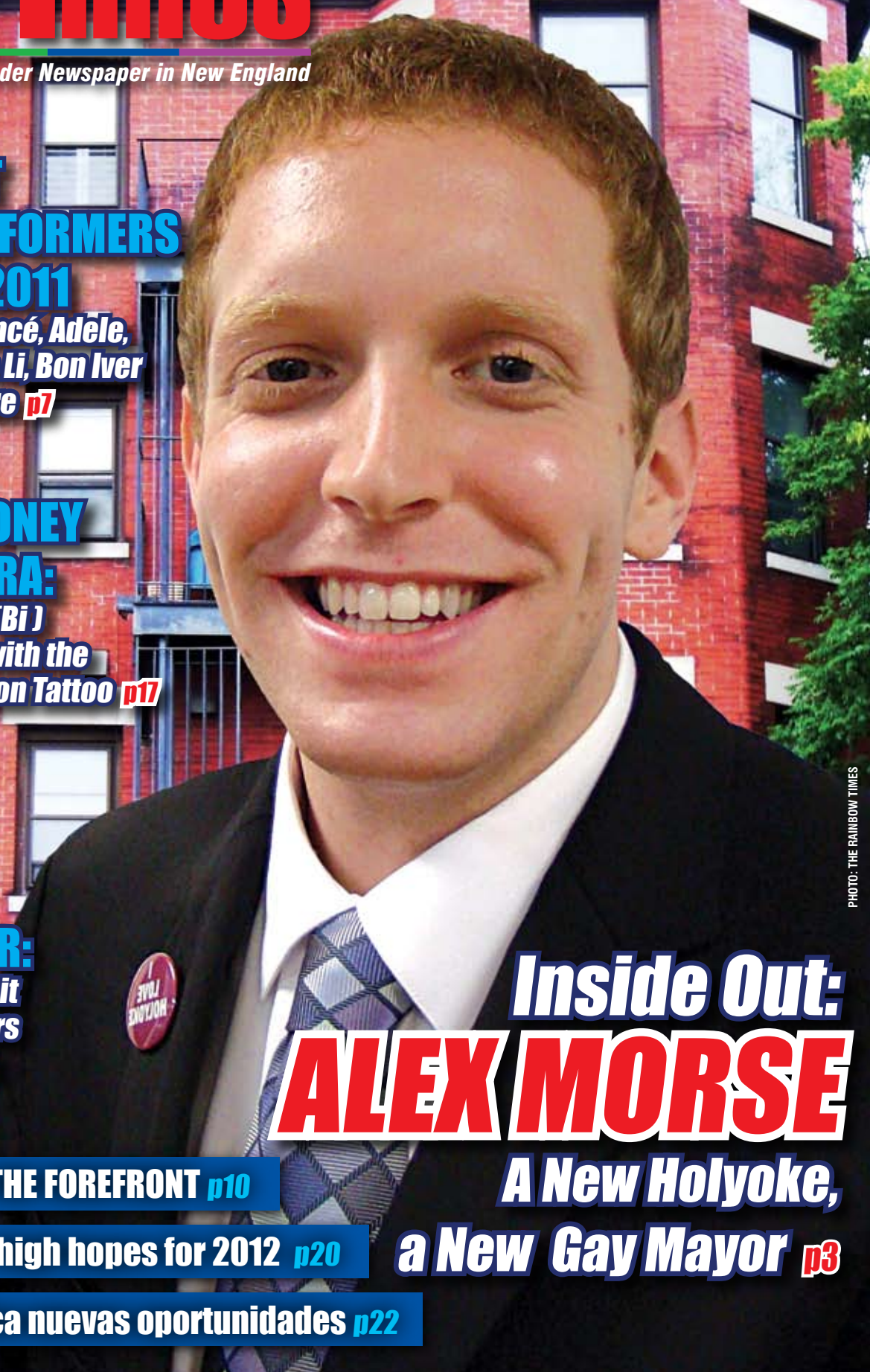
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PHOTO: THE RAINBOW TIMES



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PHOTO: THE RAINBOW TIMES



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Honoring our heroes: First annual TRT Heroes Calendar in this edition

By: Grisel M. Ocasio*/TRT Publisher
OPINION Happy New Year! We hope that 2012 is a better year for everyone, especially a better year for the economy. We, at TRT, start 2012 with a bang, for we bring you the First Annual 2012 TRT Heroes Calendar—a wall calendar that highlights the TRT Heroes nominated by, voted on and admired by you, our loyal readers.

This TRT Heroes Calendar, started as a project in November, 2010, and it was a hit immediately. The idea behind it was to ask community leaders and ordinary people to submit nominations of LGBT and Allied members who were selfless in their commitment, support and betterment of our LGBT community. From the response, we started to realize that the TRT Heroes Calendar's purpose was not just to highlight what these amazing Heroes did, but to showcase such acts of goodness to others too. In addition, it also became a project about our LGBT youth because we wanted to send our youth a message of strength and positivity. It does get better and it is possible to grow older and be a member and/or supporter of our community. If only one LGBT youth could think that these role models could do it, so could they, we thought. And so, the TRT Calendar Project in all of its Glory (given to it by the Heroes) was born! The proceeds of this Calendar will go to smaller non-profit organizations to help them better further their missions and visions.

Please, take a look at the 2012 TRT Heroes

Calendar and keep it, or give it to someone you love, or someone who does not know a lot about our community. Read about the TRT Hero of the Year, Mr. Stephen Hartley as Miss Kitty Litter, and thank him and all of them when you can, contact them and let them know you are grateful for their support. Some of these Heroes' organizations sponsored the Calendar. You will see their support in the pages of it.

Please do not forget that this project was made possible by the assistance, support and belief of our loyal sponsors: Baystate Health, The Fenway Institute/Bostonis-Ready.org, ServiceNet, Harbor to the Bay, Red Roof Inn, The Work-Place, LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts, the MultiCultural AIDS Coalition, CASPAR, AIDS Care Ocean State, Oswald Modejar & John Verlinden, and The Rainbow Times.

Please support these organizations and show them that you care for their support and loyalty to our community! They are the backbone behind the First Annual TRT Heroes Calendar.

Best in Pride,

Grisel M. Ocasio

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2011: Business' LGBT progressiveness

By: Jenn Tracz Grace*/TRT Columnist

The New Year is upon us! It's the time of year where we look back at what happened in 2011 and think about what we want to happen in 2012. Nationally, we had some achievements, such as the repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell." In Connecticut, Governor Dannel Malloy signed into law legislation that bans discrimination based on gender identity or expression in areas such as employment, public accommodations, housing, and credit. In Massachusetts, the Transgender Civil Rights and Hate Crimes Bill (sans public accommodations) just recently passed in November and goes into effect in July 2012. And how can we forget New York, who passed same sex marriage in June!

Last month, I talked about supplier diversity, corporate procurement and mentioned LGBT business owners having the opportunity to be certified to do business with corporate America. I received an overwhelming amount of e-mail with regard to this topic so I know it is a hot spot for TRT readers. I also mentioned the Human Rights Campaign and their Corporate Equality Index (CEI). The 2012 index has four new areas of criteria, which include: "provide equal benefits for same-sex partners and spouses, end benefits discrimination for transgender employees and dependents, demonstrate firm-wide organizational competency on LGBT issues, demonstrate firm-wide public commitment to the LGBT community." The reason I mention this is



corporate America is falling in line with social and equality issues. The further LGBT equality moves the more corporate America takes notice. And the more corporate America moves the more the less-tolerant take notice.

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

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

Islamophobia, gender phobias and immigration issues persist in 2012

By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist

As 2012 begins, I am afraid. No, I am not afraid of the ridiculously misinterpreted Mayan prophecies of the end of the world. I am afraid of our government. I have written before about Tarek Mehanna, a young Muslim man who has been under attack by the government for supposedly aiding terrorists. After a trial that played on the fears and prejudices of jurors in a culture of Islamophobia, Mehanna has been found guilty on all counts. The injustice here is a continuation of the behavior of the FBI in its attacks on Muslim communities. Mehanna stood up to the violence of the FBI, and he has suffered because of it. This outrage cannot sit comfortably inside of us, we have a responsibility to use our voices and our bodies to stand up and act! While Muslims are the current target of the FBI, they have gone after many communities before and will go after even more in the future. OutHistory.org is currently collecting and distributing sources about the history of the FBI and "homosexuals," be sure to learn your own history as you form opinions on what is happening today.

At the close of 2011, Breanna Manning (incorrectly referred to as Bradley; she identifies as a woman), the accused source of U.S. war crime intelligence leaked to WikiLeaks, has finally begun her pre-trial hearing. Manning is accused of leaking a video that showed U.S. soldiers killing a journalist and other civilians in Iraq as well as information about the treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. Manning is currently incarcerated in a men's prison as the pre-trial hearing continues, which is overseen by a commanding officer, not a judge. At times during her incarceration, Manning has been held in solitary confinement,



stripped naked, and denied access to any of the people who care for her. It took the advocacy of international human rights organizations and local activists to finally get Manning transferred to more humane confinement. I am afraid of what is going to happen to Manning, if she did leak this information, she

is a hero, and should be celebrated rather than subject to possible life imprisonment or even the death penalty. Our movement's inability to see her as a transgender warrior causes me great sadness. She needs our love and support; we cannot allow her to be cast aside. These things scare me.

I also turn my eyes to the current state of affairs with our immigration system. Communities of color, immigrant communities, are under attack by ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The impact on LGBTQ undocumented immigrants is particularly heinous.

A recent ACLU lawsuit details the experience of a transgender woman locked up in a Corrections Corporation of America-owned detention center at Eloy in Arizona. Mike Riggs, of Reason.com, wrote an article about the experience of Tanya Guzman-Martinez. Of the litany of abuses she experienced, one was particularly horrendous. According to the ACLU lawsuit, Guzman-Martinez was forced to watch one of the CCA prison

See Lydon on page 12

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank you for running your recent story regarding my case in Florida. The same afternoon I gave an interview to WJHG NBC in Panama City, Florida and when it aired several days later I found it not only brief but dealt mainly with the issue of my gender status. Many comments to the station have clearly proven beyond a doubt that ignorance and discrimination are so ingrained that is the only topic anyone wishes to cover.

Your story was positive and shows your support of the Trans Community around the world. I am grateful for the support you and your readers have shown.

As a historical figure in the Transgender Community I am optioning my autobiography in a book titled "Bound Between Love and the first historical transgender biography feature film for theatres around the world is already in the process with a screenplay by Monica Sun @ Shadow Majic Films/20th Century Fox. Both are slated for a 2013 release. For more information your readers can visit my site: <http://bit.ly/tzqGIV>. I am now giving personal interviews.

Once again thanks. As a long time follower of the Rainbow Times I am well aware of your integrity.

Warm Regards,

-- Erica Kay, Author/Transgender Activist

Dear Editor,

Mr. Chuck Colbert's report of the Transgender Equal Rights Bill was exceptional and very in-depth. I was grateful to have been able to have it to refer to who voted, how the vote

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TRT Exclusive: A new day in Holyoke, an interview with openly-gay Mayor Alex Morse

IN THE LIMELIGHT

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief & Grisel M. Ocasio/TRT Publisher

HOLYOKE, Mass. — Alex Morse, the nation's youngest openly gay mayor, has gained local, state, and national attention for his recent campaign victory against former incumbent, Elaine Pluta. The 22-year-old Brown University graduate has plunged into Holyoke politics without following what many would consider as the typical protocol—working your way up the political ladder to the Mayor's position. This perhaps was his greatest asset. He defied the odds, stayed optimistic and out-strategized his opponent to land him the seat in Holyoke's highest office.

Morse, attentive, articulate, decisive and knowledgeable of his hometown needs, voiced throughout the interview his resolve to become the Mayor of Holyoke—a certitude that was passionate and invigorated by his family, friends and believers. During the interview, reflections and video clips of his victory speech were historical and moving. The wise young man and Holyoke elect candidate then, turned Holyoke around and Holyoke believed, hoped and dreamt of a better tomorrow—a tomorrow filled with diversity, inclusion and the belief that dreams do come true. Such inclusion was witnessed locally and nationwide and his victory speech depicted the people that supported him—young, old, White, Hispanic, African American, LGBT community members, students, recent immigrants, and more.

In this one-on-one interview, *The Rainbow Times* sat down with Morse at his campaign headquarters to discuss his campaign strategies, upcoming months in the Mayor's office, plans to

rebuild and revitalize downtown Holyoke, and his commitment to bringing the LGBT community to the paper city, soon to turn digital.

TRT: When was the first time you thought about running for the Mayor of Holyoke?

Alex Morse: I first joined the youth commission when I was 13 so I always knew I wanted to be involved in service and government. It was around my senior year of high school, perhaps even earlier, where I knew I wanted to eventually be mayor of Holyoke. When I actually got to Brown [University], I knew my time would be 2011. It didn't matter that I would only be 21 when I announced and that I would be 22 if I won. I didn't want to be a city councilor, I didn't want to be on the school committee, I wanted to be in the driver seat and be the leader of my community.

TRT: Why 2011? What was that pivotal moment when you knew that would be the year?

AM: Because I graduated college in May and I didn't have time to wait (Laughs).

TRT: There is a CBS interview that sites you as planning on being here for maybe 8 or 10 years, if so. And even then, you'll be too young to run for President. (All Laugh) Were you thinking about this possibility in the future?

AM: Not right now, I'm just focused on being Mayor. This is the position that I want, the position that I have wanted and the position I think

I can make the most influence on the city of Holyoke, more so than a state representative, a state senator, governor. To really have an impact on your local community is to be the mayor. To be the Mayor of my hometown too is incredibly special.



TRT: What was it within the campaign that really reached out to the voters and impacted them enough to give them confidence that a recent college graduate could handle the Mayoral position?

AM: There were a number of things all at the same time. I think we've been so ok with the status quo for so many years and my argument was that we've had the same people around the table for 20 or 30 years and we are talking about the same

issues we had 20, 30 years ago. We still have a high dropout rate in the high schools, high crime, and high unemployment. What have the people with direct tangible political experience gotten the city of Holyoke? You know, I talked about my experience, born and raised in Holyoke, went to the public schools, when out to Brown, interned in the Mayor's office, did Holyoke for All, worked at Career Point for the last 4½ years and at this exciting time in Holyoke's history, with a new high performance computing center, starting to revitalize downtown, what kind of Mayor do we want? We need a Mayor

that was raised in the digital age. That was an argument that I made, so instead of seeing my age as a deficit, I took it as an asset.

TRT: Was your age used against you during the campaign?

AM: I never once bought into the language of my opposition and if I did, then I'd be acknowledging the arguments that somehow my youth was a disadvantage. [My age] was an advantage because I know what is happening at the computing center, I haven't been around long enough to be discouraged or pessimistic, I won't be holding a particular special interest because I haven't been on the council for 15 years. I was able to reframe the conversation in that sense so when people thought about my age, they thought that Holyoke needs youthful energy, it needs someone optimistic, and the fact that I don't have kids and the fact I'm single is another great reason to vote for me because I can dedicate my life to this position.

TRT: How did you reach your constituents in such a short period of time?

AM: I knocked on every door in the city of Holyoke, the white neighborhoods and the Latino neighborhoods. We raised the money. I raised almost just as much money as the [incumbent] Mayor ... There was never a time that I thought I was going to lose. I wouldn't have run if I thought I was going to lose. Every decision that I've made throughout the past two years has revolved around this race and what I wanted to do. You have to be incredibly focused on a goal. If you're going to run, you aren't going to win if you don't. Everything I did, every person I met with, every event I went to, everybody I talked to revolved around the election and making sure that it put me one step forward.

See Morse on page 8

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THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

Finding your inner peace, balance and whole personhood

By: Paul P. Jesep*/TRT Columnist

In late December, just before Christmas, Hanukkah, and the winter solstice, a marvelous wind storm with gusts of up to 50 miles per hour came through my area. The wind sang a steady song with a strong voice and soothing tone. Tree branches rhythmically swayed as they reached into the sky. The few dried leaves still on the branches were swiftly pulled off and tossed into the air like miniature flying carpets to magical destinations unknown. The rising sun against the dim blue sky with gentle, abstract cloud patterns provided an extraordinary backdrop.

Nature has an ease with how it combines majesty, beauty and purity. It has a raw, powerful truth. Nature's spirit is manifested in its integration of colors, storms, stillness, rainbows, and change of seasons among many other things. Watching, learning, and listening to nature offers ancient lessons for each individual's personal sojourn.

In "Sex and the Sacred - Gay Identity and Spiritual Growth," Daniel A. Helminiak stresses *personal integration* in order to be a whole or complete person. Integration includes mature sexual ethics; keeping a healthy mind and body; learning from life experiences, good, bad, or confusing; bringing together the beauty, spirituality, and

transcendence of physical intimacy; appreciating the humanness of another even if the individual is difficult to like; and trying to respond to someone with kindness and patience instead of anger.

"Spirituality," wrote Dr. Helminiak, theologian, psychotherapist, and former Catholic priest, "is an inherently human matter. It is a facet of every human being, every human institution, and every human society. The roots of spirituality are in the

An absence of personal integration can lead to a self-destructive spiritual and emotional compartmentalization. Balance also is critical to making the individual whole. Balance doesn't mean mixing the components of one's life in equal amounts, but in the right amounts.

human heart; it is only the branches that reach up into the heavens."

An absence of personal integration can lead to a self-destructive spiritual and emotional compartmentalization. Balance also is critical to making the individual whole. Balance doesn't mean mixing the components of one's life in equal amounts, but in the right amounts.

Personhood is similar to nature. Rain every day or a long drought isn't good. Some rain, but not enough also can be detrimental. Everything must come together in the right amounts for crops to grow, flowers to bloom, and trees to be clothed in splendid greenery.

In January, despite the cold and seasonal snow storms, the days are getting longer. The sun incrementally pushes back the darkness. Though there are no signs of spring sprouting from the ground, the renewal has begun.

During the next storm, settle down with a cup of hot cocoa with your furry children nearby and reflect on what makes you special. Have you integrated all the many mystical, splendid things that are you? Think about what it means to be complete. Or what will it take to be whole? This is not an exercise in planning to make more money, getting on the A-list, or getting on a high-profile board. Instead, it's like the perfect spring day when everything comes together - bright blue sky, crocus pushing up, and the crisp, fresh air announcing rebirth.

Sometimes personal challenges, whether a stressful job, health concerns, or troubled relationships, cause spiritual energy or inner light to be dispersed and diluted. Even in the best of circumstances it's possible to allow one thing - like a job title - to define our personhood. By resisting a focus on the singular and nurturing the whole, the person becomes more grounded. Do a spiritual inventory. Organize it. Nurture it. Stock your soul with what's needed. Then get ready to grow and bloom.

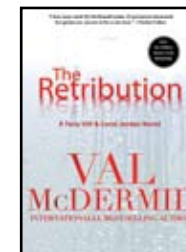
* Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, N.Y. Email questions to Dilovod@aol.com.

Book Marks

Fit to Serve: Reflections on a Secret Life, Private Struggle, and Public Battle to Become the First Openly Gay U.S. Ambassador & The Retribution

By: Richard Labonte*/Special for TRT

The Retribution, by Val McDermid. Atlantic Monthly Press, 416 pages, \$25 hardcover.



Serial killers don't get any nastier than sociopath Jacko Vance, "killer of 17 teenage girls ... and once voted the sexiest man in British TV." He committed his crimes in McDermid's 1997 novel *The Wire in the Blood*, where clinical psychologist Tony Hill and Detective Chief Inspector Carol

Jordan hunted him down. Twelve years later he has escaped from prison, ready to wreak sadistic havoc on the people who put him away - including his ex-wife, now in a loving relationship with a woman. Vance, whose ruthless venality knows no bounds, is on a killing spree that for most of this chilling thriller confounds Hill and Jordan. At the same time, Jordan is investigating the deaths of several prostitutes,

See Book Marks on page 12

Thinking Out Loud: Holiday outing, surviving family holidays

By: Abby Dees/Special for TRT

If you ever watched MTV's Real World: Hawaii, then you know the out and fabulous Ruthie Alcaide. Ruthie is a poster child for the idea that being comfortable with yourself is key to being a happy person. And since this is supposed to be the joyful season, I thought I'd ask her how she's dealt with family holidays past - a time that can send the most seasoned gay off to anywhere but back home. Personally, I'm going to Egypt this year because a revolution seems like more fun.

But Ruthie's probably braver than me and reminded me that worrying about being home for the holidays is usually a lot worse than actually showing up and eating the turkey.

Although her own family doesn't celebrate the holidays, Ruthie's been to friends' and girlfriends' family gatherings and has learned some important things. First of all, the best way to make the yuletide gay (or your Hanukkah homo) is not to make a big deal about it yourself. She's not being glib, just realistic. Once, she recalls, she'd learned that her girlfriend's step mom was a serious homophobe. She says she was told, "I should try not to be 'gay' in front of her. I laugh when I tell this because what is that supposed to mean?"

Her story reminded me of the one time I asked a guy friend to be my beard for Xmas. No one bought it. In fact, my drunk aunt just hit on him and then gave him a bottle of aftershave with a hastily scribbled card that read, "So you can smell as good as you look."

Ruthie's efforts were also a bust and she spent



Abby Dees

much of her evening looking at her girlfriend's high school yearbook with said stepmom, who kept pointing to pictures and saying, "This is when she used to date boys; what was she thinking?"

Yes, she remembers, she once dated a woman whose family absolutely couldn't deal with their daughter's sexuality. Wisely, Ruthie and her girlfriend went to visit friends instead rather than endure the inevitable homophobic drama. But most of the time, she says, "it's not about making sure people are okay with who you are. You need to be comfortable with who you are. The rest will follow." Even if that means that grandma is still calling your partner, "your friend." It comes down to being relaxed in your own skin first.

A few years back I introduced my partner to my extended family over Xmas. I carefully instructed my mother not to refer to Traci as "my special friend," as she'd done in the past. We practiced the word "partner" together before the family arrived, and as requested, she introduced Traci to my arch-conservative uncle as my partner. Then she turned to me and loudly asked, "How was that?" with a mischievous grin on her face. Together we watched as his discomfort fully percolated up to his face.

See Thinking Out Loud on page 8



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Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender people of color at increased health risk

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The National Coalition for LGBT Health

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people of color are left vulnerable to cumulative negative health outcomes by a combination of persistent racism and the stigma attached to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. The available studies are unambiguous about the disparities affecting the health of LGBT people of color: research indicates that Black and Latino LGBT people are more likely to be in poor health than both their heterosexual and non-transgender counterparts within communities of color and their White counterparts within the LGBT community.

Asian and Pacific Islander American LGBT and Native American LGBT/Two-Spirit communities undoubtedly bear similarly disproportionate burdens, though there is a serious lack of research in this area. Factors contributing to these disparities include limited access to health care and insurance, lower average socioeconomic status, fear of experiencing bias from providers, a lack of provider competence in the particular health concerns of the LGBT community and different racial and ethnic groups, and the stress of managing multiple types of societal discrimination.

For example, a Black gay man faces disparities common to the African-American community as well as those suffered by the LGBT community, and a transgender Spanish-speaking woman, regardless of her sexual orientation, must navigate multiple instances of discrimination based on language, ethnicity, and gender.

The Importance of Data Collection

The full extent of the health disparities affect-

ing LGBT people of color remains unknown. Federal, state, and local health surveys collect data on a range of demographic information, including age, sex, race, and socioeconomic status. These data sets determine funding and program priorities for efforts to address health disparities. Because the importance of LGBT data collection continues to go unrecognized, health surveys collecting data that can identify racial and ethnic disparities do not ask respondents about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, while research exploring LGBT health disparities must often rely on anecdotal data and convenience samples. What little data can thus be collected cannot be fully representative of the experiences of LGBT people of color. The omission of sexual orientation and gender identity measures from surveys leaves LGBT people, particularly people of color, with a serious lack of tools to assess and improve their health.

Health Disparities Affecting LGBT People of Color

A lack of access to high-quality health care delivered by competent providers is a major factor in the poorer health status of many LGBT people of color, and the primary obstacle to care is a lack of access to insurance coverage. The ratio of uninsured gay and lesbian adults to heterosexuals in America is estimated at 2 to 1. For LGBT people of color, discriminatory hiring and firing practices based on race, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity regularly prevent them from enjoying the protection of steady employment and employer-provided health insurance. In a recent study of 1,000 men, for example, 64 percent of Latino gay and bisexual men had some college education or more, but more than a quarter of them were unemployed.

For transgender people, who enjoy few legal protections from workplace discrimination and



whose healthcare needs are often explicitly denied coverage by insurance companies, accessing and retaining health insurance coverage can be almost impossible. A recent survey found that almost 50 percent of predominantly Black transgender people in the Washington, D.C. area were without health insurance.

Moreover, the lack of government recognition of same-sex relationships and alternate family configurations denies same-sex partners and other family members' access to benefits that are extended to heterosexual married couples and their families.

Even when LGBT people of color are able secure insurance coverage, barriers to health care remain. Fear of bias and mistreatment from health care providers plays a significant role in preventing LGBT people from seeking care in

a timely manner. Reluctance to seek care compounds the seriousness of conditions such as heart disease and diabetes and worsens the prognosis for diseases such as cancer. In one study, lesbians were found to have had their first Pap test at an older age, to have had fewer Pap tests in the previous five years, and to report a longer interval between their two most recent Pap tests than heterosexual women. Elevated rates of smoking and obesity in the LGBT community also take a high toll: LGBT people smoke at rates of up to 200 percent of the general population and are thus disproportionately at risk for several kinds of cancer. Native American communities in particular are heavily impacted by tobacco use. Black and Latina lesbian and bisexual women were much more likely to be overweight than their heterosexual peers in an L.A.-based study, and several studies indicate that women who are overweight or obese are less likely to be screened for breast and cervical cancer in primary care settings. HIV/AIDS also continues to take a devastating toll among LGBT people of color, particularly Black gay and bisexual men and transgender women.

Such statistics only hint at the scope of the problem. Until questions about sexual orientation and transgender status are routinely included on all health and demographic surveys, these health disparities will continue to exacerbate the divide between LGBT people of color and others in America. Ensuring that LGBT people of color are consistently counted both as LGBT people and people of color is crucial to documenting and addressing the disparities that affect the health of LGBT people of color and recognizing their well-being as an integral part of a healthy America.

**Released from the National Coalition for LGBT Health found at: <http://bit.ly/rx1VVU>*

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The Valley Advocate has spoken and moms across the Valley have placed not only their votes but their trust in Cooley Dickinson's Birthing Center.

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Women's Health
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AIDS Foundation's 15th Annual Viva! Gala: Silent Auctions, entertainment & more

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – The AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts (AFWM) proudly announced its 15th annual Viva! Gala, to be held Friday, Jan. 27, 2012 at the Cabin Banquet & Meeting House in Holyoke at 6:30 p.m. Featuring live and silent auctions, a beautiful venue, and live entertainment from incomparable performer Randy Roberts, this year's celebration promises to be a night of revel and friendship, and a wonderful way to commemorate the New Year.

"Funds raised at Viva! ensure that AFWM can support people who are living with HIV/AIDS in our community throughout the year," said Jessica Crevier, AFWM's Executive Director. "It helps us to maintain office hours, so that people may come and learn more about HIV/AIDS, prevention, the testing and services that are available locally, and the grants of emergency financial assistance that we provide. It allows us to grow increasingly accessible to the community through our new website and programming. And it allows us to remain a safe and supportive space for people who are infected, affected, or seeking education to come and be treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve."

Initially known as The Masquerade Ball, the Gala was created in 1997 to raise money for people living with HIV and AIDS in our community. The show consisted of three local performers, one spotlight, and a DJ. With bad weather, 150 supporters attended the first Ball and \$1,000 was raised. Now the Ball is a major fund-raising event for AFWM, supporting the cost of maintaining its office, staff, and operations.

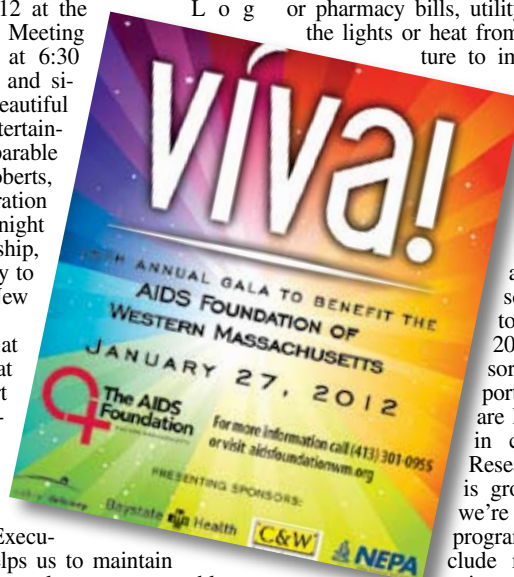
"AFWM provides grants of emergency financial assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS in Hampden and Hampshire counties," Crevier added. "Each application is reviewed based on

its own merit, and can help to provide housing for the homeless or those who are behind on their rent or mortgage, assistance with medical or pharmacy bills, utility payments to prevent the lights or heat from being shut off, furniture to improve quality of life, and so much more.

We offer educational programming, spearheaded by our Massachusetts Department of Public Health certified Peer Educators, who speak at health events, in schools, and are looking to expand their reach in 2012. And we co-sponsor Living Positive, a support group for men who are living with HIV/AIDS, in conjunction with The Research Institute. AFWM is growing quickly, and so we're looking to expand our programming in 2012 to include more prevention education, support groups, and a conference on National Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day."

In 2010, the Ball was renamed Viva!, defining it as a celebration of life. Now in its 15th year, the Gala welcomes over 500 supporters to the Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House and raises over \$37,000.

Many people perform, work, and donate behind the scenes to make the gala a great success. Donations can be sent at 1168 Main St., Springfield, MA 01103. To have a sneak peek at the Silent Auction items in January, visit the AFWM via Facebook at www.facebook.com/AIDS-foundWM. The AFWM looks forward to the continued support of its volunteers and patrons. Your generosity allows the organization to help our neighbors sustain their independence and retain their dignity. To purchase tickets, please visit aidsfoundationwm.org or call (413) 301-0955. Viva! is presented by the Log Cabin/Delaney House, C&W Realty, Baystate Health, and New England Pathology Associates, P.C.



Fenway: Sixteen offers HIV testing, health navigation and more in a community setting

Fenway Health has reopened its historic space at 16 Haviland Street in Boston's Fenway neighborhood. One of Fenway's original homes is now its fourth location, specializing in free services. Fenway: Sixteen serves gay and bisexual men, as well as the LGBT community as a whole, all right here in the community. Visit www.fenwayhealth.org or call us at 617.267.0159 to find out more!

Services available at Fenway: Sixteen include:

- HIV Counseling, Testing and Referrals, including walk-in hours on Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. (excluding holidays).

- Health Navigation/Life-Coaching Support Groups

- Educational Groups including 40 and Forward a group for men 40+, and Sex Academy, a group for guys 18-25.



Ben Neely is one of the friendly faces ready to help out on your next visit to Fenway: Sixteen.

- Ask Dr. Cox (www.fenway-health.org/doctorcox), and on-line health information resource for gay and bisexual men and transgender people.

These services are brought to you in a professional but casual and relaxing atmosphere.

For more information about services and programs at Fenway: Sixteen, or to speak to a counselor, call the HIV Testing and information line at 617.267.0159 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Fenway: Sixteen is located at 16 Haviland Street (use the entrance off Edgerley Road), one block from the intersection

of Massachusetts Avenue and Boylston Street in Boston's Fenway neighborhood. Nearby landmarks include the Prudential Tower, Berklee College of Music, Best Buy, Symphony Hall, and the Hynes/ICA subway stop on the MBTA's Green Line.

Hear Me Out: Top 11 of 2011; The Hottest performers of the year!

By: Chris Azzopardi/Special for TRT

11. Lady Gaga, *Born This Way*

Music masterpiece? Not quite. But the Lady of the dance-pop pantheon sure knows how to do brain-raping hooks – you got me, “Edge of Glory” – and indulgent throwbacks to ‘80s schlock. For goodness sake, she sings about “Hair” and makes it sound like a serious call-for-acceptance. The self-empowerment positivity of this big monster is easy to embrace, and so are the songs: stadium ballad “You and I,” grunge-rock “Bad Kids” and the uplifting “Highway Unicorn.” No poker face here. Just Gaga through and through.



Beyoncé

attitude as infectious as the music – her best in years. Same goes for the sweetness of “Together You and I” and an ode to her roots, “Country is as Country Does,” delivered with a dose of her humorous snap. Even with a heavy heart on “I Just Might,”

10. Dolly Parton, *Better Day*

Like a big hug from the country super-legend herself, *Better Day* wasn't just one of the best albums of the year – it was the most encouraging. “In the Meantime,” a joy-on-steroids rollick, has Dolly dishing wisdom, her



Miranda Lambert

Whatever their brand of pop-rock lacks in originality, they make up for in choruses you crave as an early morning wake-up. Motivational upper “Shot in the Dark” bests, but sensitive-guy folk ditty “Borrowed Time” and love sick slow-rocker “Steal Your Heart” are proof that a change does, indeed, do you good.

8. Beyoncé, *4*

Crazy in love wasn't how most people felt about Bey's slow-to-grow fourth album. But so what: This is the diva's masterwork, where Mrs. Jay-Z had nothing to prove... but proved everything. *4* features refined ballads, from the restrained sweetness of “I Miss You” to the legacy anthem “I Was Here”; the throwback “Love on Top,” with its Mariah vocal tics; and the funky-cool “Countdown” for her “boof.” Few songs are immediate, but that's the thing: This is Queen Bey standing

the down-home diva looked on the bright side. Now that's something to admire.

9. Augustana, *Augustana*

Meet Augustana, new and improved. With claim-to-fame “Boston” behind them, the San Diego guys go from Coldplay to Springsteenian. And it pays off.

her ground and securing her crown.

7. Katy B, *On a Mission*

Dubstep was reborn through Katy B's brilliantly refreshing debut, a throbbing set of underground dance primed for all-night partying. She had sass, sex and single-worthy songs – a trifecta that should've put her at the top of pop. With the genius of “Easy Please Me,” a cheeky kiss-off to mankind, and the thumping garage sound of “Broken Record,” the British import's mission is inevitably possible.

6. Lykke Li, *Wounded Rhymes*

Sweden's Lykke Li sings of sadness like she's been put through the wringer, but there's still a



Lykke Li

very charming wink in the casual girl-group tropes of her second album. Essentially a testament to innocence lost, established immediately with the deceivingly upbeat “Youth Knows No Pain,” the indie-pop dream girl decided to live it up (“Love Out of Lust”), have sex (“Get Some”) and suck up her brokenhearted blues (“Sadness is a Blessing”). Her pain was my pleasure.

5. Bon Iver, *Bon Iver*




Bon Iver

– both literally and figuratively – that the log-cabin crooner paints with his singularly evocative voice. From the sincerity he casts to the Phil Collins outro he manages to pull off, it wasn't about making sense – it was about making emotions.

4. Miranda Lambert, *Four the Record*

The fastest girl in town, as Lambert calls herself on her latest in a series of on-par albums, is also one of the most talented. After opening with out-cast anthem “All Kinds of Kinds,” the country badass plays on diversity throughout with her most expansive-sounding disc to date: bluegrass influences that first track, but then she goes cow-punk on “Mama's Broken Heart” and, with “Fine Tune,” tinkers with Auto-Tune. She's also good at turning on the tear ducts with “Oklahoma Sky.” One of a kind? You betcha.

See *Hear Me Out* on page 8

SIDNEY BORUM JR.  HEALTH CENTER

ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON WHO

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

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



617.457.8140

COM 11.063

Morse from page 3

TRT: You've established a strong connection with the Hispanic community. Besides representing hope, you are also a cultured man who is bicultural and bilingual. Did these things enhance your relationship with the Hispanic community?

AM: Throughout my entire life, I've demonstrated that I'm open to different languages, different cultures and different people. I haven't stayed in my comfort zone, I go out of what White people do and I've acknowledged the privilege that I have and I've tried to move beyond that. Just being able to have that conversation is powerful for people and just to show up. The power in your presence, you can't match it. The fact that I show up at events in the Latino community, engage with people, and not just in the political and professional sense, but I've chosen people around me who, my best friends and what not, are Latinos. Not a lot of people, white people anyway, can say that, except workplace relationships. I think that is something that people have noticed.

TRT: Considering the difficulty that Holyoke has had economically, what is going to be your economic focus when you first step into office?

AM: There are already many projects in the pipeline that I need to complete and take advantage of. The high performance computing center is a top priority of mine and making sure we pull off that \$168 million investment from Harvard, MIT, Northeastern, UMASS ... We expect it to be completed in fall of 2012. That is really a catalyst for new development to bring to startup companies and entrepreneurs all across the country, saying we have true great energy, that's why Harvard invested so much money into downtown Holyoke. The utility costs ... we have some of the cheapest in the state and throughout New England ... Right now, we do not do enough marketing so my top priority is to really rebrand Holyoke. We'll start doing that in January. You know, our logo right now is smoke

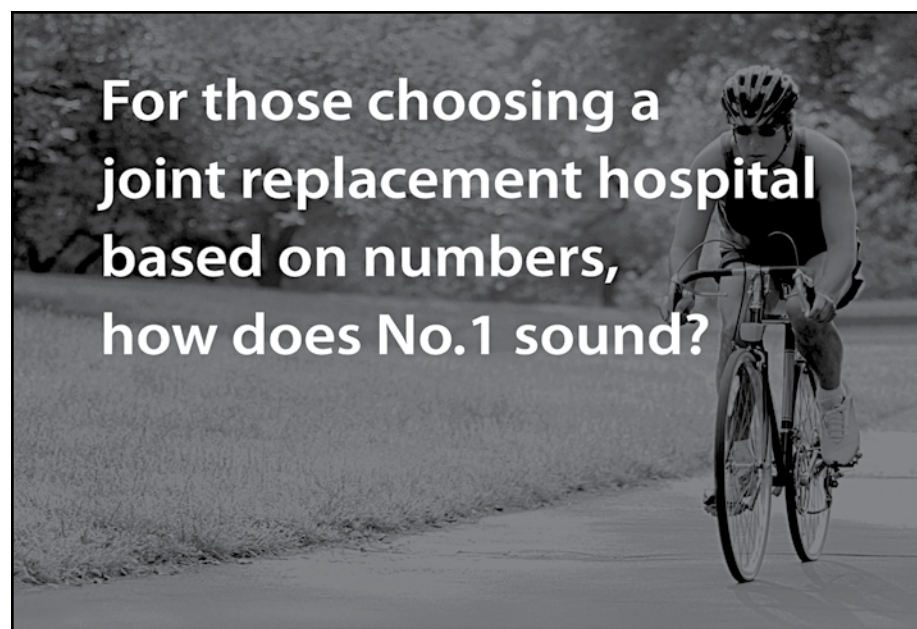
stacks with smoke coming out. That doesn't represent Holyoke today so throughout this campaign, I talked about bringing us from the paper city to the digital city so when people think Holyoke, they think digital, they think technology, they think art, and innovation.

I've gotten so much national attention just from the victory that people are emailing me and calling me and want to meet me just because they've never heard of Holyoke and all of the sudden they are thinking about it. That's great because we've got to take advantage of the spotlight and put it back onto Holyoke.

TRT: What will you do to rebuild downtown and make it inclusive for everyone?

AM: A challenge for us is to bring new people to move to the city of Holyoke. For us to have a viable downtown, we need people there. We also need to rebuild the middle class, make sure that folks have money in their pockets to spend at restaurants and cafes. There are really limited options if you want to grab a bite to eat after 5 p.m. in downtown Holyoke. I believe there is a constituency that would support a restaurant or nightclub, bar. I'm hoping we can get a gay bar established in the next 12 months. There are a couple of potential sites to make that happen. I mean a gay bar, yes, but also places of freedom, places for people to go out safely at night, LGBT inclusive spaces in the downtown area. We have a lot of youth groups but we need actual establishments to rebuild some sort of a night life and that relates to public safety. Crime happens because the city is not lit up. If the city is lit up, less crime is likely to happen. Young people are likely to move here. They don't want to just live and work. They need to have a good time and feel like there is a culture. We need to rebuild that culture with restaurants, bars, nightclubs, and that is something I'll be pushing for and in my vision, definitely.

See Morse on page 18



For those choosing a joint replacement hospital based on numbers, how does No.1 sound?

Cooley Dickinson Hospital is ranked No.1 in Massachusetts for total joint replacement according to HealthGrades®, an independent and objective organization that analyzes hospitals nationwide. In fact, we've received their five-star rating for knee replacement and hip replacement. So for better safety, better outcomes and better patient satisfaction, look no further than the Joint Replacement Center at Cooley Dickinson.

Learn more at www.cooley-dickinson.org or www.healthgrades.com.

Cooley Dickinson Hospital

Is it time for a New Year's resolution? Are you looking to change your habits?

Fenway's free Take Charge! of Your Health groups can help!

Each highly interactive Take Charge! session will focus on one of these topics. We will provide user-friendly information and practical tips to help you make informed decisions about your lifestyle choices. At the end of each session, we will support you to make one personal goal to improve your health. A list of resources will also be provided to help you achieve success!

Take Charge! Group Schedule

Each group is repeated once. Participants may attend one on each topic of interest.

Nutrition: January 17 and May 8

We hear a lot about food—diets, fasts, and meal deliveries bombard us from every media outlet. In this session we will discuss common food myths and provide practical information about how you can improve your eating habits.

Exercise: February 21 and June 12

What counts as physical activity? How can you make exercise a part of your life? In this session we will discuss the benefits of different types of physical activity, review how to check your heart rate, and provide valuable tips and resources to fa-



cilitate a more active lifestyle.

Smoking Cessation: March 13 and July 10

Individuals who smoke are often met with harsh criticism. This session will help participants explore uncertainty about quitting in a safe, nonjudgmental environment. We will review the risks of smoking and benefits of quitting, but will focus most on what goes into the decision to quit. We also offer free individual tobacco cessation sessions held at Fenway. For more information on individual sessions, contact Kendra Moore at 617.927.6134.

Say Goodnight to Insomnia: April 10th and August 14

Early to bed, early to rise, right? It isn't always that easy. This session will examine common sleep myths, reveal the truth about sleep medications, and provide participants with practical tips to improve their sleep habits.

All Take Charge! Group sessions occur from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. on the ninth floor. To RSVP or get more information, please contact Tricia Dougherty at 617.927.6169.

Hear Me Out from page 7

3. Florence + the Machine, Ceremonials

Bigger is better in the case of Florence Welch, who wields her powerhouse pipes into competition-crushing glory on her second CD, a trip to enlightenment that sits in your soul.

No album but this one, this year, had the intensity of rousing theatrics cutting through it like a tornado whipping up everything in its path. "Shake It Out" is a breathtaking exorcism; "Leave My Body," an orgasmic release. And ballad "Never Let Me Go" rips through the very water she sings of. Oh, Flo — such a size queen.

2. Matraca Berg, The Dreaming Fields

By the strength of her from-the-heart songwriting alone, it's no wonder she's been one of the most sought-after Nashville tunesmiths for big-deal country stars. On her first album in 14 years, the criminally underrated prodigy — think Eva Cas-



Florence + the Machine

sidy and Emmylou Harris — continues to affirm she has what it takes to be one. The title track is a nostalgic eulogy of long-gone land, both hopeful and heartbreaking. "Racing the Angels," about an afterlife reunion, and the homesick coda are just as wistfully tearjerking.

1. Adele, 21

The boy that broke Adele's heart? At least he was good for one thing: This album, a timeless classic fueled by the fire of that relationship's demise. Regret and fury are all piped into the remarkably performed songs — the wonderful weepie "Someone Like You," especially — on the singer's sophomore CD, fully rooted in retro-soul and soap-opera melodrama. "Rumour Has It" and "Rolling in the Deep" show how saucy she can be when she's not all sad (and for much of the album, she is). Nothing studio-tricky about her or that voice, Adele sings her heart out — and captures ours.



Adele

Thinking Out Loud from page 4

And we LGBT folks don't always get it right at first either. To my delight, my usually polite mom had turned into a gay elf for the holidays. It took a while, but she finally got it — and then some.

First of all, Ruthie wonders, why should we feel the need to announce "I'm gay" at holiday gatherings when straight people never have to declare their heterosexuality that way? And too often we assume our sexuality is bad news, which only reinforces the negative attitudes our family might already bring to the table. "Hey, Mom and Dad, I'm dying." Now that's bad

news," Ruthie says. "Being gay is not. That's why I don't treat it that way."

I'm right with her on this. If you aren't feeling happy about who you are, then you really can't expect anyone else to be thrilled about it. This also goes for being proud to introduce your partner to everyone. But if being out feels perfectly in sync with the holiday spirit, then go for it.

And if you're feeling particularly elf-like, you could try Ruthie's other suggestion: "Hey Mom and Dad, I'm pregnant!" They might freak out, but then you can just say, "Just kidding, I'm just gay." Hey, it works. Sometimes.

Sexual Minorities Archives to present local LGBT history talks

First in series will focus on Anna de Naucaze and Ye Rose Tree Inn

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. – The Sexual Minorities Archives, a national collection of LGBT literature, history, and art located in Northampton, Massachusetts, is launching a series of educational presentations about gender non-conforming persons and same-sex couples who lived or worked in the city in the early 1900s. “Stories of Our LGBT Ancestors” is based on original research conducted at the Archives, local libraries, historical societies, and city records offices by board members of the Sexual Minorities Educational Foundation (SMEF), Inc. and student interns.

The first of three presentations will offer historical information, images and text about Anna de Naucaze, Marie Von Veltheim, and Ye Rose Tree Inn, which the couple owned and operated at 252 Bridge Street, Northampton, from 1908 to 1923. Co-sponsored by *Transcending Gender*, the *Smith College Study of Women and Gender Department*, and *The Rainbow Times*, the talk is scheduled for February 5, at 3:00 p.m. in the Carroll Room at the Smith College Campus Center, 100 Elm Street.

An actress who moved to Northampton from New York City, de Naucaze was a prominent businessperson and mover-and-shaker here, also editing and publishing a widely read magazine, *4 ALL*. The publication voiced de Naucaze’s views on a range of topics from women’s suffrage, war, and gender roles to Northampton politics. Starting in 1917, de Naucaze regularly wrote letters to the editor in *The Daily Hampshire Gazette*, also to be examined in the talk co-presented by Bet Power, executive director of SMEF, Inc. and Elizabeth Kent, Smith College senior.



PHOTO: SMITH COLLEGE ARCHIVES, SMITH COLLEGE, NORTHAMPTON, MA

de Naucaze defied gender norms – especially for the time period – by owning a business and publishing a magazine independently of men, as well as with her masculine style of dress and likely sexual relationships with women. Ye Rose Tree Inn was a popular tearoom for a primarily female clientele including Smith College students until de Naucaze was financially devastated in 1923. The Inn’s closing was due, in large part, to being removed from the college’s list of approved eating-places by then Smith College president William Allan Neilson.

See Archives on page 11

2012 National LGBT Health Awareness Week March 26-30

Health Resources and Services Administration released a new report with substantial potential impact on LGBT health centers:

- On October 31, 2011 Health Resources and Services Administration released “The Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (NRM) on the Designation of Medically Underserved Populations and Health Professional Shortage Areas Final Report to the Secretary”. (Access the report at: <http://1.usa.gov/tyEdHj>)
- On November 9, 2011, The National Coalition for LGBT Health, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, and CenterLink held a teleconference attended by more than 70 LGBT health organizations and professionals, providers, LGBT leaders, advocates, and others interested in using the report to advance the health and well-being of LGBT communities.

To listen to the presentation, call: (641) 715-3413 and use Access Code: 1020707#

The National Coalition for LGBT Health and the planning committee are developing materials, resources, and activities. For information contact Kaye Gooch at kgooch@lgbthealth.net

Panelists and Overview:

Dr. Elisabeth Wilson, NRM Committee member. Dr. Wilson, who represented the National Coalition for LGBT Health and the interests of LGBT communities at each stage of the Report’s development, shared her insights about the Report’s development as well as the ways in which its recommendations should begin to eliminate barriers to LGBT health and access to care.

Jamal Edwards, President and CEO of How-

ard Brown Health Center in Chicago. Representing the perspectives of a Federally-Qualified-Health-Center Look-alike, Mr. Edwards provided important testimony to the committee provided his views on the report’s meaning and implications.

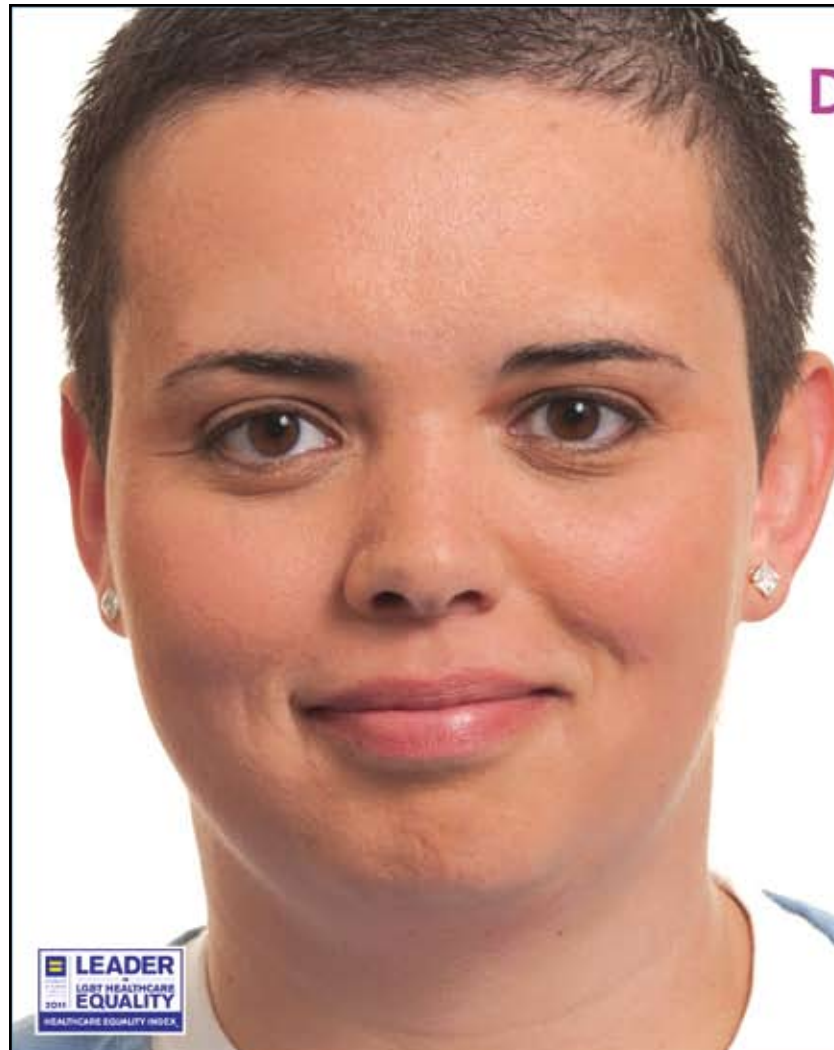
Ms. Henia Handler, Director of Government Affairs at Fenway Health in Boston and a founding member of the Coalition.

Representing the perspective of an FQHC, Fenway also provided critical testimony to the



Committee shared her views with Ms. Handler on the significance of the report, as well as the role advocacy might play in securing the adoption of the report recommendations.

You don't want to miss a beat. Check out the full report by visiting ...
1.usa.gov/tyEdHj




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Liz, Baystate Health employee

Baystate Health

Human Rights at the forefront for Boston Pride to best serve its constituents

Organization hosts statewide tour to garner LGBT community input

BOSTON, Mass. – The newly formed Human Rights and Education (HR&E) Committee of Boston Pride, continues to move forward with its 2012 Community Forum Road Tour. The HR&E Committee is the arm of the Boston Pride organization that advocates for social justice for the LGBT Community by disseminating news, promoting dialogue, and mobilizing people to take action on issues of local, national and global significance.

“As we build a Human Rights component into our organization, we want to gather input from our community that can help guide us on our course. We want a new program to be relevant and useful to the people we serve,” asserts Boston Pride Director of Development, Keri Aulita.

In the first few months of 2012, the Road Tour will hit the Western MA, the South Shore and the Greater Boston area. The next Community Forum will be held in Northampton, MA on Wednesday, January 18th. The forum will be held at the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence (220 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060). Upcoming dates will be announced soon.

The Tour began in Haverhill, where the committee launched a statewide outreach ef-

fort to talk with members of the LGBT Community to gather data on how it can best serve its constituents.

“We plan to give you the opportunity to directly express your thoughts and ideas,” says Michael Bookman, Co-Chair of the HR&E Committee.

The HR&E Committee is currently seeking new members to help garner community involvement, establish programming goals, and launch initiatives. If interested, contact us at humanrights@bostonpride.org.

The Human Rights and Education Committee of Boston Pride advocates for social justice for the LGBT Community by disseminating news, promoting dialogue, and mobilizing people to take action on issues of local, national and global significance.

For more information on the Human Rights & Education Committee of Boston Pride, visit www.bostonpride.org/pride365/humanrights.

Boston Pride is a 5-1c(3) non-profit organization that produces events and activities to achieve inclusivity, equality, respect, and awareness in Greater Boston and beyond. Fostering diversity, unity, visibility, and dignity; the organization educates, communicates, and advocates by building and strengthening community connections.



Ask Lambda Legal – HIV Criminalization

By: Scott Schoettes/HIV Project Director for Lambda Legal*

Dear Ask Lambda Legal, I'm HIV positive and recently heard about someone getting incarcerated after a sexual encounter, all because of his HIV status. Can this really happen?

Thirty years after the discovery of HIV, the medical field has learned a great deal about the virus, its transmission, and effective treatments. Unfortunately, the legal landscape has not changed as quickly, and people living with HIV are vulnerable to outdated statutes that specifically target them. Ending HIV criminalization in the United States is a priority for Lambda Legal – these laws unfairly subject people with absolutely no intent to harm anyone to criminal sanctions usually reserved for truly egregious offenses. In addition, criminal laws based on a person's HIV status send an inaccurate message regarding prevention responsibility, create a disincentive to getting tested, and may actually discourage disclosure of HIV status.

Thirty-nine states have HIV-specific criminal statutes or have brought HIV-related criminal charges resulting in more than 80 prosecutions in the United States in the past two years alone. In *People v. Allen*, a Michigan man living with HIV was charged under the state's anti-terrorism statute with possession of a “biological weapon” after an altercation with a neighbor—prosecutors equated his HIV infection with “possession or use of a harmful device.” Lambda Legal assisted in convincing the court to dismiss this charge, but other prosecutions continue to result in convictions. For instance, a man with HIV in Iowa, who had an undetect-

able viral load, was sentenced to 25 years after a one-time sexual encounter during which he used a condom. You can learn what laws are in place in your state on our publications page at <http://bit.ly/sHnCb5>.

HIV criminalization is particularly concerning for groups that are disproportionately affected by HIV. In 2008, one in five of men who have sex with men in 21 major US cities were infected with HIV, and nearly half were unaware of their infection. In 2009, African Americans comprised 14% of the US population but accounted for 44% of all new HIV infections. In the same year, Latinos accounted for 20% of new HIV infections in the United States while representing about 16% of the total US population. In 2008, in California, 6.8% of transgender people were HIV positive, and African Americans within the transgender population of California had an infection rate of nearly 29%.

Lambda Legal has aligned itself with the Positive Justice Project (PJP), a working consortium devoted to ending the abusive application of criminal statutes against people living with HIV. Along with PJP, Lambda Legal is working toward passing the REPEAL HIV Discrimination Act, federal legislation that would require a review of all federal and state laws, policies, and regulations regarding the criminal prosecution of individuals for HIV-related offenses.

To read this story in Spanish, check out page 22.

**If you have any questions or feel you have been discriminated against because of your HIV status, please call our help desk at 1-866-542-8336, or see <http://lambdalegal.org/help>.*



Know your status.



Call AIDS Care Ocean State's Prevention Office at 401-781-0665 to schedule an appointment for FREE anonymous and confidential HIV and HEP C testing.

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The Network/La Red:
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puede ser el abuso de pareja íntima





PHOTO: SMITH COLLEGE ARCHIVES, SMITH COLLEGE, NORTHAMPTON, MA

Archives from page 9

"We have gathered all the scattered pieces about Anna and Marie, who opened a restaurant in Northampton," said Bet Power. "Anna wore masculine clothing and haircut, and many people wondered whether this was a man or a woman. Marie was the chef who prepared delicious menus. Marie and Anna had a romantic relationship, and Anna nicknamed Marie 'the Virago.' Anna eventually adopted an infant girl with another woman. When was this – in 2008? How about 1908?" Power said.

Planned for later in 2012, two more "Stories of Our LGBT Ancestors" will focus on Marion Turner of Florence (early 1900s), and Dr. Amber Starbuck and Mabel Stevens of Middlefield (1920s). The February 5 event will include Ye Rose Tree Inn-inspired sweets and a 50/50 raffle to benefit SMEF, Inc., a pending non-profit organization. Admission is \$10 general, \$5 seniors and students, and free for ages 18 and under. Everyone is invited. For more information, email sexualminorities.archives@yahoo.com or call (413) 584-7616.

Baystate Health: working toward a culture of respect for all

J. Aleah Nesteby, NP, who believes in creating a culture of respect for all, has channeled her experience as part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) community into her work as a nurse practitioner at Baystate High Street Health Center Adult Medicine in Springfield, Mass., with a special interest in treating transgender patients.

"Transgender" is used to refer to someone whose gender identity does not match their biological sex. Transgender people may choose to take medication or undergo surgery to help their body match their gender identity, which can be a long and sometimes stressful process. "Transgender individuals face widespread discrimination, barriers to care and even violence in their communities, and Western Massachusetts is no exception," she says. "However, as employees of Baystate Health, we have a chance to challenge the status quo, transform people's experiences within the health care system and create a culture of respect for all."

While acknowledging that there are still incidents of violence and discrimination directed at the LGBTQ community, she believes that times are changing and people are becoming more accepting of others whose sexual orientation or gender identity may be different than their own. Her work at High Street Health Center has shown that Baystate Health is moving towards a culture of respect and understanding for patients of any sexual orientation or gender identity.

"We need to respect people for who they are,"

says Nesteby, who lives with her partner of six years and their 14-month-old daughter. "I am lucky to live in western Massachusetts, where my family is treated equally and my sexual orientation has, as often as not, been a non-issue. Everyone deserves that same respect."

Nesteby first developed an interest in transgender health when she lived in San Francisco, where the health care disparities faced by the city's trans-

gender, Baystate Health's chief diversity officer. "As we work to achieve greater inclusion, the LGBTQ community will be an important partner for us—one that will be strongly reflected in our workforce and in our patient population."

"There are resources available to help staff at Baystate Health learn more about culturally competent care for transgender patients," adds Nesteby. "Many transgender patients feel that they are in the position of educating their medical providers, but we don't have to ask the patient to teach us how to care for them. We can educate ourselves."

Nesteby adds that she has been pleasantly surprised by her co-workers' commitment to respecting all patients, including the growing number of transgender patients at the High Street Health Center. "Of course there were some awkward moments, as people

got used to new ideas and new ways of addressing people, but overall, the interactions have been positive. People have really demonstrated a commitment to upholding Baystate Health's mission, regardless of how a patient may present or identify themselves."

Baystate Health is a proud recipient of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality" award and believes that all patients have the right to treatment free of discrimination regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. To check out Baystate Health's commitment to diversity and inclusion, see the health system's patient rights policy, or find a doctor, go to www.baystatehealth.org.

"Many transgender patients feel that they are in the position of educating their medical providers, but we don't have to ask the patient to teach us how to care for them. We can educate ourselves."

gender population hit home. "Watching transgender friends struggle to find a sensitive, competent health care provider really affected me," she says. "It was very apparent that more providers were needed—not just in San Francisco but all over the country." In her studies at the MGH Institute of Health Professions (a graduate school founded by Massachusetts General Hospital), she was active in educating her fellow students and faculty members. "People want to learn. They want to be respectful. Sometimes they just don't know the right words to use, or the right place to look for information."

"Inclusion, by definition, encompasses all aspects of diversity," said Visael "Bobby" Rodri-

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Book Marks from page 4

even as a cost-cutting superior sets out to dismantle her special squad, the Major Incident Team, and as her fragile relationship with Hill – both personal and professional – begins to unravel. McDermid juggles these several plotlines with cold-blooded, relentless brilliance in this seventh novel featuring the investigative duo (and her twenty-fifth novel in 25 years).

***Fit to Serve: Reflections on a Secret Life, Private Struggle, and Public Battle to Become the First Openly Gay U.S. Ambassador*, by Ambassador James C. Hormel and Erin Martin. Skyhorse Publishing, 288 pages, \$24.95 hardcover.**

The title almost says it all: Hormel's memoir is indeed about closeted life, ending a marriage and a seven-year battle with Republican homophobes on the way to representing the United States in the tiny nation of Luxembourg. But there's much more to the man from SPAM (the lunch meat that made the Hormel clan wealthy, always capitalized in the book). After coming out, the father of five (he remained close to his ex-wife and kids) plunged into 1970s antiwar activism and the push for gay rights. It's a passionate, activist side to the man's life that most readers might not know about, overshadowed as it has been by his philanthropic endeavors. These include the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center at the San Francisco Public Library, an affiliation with which his opponents pilloried him when his diplomatic appointment was announced by President Clinton, accusing him of perversion on the basis of images culled from the library's collection. Now nearing 80, Hormel caps a spirited, affecting life story with an account of how he came to love a man who is more than 50 years younger.

***Deviations: A Gayle Rubin Reader*, by Gayle S. Rubin. Duke University Press, 480 pages, \$27.95 paper.**

Over almost four decades, pioneering theorist and activist Rubin has challenged feminist orthodoxy, laid new foundations for critical thinking about gender and sexuality, and galvanized the early years of an emerging academic discipline, queer theory. This reader collects several of her seminal essays, including 1975's "The Traffic in Women," broadly about the sexual and economic subordination of women, and 1984's

"Thinking Sex," an exploration of how some sexual behaviors are seen as natural and others are considered unnatural, with added value to the reprints – Rubin includes fresh "afterthoughts" and "reflections" following both pieces. Much of the writing is seriously scholarly, but Rubin opens with a sprightly introduction that mixes the personal with the professorial. And she doesn't shy away from settling feminist-war scores – in "Blood Under the Bridge," published in 2010, she focuses on the infamous Barnard Sex Conference of 1982, where strident anti-pornography activists protested Rubin's presence, based on distortions of her writing about S/M, butch/femme relationships and porn. This reader is an exemplary introduction, for younger queers, to an influential and accessible intellect.

Footnotes

Books to watch out for: After her award-winning contemporary novel *The Room*, Emma Donoghue returns to her historical (and lesbian) roots with *Astray*, a sequence of stories about travel from the 17th century to the 20th, coming from Little, Brown in September 2012; she's now at work on a novel about murder in San Francisco, set in 1876... The focus is ON gay families in Miriam Schiffer's picture book *Stella Brings the Family*, a debut about a little girl who has to figure out what to do about her two gay dads when her school decides to have a Mother's Day celebration and each kid gets to invite just one special guest, coming next year from Chronicle Children's... Justin Lee, FOUNDER of the Gay Christian Network, has sold *Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christian Debate* his first-person account of how the modern church is missing the mark when it comes to queers, to Jericho Books, a new imprint of the Hachette Book Group, with a publication date yet to be set; Lee combines an evangelical passion for Scripture with an analysis of how families and churches are torn apart by the culture war over homosexuality... Felice Picano's new novel, *Wonder City of the West*, set in Los Angeles in 1935, is coming soon from Modernist Press.

**Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-'70s. He can be reached in care of this publication, or at BookMarks@qsyndicate.com.*

Lydon from page 2

guards, Justin Manford, masturbate and after he ejaculated into a cup, he forced her to drink it. He was prosecuted for "attempted unlawful sexual contact," and sentenced to time served, two days in jail. As our government gives more and more power to ICE and private prisons, this scares me.

However, Mark Twain tells us that "courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear." The self-help writer Susan Jeffers has popularized the slogan, "Feel the fear and do it anyway." Possibly most importantly, Audre Lorde, black feminist/poet/revolutionary, wrote, "When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid." As we enter this New Year I am aware that I am afraid,

and I imagine that many others around me are afraid for similar or different reasons. We live in a culture that thrives on fear. We can make different New Year's resolutions this year, though. Rather than simply commit to going to the gym, calling family more, or eating more vegetables, let's commit to mastering our fears and dare to be powerful. I am afraid of my government, but I am in love with humanity. We have such incredible potential to be greater and more beautiful than the manipulative violence we must consistently navigate through. In 2012, may we have resolutions rooted in love and strategic action. Tarek Mehanna stood up for his community, Breanna Manning spoke the truth, Tanya Guzman-Martinez fought back. May we have as much courage as these people in the year we're beginning.

Celebrate the Inauguration of Alex Morse as Mayor of Holyoke, Massachusetts

Tickets available for events for traditional formal Inaugural Ball & casual Mayor's Bash

HOLYOKE, Mass. – Two events have been scheduled to celebrate the inauguration of Alex Morse as Mayor of the City of Holyoke, Massachusetts. Continuing with a theme of unity, a key part of his campaign for the office, the Mayor-elect and a team of volunteers have created two events so that many more members of the community can participate in the celebrations.

The Inaugural Ball at the Log Cabin

500 Easthampton Road Holyoke, MA

Saturday, January 14th

Cocktail reception: 6-7:00 p.m.

Dinner Program begins at 7 p.m.

Entertainment will include the piano stylings of Stephen Page playing songs from the American Songbook followed by a plated dinner, a brief formal program and dancing. This is a black-tie optional event.

Tickets are \$75 per person or \$500 per table of 8. Tickets may be purchased online at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2630716544> or in person at Morse for Mayor HQ (1548 Northampton St., Holyoke MA 01040).

The Mayor's Inaugural Bash at Open Square

383 Dwight Street Holyoke, MA



Sunday, January 15th
7:00 p.m. – midnight

The Mayor's Inaugural Bash will bring the celebrations right into the heart of the city and into a building that started Holyoke's growth as an

industrial powerhouse over a century ago. Entertainment will include dancing to DJ Lori B with light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

Tickets are \$20 per person and are available in advance online at <http://bit.ly/sfpXYy> or at the door at the event.

The inauguration of the City of Holyoke Mayor, City Councilors, and School Committee Members will be held at Holyoke High School on January 3rd. An ecumenical service will be held at 8:30 a.m. at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke, 395 High Street. The assembly at Holyoke High School, 303 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA 01040-3968, will start at 9:30 a.m.

Both inaugural events are paid for and authorized by Alex Morse for Mayor Committee and Jessica Morse, Treasurer.

** More information can be found at Transition Holyoke at: <http://bit.ly/vvh4Tr>; follow Mayor-elect Morse on Twitter @MorseForMayor.*

Letters from page 2

went, what is still missing and who to support or not during election time. I commend you all for taking the time to inform and educate the GLBT community, especially those of us in the LGB about trans rights and milestones. AND, I liked the reactions to the passage too!

-- Randy Martins, Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,

Although I liked reading the "Best of TRT" I also thought that it should have had a few lines of text for each story highlighted by your staff. In that way, it would've been simpler to follow. Just my two cents.

-- Robert Richardson, Somerville, MA

Dear Editor,

It's great to see that the Times has stories about Boston Pride in almost each edition. And, I just found out that online, via FB, you also have a ton of photos from all of the Prides and events happening in this part of the state. The photos were great and I wish I'd seen them in the issue when they came out, but I missed them somehow. Thanks for having them online and accessible.

--Savanah Oquendo, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

I went to the Pride & Joy reopening and you captured in your story all that happened there that evening. I was so pumped to see District Attorney Dave Sullivan and Mayor David Narkewicz! It was good press for the store and we plan to support it too. The new owners were pleasant and tasteful in their choice of merchandise. I didn't see many of my gay friends, but I imagine they'll be supporting them too.

-- Ryan Lawrence, Easthampton, MA

Dear Editor,

Su contenido en español para la comunidad hispana GLBT está fabuloso. Me gusta la columna del Sr. Labiosa y la de Lambda Legal. Sé que la publicadora es hispana y que escribe para

el periódico, aunque me gustaría que escribiera más. Por favor déjele saber. ¡Gracias!

-- Viviana Maldonado, Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,

I can't wait to see the TRT Heroes in the Calendar because you did a great job at including the community in it through most, if not all (please forgive me if I'm not so informed about all of it), of what seems to have been a long and well-thought out Project. Yay!! Miss Kitty Litter from RI, just where I am, won the Hero of the Year!!! Yay!! I'm so excited and was very impressed by how diverse racially, ethnically, gender and sexually (in terms of sexual orientation) the candidates were. To have the proceeds go to other organizations says much about your care for us and I didn't want the old year to go by and the New Year to get here without sending you this letter. Thank you!

-- Kimberly LeBeau, Providence, RI

Dear Kimberly,

Thank you for following the TRT Heroes project, which started in November, 2010. It was an idea that the Publisher and I had about trying to combat the negativity that many of mainstream America has with regards to our LGBT community. Often members of our community are not recognized for their outstanding service to help further and attain LGBT rights and equality across the board. As such, the TRT Heroes deserve accolades for their selfless actions.

In developing this idea, we also thought that perhaps relating to the TRT Heroes and their stories each month, our youth could look at a brighter future for them, for it is possible. We have lost so many due to harassment and bullying and we believe that if they had more role models, they could see that it is possible to be gay and make it in life. Thank you for your comments. We deeply appreciate them.

-- The Editor



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Lesbian(ish) sitcoms, David Burtka, Sarah Silverman, Sundancing

By: Romeo San Vicente/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Hot new TV pilot trend: lesbian(ish) sitcoms!

Now that it's been properly established that both Sue Sylvester and

Coach Bieste are man-hungry heterosexuals, where is a comedy-loving lesbian to turn for representation? Well, for starters, there's Sara Rue, who already plays a lesbian on *Rules of Engagement* and plans to enter *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry* territory for a sitcom pilot called *Poseurs*. The premise: two straight Manhattan women pretend to be lesbians in order to keep a co-op that doesn't allow roommates. You know how these things happen when you live in a big sophisticated city like New York, right? And the lez-com trend kickstarted by the still-in-development lesbian couple project called *I Hate That I Love You* just added another contender to the mix with *Swordfighting*, the latest pilot from gay producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron. That one's about two friendly married couples whose relationships turn upside down when the wives fall in love with each other. Nobody's been cast yet, but at least it's a novel premise with actual lesbian characters. Sorry *Poseurs*, but your game is already tired.

E! taps David Burtka

Celebrity spouse David Burtka isn't one to sit back and let his man bring home all the bacon. Not only is he not in the running to join the crew of the upcoming *A-List: Los Angeles*, he was recently stunt-cast opposite his longtime partner Neil Patrick Harris in the hilariously raunchy *A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas*. (He played a closet-straight Harris's fake-gay "beard," get it?) And now Burtka will have a regular gig, stepping into his own spotlight as a host for the E! network. The actor/chef/co-parent joins the network that brings the world *The Soup* as well as all the Kardashians as a correspondent for *E! News*, and he'll also be a talking suit for various specials including *Live From the Red Carpet*. The job starts in January: How long before people start calling Harris "David Burtka's husband?"

Is a major network ready for Sarah Silverman?

Did you ever watch

The Sarah Silverman Program? That thing was so gay it wound up on Logo after Comedy Central couldn't afford to produce it anymore. In addition to its rotating cast of guests – God, ghosts and cartoon dinosaurs – it also routinely featured a gay stoner bear couple, a drag queen host of a cookie-themed reality competition show and a lesbian cop that Sarah fell for accidentally in one episode.

In other words, not the sort of thing you ever see on *Two and a Half Men*. So what's up with NBC giving Silverman the green light for a new primetime sitcom pilot? It's happening, but that's all anyone will say right now beyond the loose premise, which is that it will be based on Silverman's own life. Just trust that it will shake up the status quo if and when it hits your DVR, and that it will be hilarious. It's almost as if she's genetically incapable of anything else.



Sarah Silverman

Sundancing with Jesse Eisenberg, Melissa Leo and Tracy Morgan

Oscar nominees Jesse Eisenberg and Melissa Leo will pack their parkas and hit Park City, Utah's snowy Sundance Film Festival at the end of January to promote *Predisposed*, a comedy from gay screenwriter Ron Nyswaner (*Philadelphia*, *Soldier's Girl*) and first-time director Phil Dorling. The story involves a college piano student who, while trying to take his mother to rehab, gets kidnapped by her drug dealer (Tracy Morgan) and led off on a crazy misadventure. Sound familiar? There's a reason for that. Eisenberg already starred in the similarly kidnapping-themed *30 Minutes or Less*. And the good news? This one can't be any worse than that. Even better? It'll have to be extra terrible to hit the lows of the similarly drug-dealer-themed "comedy" *The Sitter*. So good luck, original-idea-having filmmakers and stars!

**Romeo San Vicente already has a roster of men lined up to keep him warm at Sundance. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com (no hyphens).*



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PRESENTING SPONSORS:

Creep of the Week: Michigan Governor Rick Snyder

By: D'Anne Witkowski*/Special for TRT

CREEP NEWS Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder gave the middle finger to gays and lesbians in the state when he signed a bill on Dec. 22 that yanks domestic partner benefits away from state employees. That's three days before Christmas, folks. Snyder Claus has nothing but lumps of coal for ho ho homos. There was no compelling reason for such a bill to even exist – aside from the Michigan legislature's long-standing obsession with discriminating against LGBT people, that is. Ever since the anti-gay marriage amendment passed in 2004, domestic partner benefits have been in the cross-hairs.

While some Republicans claim that doing away with the benefits helps save the cash-strapped state money, the amount of money in question is negligible, especially for a state that is leaking talented young people like a sieve.

The move, has, not surprisingly, riled up civil rights organizations and Michigan's LGBT groups. Not that Snyder gives a shit.

Emily Dievendorf, policy director at Equality Michigan, called Snyder's support for the bill "appalling" and accused him of caving "to the radical social agenda coming from the legislature."

"[T]he Governor told unmarried public employees that they could no longer care for their partners or children," Dievendorf said. "He has put hardworking gay and lesbian couples and their children into harm's way by eliminating important health care coverage. He has spent the last two years talking about creating a welcoming state

With a stroke of a pen, Gov. Snyder told these families, "You don't matter because you're gay." My guess is he didn't lose any sleep over it.

with an attractive business climate, and these bills fly in the face of those goals."

The Michigan ACLU vowed to fight the law.

"The decision to take healthcare benefits away from families just in time for the holidays is mean-spirited and cruel," said Kary Moss, executive director of the Michigan ACLU. "The bill serves no other purpose than to single out a small minority of people and deprive them of critical protections as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution."

Oddly enough, Snyder did care about the Michigan Constitution, though only a little, when he made sure that the state's universities would be left out of this bill. He cited the "constitutional autonomy" of universities when he touted their exclusion. On the surface this might seem like a generous move, but don't be fooled.

Public universities in Michigan were very outspoken against this bill. "The University of Michigan must be able to offer an excellent benefit package to our employees and to those we hope to recruit to UM for their unique talents, skills and expertise," University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman wrote in a letter sent to legis-

lators. "The loss of our ability to offer such benefits would put the university, and our state, at a serious disadvantage compared to peers."

Snyder didn't let universities keep domestic partner benefits because he respects the need to attract the best and the brightest talent and to foster a welcoming and diverse atmosphere. No, he did it because he didn't want universities to sue. Be-

cause he knows that he did a really shitty thing, and he made damn sure the public employees impacted – including but not limited to schools, cities, townships – didn't have a gay leg to stand on.

These people are real. According to Equality Michigan Executive Director Denise Brogan-Kator, they include Ann Arbor teacher Theresa Bassett's partner and 6-year-old son, Kalamazoo City employee JoLinda Jach's partner "who suffers from arthritis and early stages of glaucoma," and state employee Deb Harrah's partner "who has diabetes and a thyroid condition."

With a stroke of a pen, Gov. Snyder told these families, "You don't matter because you're gay." My guess is he didn't lose any sleep over it.

**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.*



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Wednesday, February 22, 7:30pm, Concert Hall

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Vacationing in Maui, Lanai, and Molokai: What a delight!

By: Andrew Collins*/Special for TRT

OUT OF TOWN Arguably the most glamorous of Hawaii's islands, Maui is home to some of the state's swankiest resorts and acclaimed restaurants. It's a favorite with visitors in search of lazy beach naps, leisurely laps in the pool and soothing spa treatments. But don't let the island's cushy reputation fool you into thinking it lacks history, culture, and an impressive variety of rugged outdoor adventures. Maui vacations can be as unhurried or as thrilling as you choose.

Home to the largest gay and lesbian resort in Hawaii (the Maui Sunseeker) as well as dozens of welcoming B&Bs, inns, condos and full-service resorts, Maui is often the first island visitors experience after Oahu. Although lacking Honolulu's nightlife, this easy-going, moderately developed island is well suited to couples, families and groups of friends.

Plenty of visitors stay at one resort and visit Maui for five to seven days. But if you're hoping to get to know the island's diverse elements, split your time among two or three areas, and spend at least 10 days, perhaps tacking on a day or two on the quiet, underrated, and remarkable neighbor islands of Lanai and Molokai.

Maui

Geographically made up of two soaring volcanic peaks connected by a largely agricultural valley, Maui (www.gohawaii.com/maui) is the second largest of the Hawaiian islands, home to about 145,000 permanent residents. The majority of the 2.5 million visitors who arrive annually stay on the sunny and comparatively arid leeward

coasts of Maui's two halves, which include the historic fishing port of Lahaina, the modern Kaanapali and Kapalua resort areas, the ritzy Wailea resorts, and the more reasonably priced town of Kihei.

You'll find a good mix of mid-priced to high-end resorts up around Kaanapali and Kapalua - good picks include the Hyatt Regency (maui.hyatt.com), Westin Maui (www.westin-maui.com), Outrigger Maui Eldorado (www.outrigger.com), and Ritz-Carlton Kapalua (www.ritzcarlton.com).

In Wailea, which is close to the famously gay-popular clothing-optional Little Beach at Makena, you'll find such sumptuous accommodations as the Four Seasons Maui (www.fourseasons.com/maui), Grand Wailea (www.grandwailea.com), and Fairmont Kea Lani (www.fairmont.com/kealani). Just a few miles north, Kihei contains several gay-oriented lodging, including the aforementioned Maui Sunseeker (www.maui-sunseeker.com), a stylishish boutique resort catering mostly to gay men and lesbians. Other good GLBT bets in Kihei include the elegant Pineapple Inn (www.pineappleinn-maui.com) and the affordable, whimsically furnished Two Mermaids (www.twomermaids.com).

Strike out beyond Maui's leeward shores to discover some of the most diverse and dramatic scenery in all of Hawaii, including the Upcountry, situated along the slopes of 10,023-foot Mt. Haleakala, and home to the quirky ranching and farming towns of Kula and Makawao. Be sure to budget a few hours to drive to the peak of Haleakala's summit, which lies within the national park of the same name.

Along the breezy windward coast, you can drive the famously curvy and narrow road to



PHOTO: ANDREW COLLINS

Maui's Makena Beach is a favorite haunt of the island's gay community.

Hana, which passes through verdant rainforests and beside gushing waterfalls. Return by way of the rugged Piilani Highway from Hana around West Maui's "back side," and the road hugs sheer sea cliffs and cuts across sweeping plains strewn with jagged lava-rock formations. If at all possible, plan for an overnight in Hana. Here you can stay at the historic, unpretentious, and wonderfully charming Travaasa Hana Hotel (www.travaasa.com/hana) - if it's a special occasion, splurge for a room in this boutique resort's secluded, adult-oriented Sea Cottages section. You'll also find a handful of B&Bs in this laid-back village blessed with spectacular beaches, including the affordable, gay-owned Hana Accommodations (www.hana-maui.com).

Even Maui's main untouristy administrative center and county seat, Wailuku, has a cool historical museum, the Bailey House; and some great little hole-in-the-wall restaurants (Tiffany's, Tokyo Tei, Ba-Le Sandwiches); and it's the gateway to the breathtaking Lao Valley. For an insider's perspective on local dining, book a half-day trip through Tour da Food, whose knowledgeable guides Bonnie and Jill lead delicious culinary tours in Wailuku and Upcountry Maui.

Maui has several businesses with strong GLBT ties. You can book a massage, either in your hotel room or at a lovely on-site studio overlooking the

ocean, from Relax Therapeutic Massage, whose owner Marty Guerriero is one of the most talented massage therapists on the island. Gay-owned No Ka Oi Adventures leads exceptionally fun and engaging custom half- and full-day tours around Maui - including trips around West Maui, along the road to Hana, and snorkeling off of Makena's lava-fringed shores. Acclaimed local Chef Raja, who competed on TV's "Extreme Chef" in 2011, is your go-to for planning a romantic meal or small dinner party. He's especially popular with those planning gay weddings or commitment ceremonies. On that note, Hawaii's new same-sex civil union law went into effect on January 1, 2012, and long-running Gay Hawaii Wedding can help couples plan their nuptials on Maui.

The island abounds with terrific restaurants, many of them at the big resorts, such as Ko at Fairmont Kea Lani, Spago at the Four Seasons, and Gannon's at Grand Wailea. Locally renowned chef Peter Merriman's hip Monkeypod Kitchen, in a shopping center at the Wailea Resort, is one of the hottest new spots on the island, as is Star Noodle, the stylish Pan-Asian eatery up in Lahaina, which is also home to the first-rate Lahaina Grill and I'o Restaurant. A few other culinary highlights on ...

See Out of Town on page 19

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Rooney Mara: The (Bi) Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

Cast talks character's sexuality – and why bisexuality doesn't matter

By: Chris Azzopardi/Special for TRT

Tattooed and pierced, dressed in full black and the very type of social recluse who's as mysterious as her body art, Lisbeth Salander is the quintessential outsider. She's also sexually ambidextrous, something seldom portrayed in a movie as mainstream as *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Bisexuality, for once, is no big deal.

"Thank you," says the thriller's director David Fincher, where he's come together with the cast during press day at New York City's Crosby Street Hotel.

Proud but opposed to taking all the credit for any kudos having to do with downplaying the character's swinging sexuality, the *Fight Club* director continues: "We started with the source material, and that's what the book described. One of the things we were very particular about was when she meets Miriam Wu in the bar; we wanted it to be a moment of happiness. There are two times you see (Lisbeth) smile in the entire movie – and one of those is (that scene)."

The eagerly anticipated film, brutally unflinching in Fincher's wicked hands (remember *Se7en*?), has them waking up to each other naked the next morning. For Rooney Mara, who plays Lisbeth in this American adaptation of the popular Stieg Larsson novel – the first in a trilogy that sold over 65 million copies and became a Swedish film in 2009 – it was no biggie.

"Growing up in New York and L.A., it didn't seem that crazy to me to have a bisexual character," says Mara. "She's incredibly comfortable with her sexuality, and I went into it the same. It didn't really faze me."

Plus, Fincher adds, it has more to do with Lisbeth's emotionally guarded self than who she sleeps with. "Her sexuality is less of an ambidextrous thing than something that she has to act on," he says. "Intimacy is a problem for her, so that was the important thing to show."

To understand Lisbeth's intimacy problems, you have to understand her: She's raped and tortured, scarred and traumatized, always scrounging for money and, for some obvious reasons, not very trusting. Why she's on the outside makes complete sense.

Regarding the character and what's already known from the films and novels, Mara says: "To be honest, I didn't really think much about what other people imagined it to be. I used what I imagined it to be. I read all three books and I had a really clear picture of who this girl was."

She's an information-age Nancy Drew who teams with financial reporter Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig) to get to the bottom of a family mystery.

"What I love about this character and the relationship he has with Salander is that he doesn't have to prove he's a man," Craig says. "He's a guy and he's very happy to fall in this relationship where she's literally wearing the trousers."

Together they investigate what's been haunting Henrik Vanger (Christopher Plummer), one of



PHOTO: COLUMBIA PICTURES

Rooney Mara, as Lisbeth Salander, in a scene from *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.

Sweden's wealthiest industrialists, for 40 years: What happened to his niece, Harriet?

"Nazis and serial killers and the evil that people

do with power tools weren't the thing that was (in-

See Dragon on page 19

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More than wishful thinking for the New Year, especially this one

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter & Columnist

TRANS MAN



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

There's something about a new year that makes many of us feel full of potential. It's a fresh start, a clean slate, a chance to begin again. As the New Year ball drops in Times Square—and rises above the Hotel Northampton—I'm poised to leave the old year behind with all its failings and missed opportunities. I'll keep the accomplishments, and discard the accumulated detritus of 365 days of being perfectly, imperfectly human.

No matter how many times my New Year's resolutions don't make it to fruition, there's a part of me that still believes. I'm clearly not alone. The goal-setting website *43Things.com* lists over 32,000 resolutions made by its members. Vague commitments like "lose weight," "get enough sleep," "take charge of your own financial life" and "embrace your personal style and beauty" rank in the top 10. A few specific goals make the cut, too:

transition—get a therapist's letter of support, get on hormones, have surgery, change our names, change the gender markers on our IDs.

It's safe to say that trans people feel a lot *more* well once we have affirmation of our gender identities and we feel more comfortable living in the world in our bodies (which means different things to different trans people). Yet there's also a moment when we realize: Oh, right. I still wake up as me. I still have the same history and I still have the same flaws. (If anyone has figured out a trick so that transition makes one naturally punctual, I'd love to hear about it.)

All that "wishful thinking" doesn't lead to miraculous transformation, true. Yet it isn't pointless, either. Wishful thinking reflects our aspirations, lighting the way into a future we can't yet know. We may not be reborn without the old faults and weaknesses, but when we stumble—and we will—we find our way again because we know where we hope to end up.

Wishful thinking can be fundamentally life-altering, when coupled with action—even slow or full of missteps—and uncoupled from self-blame. It takes courage and self-knowledge to look into the unknowable future and say "that's where I want to end up," but it also takes courage and self-

It's safe to say that trans people feel a lot *more* well once we have affirmation of our gender identities and we feel more comfortable living in the world in our bodies (which means different things to different trans people).

"Read a book a week" and "Set an attainable athletic goal, like running a 5K or 10K."

My trans friends report resolutions ranging from "take better care of my body" to "obtain a concealed gun permit." Last year, my 26 resolutions on *43Things* were just as varied. Only eight were completed by December.

Each year, evidence mounts that my New Year's resolutions are more wishful thinking than life-altering commitments. It seems to make no difference whether I pose my resolutions as guiding principles ("Take better care of my health") or specific, measurable goals ("Run the Providence Half-Marathon in August"). Whatever my intentions on January 1st, life often has other plans.

Despite this, I seem to expect to wake up every January 1st transformed.

And then I remember: Oh, right. I still wake up as me. I still have the same history and I still have the same flaws. (On January 1st, I will not become naturally punctual, sadly.)

It's kind of like transition. Sometimes it seems like all we need to step into a brand-new life is to

knowledge to know that right now, where we are today, is also OK. We are enough and whole, no matter where we are on our journey.

This year, I have a number of goals, which I'll break into action steps and put on my calendar. One will be to run the Providence Half-Marathon I missed in 2011.

I only have one resolution: finish unfinished business. I've managed to accumulate a fair number of incomplete projects from laying flooring in my son's room to writing projects to closing my mother's estate. In 2012, I want to give myself the gift of releasing my mind from those burdens and the self-blame that shadows them.

It may be wishful thinking, but I'd like to think it's hope.

**Tynan Power is an FTM parent, writer, Muslim and interfaith leader. He is the author of "The War on the Home Front: A Queer Family after 9/11" in the new anthology "Progressive Muslim Identities." To reach Tynan, send him an email to: tynanpower@yahoo.com.*

Morse from page 8

TRT: Northampton obviously has been dubbed as the LGBT mecca really of Western Massachusetts ...

AM: Well, Northampton doesn't have a gay mayor. (Laughs)

TRT: Considering that point, in the past Holyoke hasn't really been the place to go for the LGBT community. Is that changing?

AM: Already, on a superficial level in terms of perception, the fact that we've elected a 22-year old progressive openly gay person to be the Mayor of Holyoke has done wonders for our perception in a really short amount of time. People in Holyoke aren't just excited about my election, but I go to Northampton, Amherst, East Longmeadow or Springfield and everybody knows who I am and they're talking about me. I think for

a lot of people, not even in Holyoke, they think this is our opportunity to really move Holyoke forward. In terms of LGBT, in just the young people's reactions and messages from young LGBT kids, they think this is the best thing in the world that I'm young, gay and the Mayor and that feels really good ... I'm in a meeting next week about bringing a PFLAG chapter to Holyoke.

TRT: Are there plans for a Holyoke Pride?

AM: Yes, we will definitely have that conversation. It's a new day in Holyoke politics.

The inauguration of the City of Holyoke Mayor, City Councilors, and School Committee Members was held at the Holyoke High School on January 3rd. Morse's Inaugural celebrations will take place on January 14 and 15. For more information, visit: <http://transitionhollyoke.tumblr.com> or visit page 12 of this newspaper.

Dragon from page 17

interesting,” Fincher says. “First and foremost was this partnership. I hadn’t seen these two people working together, so I liked the thriller, the vessel of that, but I really was more interested in the people.”

Before auditioning, Mara was told of the harsh extremes that would be required of her: lots of nudity, chain smoking, riding a motorcycle, being brutally raped... and faux sex with Daniel Craig (oh, the horror). She was up for the challenge.

“I couldn’t pick one thing that was the hardest; it was all challenging,” Mara says. “The motorcycle was the thing that I was the least excited about doing. It just seemed very dangerous to me.”

Next up was the butch transformation: her hair was chopped, she was pierced all over and the wardrobe department gave her a grungier look.

“She put a dress on at the end of each day,” Craig jokes.

Filming took place in Stockholm and L.A., and after it wrapped, Mara was remarkably able to dis-

connect from the insanity. “It was harder to leave the whole experience behind,” she says. “You work at 100 mph for over a year on something and then wake up one day and have nothing to do.”

Craig was cast first as the film’s anchor, and then everything else – including Mara – was fleshed out. “I wanted a very masculine center,” Fincher says. “The androgynous side of the movie would be carried by Rooney; that was her job.”

Because Fincher and Mara already established a working relationship on Fincher’s *The Social Network*, where Mara plays Mark Zuckerberg’s girlfriend, he sensed something in her – “an inherent quality” that he always looks for – that could feed the role of Lisbeth.

“In the beginning of *Social Network*, she was intensely feminine, very mature, warm, verbal – and none of those qualities apply to this movie. In fact, it’s the an-

tithesis.”

Of all Lisbeth’s characteristics, one that seems to barely register – because her sexual intentions have less to do with sex and more to do with her psychologically wounded character – is the gender of whom she beds.

Plummer, walking into the room halfway through the interview, overhears the bisexuality talk. “Was that referring to my character?” he says, kidding that

the old, eccentric man he plays is a switch-hitter.

Fincher gets in on the joke: “Why isn’t *he* married?!”

Plummer, Golden Globe-nominated for his role as a person living out the last moments of his life as an openly gay man in this year’s *Beginners* (Mara also scored a nod for *Dragon Tattoo*), thought nothing of Lisbeth’s sexuality.

“(Her bisexuality) didn’t occur to me at all when I was watching it,” Plummer says. “Anything that occurred to me when I was a child. I do think (LGBT people) are treated with a little bit more sophistication now.”

But the fact that a bisexual person is even at the center of a major motion picture is a big deal, right? “I’m not an expert,” he continues, “because it really doesn’t occur to me; it’s rather like race, it never occurred to me when I was a child. I do think (LGBT people) are treated with a little bit more sophistication now.”

“And sex – please have fun with whatever you wish to do. That’s always been a philosophy of mine.”

Who can argue with that?

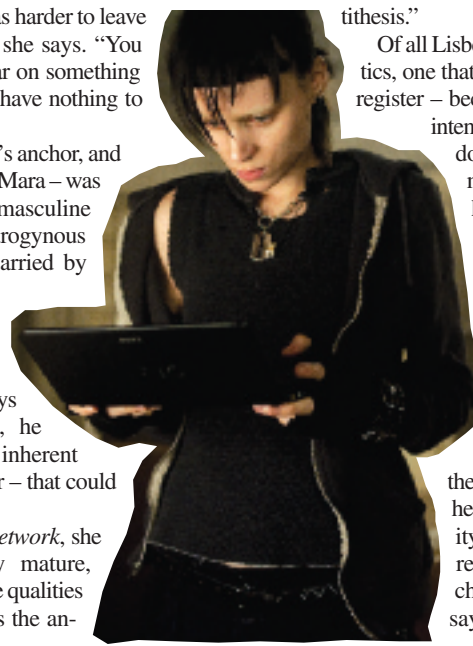


PHOTO: COLUMBIA PICTURES

Out of Town from page 16



Molokai's sea cliffs are among the highest in the world.

Maui include Market Fresh Bistro in Makawao, Cafe Mambo in Paia, and Izakaya Matsu in Kihei. For nightlife, the sophisticated but friendly Ambrosia lounge is popular with GLBT patrons, especially on Sunday nights.

Lanai

The gently sloping, conical island of Lanai (www.gohawaii.com/lanai) is clearly visible from the western shores of Maui, especially from Kaanapali and Lahaina — passenger ferries run regularly from the pier in Lahaina to Lanai, and the island also has regularly scheduled flights from Maui and Oahu. Just 140 square miles, this is the smallest of Hawaii's primary islands, and historically it was known for its massive pineapple plantation industry.

Although it's still a low-keyed, mostly undeveloped island, Lanai has become increasingly popular with jetsetters thanks to its pair of stunning Four Seasons resorts, the historic Lodge at Koele (www.fourseasons.com/koele), which is nestled beneath groves of Cook pine trees in the cool up-country, and the seaside Manele Bay Hotel (www.fourseasons.com/manelebay), which fringes spectacular beaches and is renowned for

snorkeling, golf, spa treatments, and relaxation.

Take some time to stroll around tiny Lanai City, which has a few intriguing galleries and shops and is also home to a less pricey and quite special boutique inn and restaurant, the Hotel Lanai (www.hotellanai.com).

Molokai

Although it's significantly larger than Lanai (about a third the size of Maui), the tranquil island of Molokai (www.gohawaii.com/Molokai) receives very few visitors and is sparsely populated, with just 7,400 residents. But it's also home to one of the most remarkable cultural attractions in the country, the colony of Kalaupapa, a peninsula physically cut off from the rest of Molokai by a wall of sheer sea cliffs, among the highest in the world. Hawaiians afflicted with Hansen's Disease (leprosy) were tragically exiled to Kalaupapa from the 1860s through the 1960s. Although a handful of survivors still reside in this community, much of it is now a national historic site, and visitors can tour the two villages. The exciting part is getting there: you must either hike or ride mules down (and later back up) a daunting, 1,700-foot trail of muddy steps and switchbacks.

Even beyond Kalaupapa, Molokai is rich in spectacular scenery. There's a scenic drive around the eastern half of the island, from which trails lead into the stunning Halawa Valley. And on the island's dry, sunny western side, you'll find some beautiful beaches. The airport in Molokai is served by several flights a day from neighbor islands. Once you get here, it's best to rent a car, as distances are considerable.

The island has just one major hotel, the very gay-welcoming Aqua Hotel Molokai (www.hotel-molokai.com/), a fairly basic complex of '70s A-frame bungalows, although the rooms have been comfortably updated. The hotel is also home to one of the only full-service restaurants on the island, an open-air space overlooking the small beach. The Hotel Molokai acts as one of the island's main social hubs, as there's live music in the evening. The easy pace and friendly mix of locals and visitors makes for a striking contrast with hotels on the other islands.

Elsewhere, your best bets for dining are Kamuela Cookhouse, which serves up tasty grilled seafood and prime rib, and Molokai Drive-in for burgers. The Molokai Coffee Plantation serves rich and robust brews using beans grown on the is-

land. And for breakfast or lunch, don't miss Kane-mitsu Bakery. Each evening, after the bakery has officially closed, hungry diners line up at a takeout window in the back alley to procure "hot bread." The disturbingly enormous loaves of chewy, rich bread are doused with butter, cinnamon, jams, and other toppings. It's the sort of offbeat tradition that captures Molokai's quirky, small-town vibe.

*Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website GayTravel.About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.



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Rhode Island LGBT leaders have high hopes for 2012

By: Casey Rocheteau/TRT Reporter

Speculation about 2012 is steeped in hypothetical musings about the end times, and the more realistic frenzy around the upcoming presidential election. There's also a reasonable amount of concern over what kind of turn the roller-coaster economy will take in the next year. In anticipation of the election and everything else the future has in store, a few leaders around Rhode Island answered the Rainbow Times' questions about what they would like to see happen for the LGBTQ community during the upcoming year.

Ray Sullivan of Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI) stressed that he would like to see marriage equality pass in Rhode Island this year, as well as seeing the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) repealed. Stephen Hartley of AIDS Care Ocean State (ACOS) echoed these sentiments, as did Karen Melo. In Rhode Island, the issue is very much still a potent one, with lingering frustration over the last-minute agreement that allowed civil unions but did not grant marriage equality. As Sullivan explained, there is even still a discriminatory aspect of the laws which allows for any entity connected to a religious organization, such as a school or hospital, to effectively ignore the standing of a civil partnership. For Sullivan and MERI, the upcoming year promises to bring a great deal of lobbying and door to door canvassing. As Sullivan put it, "while the politicians might wish that we'd just go away, but we're not going to. When we're knocking on doors and making phone calls in their backyard, they can't ignore us there. This year will have much more of a grassroots feel, and that's how we're going to win."

While MERI is revving up their tactics, they've been faring somewhat better than other nonprofits during this recession. Due to some key contributions



In Rhode Island, the issue is very much still a potent one, with lingering frustration over the last-minute agreement that allowed civil unions but did not grant marriage equality.

at the end of the year, MERI finished 2011 in a good place. One of Stephen Hartley's biggest wishes for 2012 would be the "end of the AIDS epidemic that has ravaged the TQGLB community for over 20 years." His organization, ACOS, however, saw a 32 percent drop in donations, he says. While there is much talk of a double-dip (or second) recession, on the ground it is apparent that the reverberations of the economic crash of 2008 can still be heard loudly today. When asked what he thought about a second recession, Hartley said, "Another? I don't think we are out of this one by a longshot! Nonprofits are always the first to get cut in federal and state aid. But also we see donations by the general public fall. The economy is affecting everyone."


When asked about how the economy would affect LGBT businesses, Karen Melo, a certified financial planner and domestic partner adviser, said, "Regardless of what the economy does in the upcoming year, I don't think LGBT businesses will be impacted any differently than other similar businesses. I believe it has more to do with the type of business, its location and who they serve in general." With this, however, there is the added issue of discrimination against LGBT in the workplace, which may not directly impact businesses, but workers. One thing that Melo would like to see in the upcoming year is "education on what the LGBT community is all about so co-workers can be comfortable talking about it in an intelligent way. I'm convinced that much of the biases we encounter are due to sheer ignorance of the matter. The business community has become so politically correct that we've become afraid to talk about things and learn from each other."

Indeed, the upcoming year promises to be interesting and potentially grueling, but with welcome challenges.

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2. Big Lesbian Love Collector's Set
3. Trigger
4. Mangus!
5. Circumstance
6. The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls
7. Leading Ladies
8. Becoming Chaz
9. The Lovers & Friends Show Season 4
10. Elena Undone

.....

GAY TOP 10

1. Mangus!
2. The Green
3. Judas Kiss
4. Big Gay Love Collector's Set
5. Make the Yuletide Gay
6. KickOff
7. What Happens Next
8. Eating Out: The Open Weekend
9. I Want to Get Married
10. Beginners

Happy New Year! Do you have your path to follow for 2012?

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



Happy New Year! Are you ready for 2012? Have you thought of any New Year's resolutions? Here are my thoughts on how to improve my 2012.

This year I am going to love myself even more than last year. I promise to take care of myself better, to be good to myself and to respect myself. It's so easy to get caught up with the lives of others, to not spend any time on yourself and to not feel good about yourself. But this year I plan to concentrate on my own life in a positive way. Trips to the doctor, dentist and the like, more of watching what I eat, exercising a little more, laughing more, dancing more, appreciating more, living more and loving more. These new habits should ensure continuing good health.

This year I am going to try to listen to everyone and to at least acknowledge their viewpoints even

if they are totally opposite from mine. From politics to religion, from rules to no rules, from any new idea to any old one I promise to listen and to acknowledge. Everyone has something to say and I just might learn at least one thing now and then even if it's from those with whom I disagree. If I do disagree with someone, and at times I know I will, I promise to agree to disagree, to do so in a civil fashion. Everyone has their own ideas and even if they are, in my initial opinion, totally wrong, I promise to at least hear them out.

I promise to be as positive as possible and to keep an eye on the negativity that I encounter. It's so easy to slide into the negative and to complain and to get caught in that rut. I plan to acknowledge the negative but to keep it at bay and to stay the course with the positive.

I promise to keep my hopes up for more acceptance of LGBT folk in society. There still is an extreme religious right who want us to live under their rules and their bullying atmosphere. As much as I am disgusted with these people, I will try to remember that they may be dealing with their own demons from within and that they could very well be gay, lesbian, bi or trans folks in denial. You never know what others may be carrying

inside themselves. I promise to always try to remember that when I am dealing with these people. At the same time I will not stand still and let these extremist religious folks try to deny my rights or to deny the chance for me to have these rights. I am an American and no one should even think about taking my rights away.

If someone misgenders me innocently, I promise to retain my composure and instead of abruptly correcting them I will try to make it a teaching moment. Even when I get the "Are you a man or a woman?" question, I will seize the opportunity for an outreach for this confused and innocent soul. If in the event that someone does taunt me I promise to ignore them and give them only my biggest smile. If the situation elevates where I cannot muster a smile I will follow the advice that my friend, Keri, once told me: "Never underestimate the power of indifference." If someone tries to make you uncomfortable, show them no reaction and that in itself will take the steam right out of the situation. That gives the message that they are not even worth your time.

If someone compliments me and/or gives me their support I promise to lovingly accept it and let them know that I very much appreciate it. In

the past I might have found it hard to take a compliment or a show of support but I will now promise to acknowledge these very nice personal gifts from these wonderful people.

I promise to keep smiling and to spread my happiness everywhere, especially to those who are down and out and to those who may consider giving up on life. Sometimes something as simple as a smile can perk people up and change their outlook. A phone call to someone who has dropped out of sight just might be one of the best things that can happen to them. Smile! Spread the happiness! You never know when you might touch someone.

I realize that I alone cannot change the whole world but I do have the opportunity to change the part of the world with which I come in contact. I know that it's not always easy and there will be times that I will question my path but deep in my heart I know that this path is right for me. Do you have a path for 2012? Whether you do or you don't, I wish you the best!

**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*

The right and the wrong way to treat a transperson, on a bus and at the bra store

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



It's been a busy month for me. Specifically, I had a pair of experiences all in one week: one negative, one positive.

They got me thinking. The first of those experiences led to a conversation with a very nice HR person, who had a simple, but important question:

What can they do as a company to be more sensitive to the needs of trans folks?

Let me back up though and tell you what happened.

I had taken a trip to Boston to pick up a friend's car at Logan Airport. I'm kind of a city girl, so I'll always take an excuse to get out of the woods in Western Massachusetts.

I bought a one-way ticket on a regional bus line, which out of respect for my publisher and the fine folks in the company, who have so far been helping with my complaint, will remain unnamed. For the most part the ride went smoothly as I read and listened to music.

I did however have a suspicion that my ticket did not take me all the way through to Logan as I had requested. I didn't really think it was a huge problem, though. The bus driver seemed friendly and professional enough in his manner and on-board announcements. So when it was time to change for Logan in downtown Boston, I spoke to the driver to ask where the bus boarded and how I could fix my ticket snafu.

As the driver answered my questions in his calm and professional manner, he kept referring to me as "sir." Now, not that dress should be a determinate of gender, but I was dressed pretty femmy for my trip into Boston. And while I am tall and very out as trans, there was no mistaking my gender presentation as very much female.

Still, because I am so "out" and I do so much outreach with people who have never knowingly encountered a transperson before, I'm sadly used to this sort of thing. And as unpleasant as it is to be misgendered, I have a standard response. I simply correct the person as to my preferred pronouns and move on back to the business at hand as quickly as possible. I find that face to face, most people want to be polite or at least think of themselves as such and will try to self-correct when I point it out.

If you think being transgender or transsexual is wrong and somehow violates your personal belief structure, please keep it to yourself or find employment somewhere you aren't likely to encounter other human beings. I hear there are plenty of openings for mountaintop hermits.

In this instance, however, after a moment where I thought the driver might be simply befuddled, he made it very clear that he was intentionally misgendering me and would continue to do so. In the most cold and calm manner imaginable, the driver continued to call me "sir." I was completely thrown and badly shaken. I've only rarely encountered such very intentional and very personal discrimination. The entire incident took only moments, yet shook me for days.

Contrast that to my experience shortly afterward, while bra shopping for my birthday at Victoria's Secret. I needed not just new bras, but a knowledgeable fitting as well. I was nervous but excited.

From the moment I walked into the store, I was treated respectfully and professionally. After I told

had not even a flicker of visible discomfort coming into the dressing room to check fit and style on the selections I was trying on. Proper pronouns were used unhesitatingly and I was treated just as anyone else who might be coming in to purchase Vicky's pricey but worthwhile product.

No one who worked there expressed any surprise or discomfort with my gender. I was just a woman in need of a well-fitting bra for my, quite surprisingly, newly 36C-sized breasts!

So how do I answer that HR person's question? Be polite. Be professional. Listen to the customer. It's not that hard to guess a person's gender identification. And if you really can't tell, ask what their preferred pronouns are. It may be slightly awkward, but it will be less hurtful than misgendering them.

And if you make a mistake, simply apologize and move on. If there's one thing that drives me crazier than being misgendered, it's five minutes of apologies and explanations afterward. I know, I get it. I'm way taller than you and quite a bit louder. And you've never met anyone like me. And you're really, really, most sincerely, sorry. It's cool, just call me "ma'am" and let me buy my Ben & Jerry's so I can get home to the new episode of "Doctor Who."

If you think being transgender or transsexual is wrong and somehow violates your personal belief structure, please keep it to yourself or find employment somewhere you aren't likely to encounter other human beings. I hear there are plenty of openings for mountaintop hermits.

Though I often deal in shades of grey in this column, my advice here is really very black and white. The sort of advice my grandmother might give.

Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself. That simple.

Slainte!

**Lorelei Erisis, former Miss Trans New England, can be contacted via email at The Rainbow Times at: loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.*

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

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Un Año Nuevo = Nuevas oportunidades

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa*/Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

“Brindemos a un Nuevo año y a otra oportunidad para que podamos hacer las cosas mejor”, Oprah. ¡Feliz Año Nuevo a todos/as! Espero que todos/as hayan tenido unos días feriados llenos de alegría y paz.

Yo celebré las festividades en mi Caribe, incluyendo en mi Borinquén. De verdad que las fiestas se celebran tan diferentes en mi país. Las cosas no están tan seguras como antes pero todavía se ve la gente celebrando esta época junto a familiares, amistades y vecinos/as.

De cierto que los días pasaron demasiado rápido. Mientras estaba allá vi televisión, leí periódicos y la mayoría de las noticias eran negativas y llenas de incertidumbre para el futuro pero entre una cosa y otra se podía palpar que la gente hablaba sobre un optimismo que trae un año nuevo sobre la política, referéndum, economía, etc. Lamentablemente, no se percibe este optimismo sobre los temas asociados con la comunidad LGBT. Desgraciadamente no podemos ver el futuro y decir que las cosas van a cambiar en este ámbito pero debemos, como comunidad, tener optimismo de que las cosas pueden cambiar para nuestra comunidad LGBT en Borinquén y el resto del Caribe. ¡El 2012 nos rinde esta nueva oportunidad de que podamos continuar la lucha por igualdad!

Entre canciones en la radio pude escuchar algunas predicciones para el 2012 sobre amor, pasión y amistad. Algunas de las predicciones mencionaban que el 2012 puede ser el año para la unidad entre personas con diferentes personalidades, para relaciones con pasión y llenas de sentimientos. Las prioridades van hacer en crear un hogar y familia... lo que estas predicciones no incluyeron fueron la diversidad de orientaciones sexuales ya que todas éstas eran mencionadas de una manera heterosexual. Todas concluían la maravilla del matrimonio, el cual no es posible para personas del mismo sexo en ningún país del Caribe. ¿Por qué no? Hay muchos líderes de la comunidad LGBT en los diferentes países Caribeños pero ellos se están enfocando en abogar en contra de que los crímenes de odio no sean reconocidos como tal y también para la inclusión del lenguaje en las leyes que están a favor de los derechos para la comunidad LGBT en los que se reconoce la diversidad en expresión de género y orientación sexual.

Espero que en este próximo año 2012, todos/as podamos alcanzar todo lo que queremos y todo lo mejor. Espero que todo/as lo/as que no tienen empleo puedan conseguir lo que puedan de empleo; que las personas que no tengan parejas y quieran parejas hagan las cosas diferentes en su diario vivir para poder conocer a esa persona/pareja especial. Como dijo Paulo Coelho en su libro El Alquimista, “Hay solamente una cosa que hace un sueño imposible de alcanzar: el miedo de fallar”. Todos/as debemos meditar en esta oración y hacer todos nuestros sueños realidad en el 2012 aunque fallemos en el camino. Debemos pensar en lo positivo y no en lo negativo (en las caídas) y luchar para que realizar esas metas. Sugiero que hagamos todo lo posible para que nuestros sueños como individuos y comunidad LGBT se hagan realidad... tomemos como ejemplo a la comunidad transgénero. Ellos/as abogaron para que el sueño de tener igualdad en la ley en el estado de Massachusetts se hiciera realidad y en el 2011 se hizo realidad. Ellos/as se enfocaron en lo que se tenía que hacer y aunque se “cayeron” en el camino ellos/as se levantaron e hicieron el sueño de igualdad en la ley realidad.

¡Espero que todos sus sueños se hagan realidad y que comiencen (y terminen) el 2012 con energía positiva! Espero que todos/as participemos de las elecciones, de las conferencias LGBT, que nos involuemos en actividades de prevención de suicidio entra la comunidad LGBT, y que seamos felices fuera del closet. Vean el calendario incluido en esta edición del periódico “The Rainbow Times” el cual expone los/as Héroes de TRT para que aprendan de gente como yo que abogo por nuestra comunidad LGBT y que educo a nuestra gente sobre la importancia de tener modelos LGBT positivos/as en la sociedad.

¡Espero que todo/as hayan tenido un Feliz Año Nuevo y que tengan un feliz Día de Reyes! Como dijo Caroline Kennedy, “Tanto como necesitamos una economía próspera, también necesitamos una prosperidad de amabilidad y decencia”, entre nosotros/as. Espero que nos tratemos con amabilidad y positivismo en el 2012. Gracias por leer esta columna y hacer este periódico el más leído en el 2011 por los Latinos en los E.U. Hagamos lo mismo en el 2012. ¡Les deseo a todos/as mucha Salud, Prosperidad, Amabilidad, Decencia, Amor, Positivismo, Respeto, y Compasión en el 2012!

*Escrito por Wilfred W. Labiosa, director ejecutivo de CASPAR y activista. Para más noticias en nuestro mundo Latino LGBT e información sobre los/as Héroes de TRT, visita su portal: www.therainbow-timesmass.com



Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: Criminalización del VIH

Por: Scott Schoettes*/Director de Proyecto del VIH de Lambda Legal



P: Soy VIH positivo y me enteré recientemente de alguien que fue encarcelado después de un encuentro sexual, solo por su estatus del VIH. ¿Realmente puede esto suceder?

R: Treinta años después del descubrimiento del VIH, el campo médico ha aprendido mucho acerca del virus, cómo se transmite y tratamientos efectivos. Desafortunadamente, las leyes no han cambiado tan rápidamente, y las personas que viven con el VIH están vulnerables a leyes obsoletas que se concentran específicamente en ellas. El eliminar la criminalización del VIH en los Estados Unidos es una prioridad de Lambda Legal. Estas leyes injustas hacen que personas que no tienen absolutamente

ninguna intención de hacerle daño a nadie, estén sujetas a sanciones legales que usualmente sólo se imponen por delitos sumamente graves. Además, las leyes criminales basadas en el estatus de VIH de una persona, envían un mensaje incorrecto con respecto a la responsabilidad de prevenir el VIH, no fomentan el hacerse la prueba del virus e incluso pueden disuadir a la gente de revelar su estatus del VIH.

Treinta y nueve estados tienen leyes criminales que se tratan específicamente del VIH, o han formulado cargos criminales relacionados con el VIH, que resultaron en más de 80 procesos judiciales en los últimos dos años. En el caso *People v. Allen*, un hombre de Michigan que vive con el VIH, fue acusado de posesión de un “arma biológica” bajo la ley antiterrorista del estado, después de un altercado con un vecino. Los fiscales compararon su infección de VIH con “posesión o uso de un dispositivo dañino”. Lambda Legal ayudó a convencer al tribunal para de-

sestimar el cargo, pero otros procesos judiciales terminan en condenas. Por ejemplo, un hombre con el VIH en Iowa que tenía una carga viral indetectable, fue condenado a 25 años de cárcel después de una relación sexual de una sola noche, durante la cual utilizó un condón. Puedes informarte acerca de la ley en tu estado aquí: <http://bit.ly/sHnCb5> (sólo disponible en inglés).

La criminalización del VIH es aún más preocupante para los grupos que se ven afectados desproporcionadamente por el virus. En el 2008, uno de cada cinco hombres que tienen relaciones sexuales con otros hombres, en 21 ciudades principales de Estados Unidos, estaba infectado con el VIH, y casi la mitad ignoraba su infección. En el 2009, los afroamericanos formaban un 14% de la población, y un 44% de todos los casos nuevos de VIH. En el mismo año, el 20% de los casos nuevos de VIH en

Estados Unidos fueron latinos, a pesar de que éstos solo forman el 16% de la población. En el 2008, en California, un 6,8% de las personas transgénero tenían VIH, y los afroamericanos dentro de la población trans-

género de California tuvieron una tasa de infección de casi 29%.

Lambda Legal se ha unido al “Positive Justice Project” (PJP, por sus siglas en inglés), un consorcio dedicado a eliminar el uso de leyes criminales contra personas que viven con el VIH. Junto con el PJP, Lambda Legal está trabajando para aprobar el “REPEAL HIV Discrimination Act”, un proyecto de ley federal que requeriría una revisión de todas las leyes federales y estatales, políticas y reglamentos con respecto a las acciones judiciales relacionadas al VIH.

Si tienes alguna pregunta o sientes que has sido discriminado a causa de tu estatus de VIH, llama a nuestra Línea de Ayuda al 1-866-542-8336, o visita nuestra página web: lambdalegal.org/ayuda

“... el 20% de los casos nuevos de VIH en Estados Unidos fueron latinos, a pesar de que éstos sólo forman el 16% de la población.”

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The OutField: 2011 was the Year of the Gay in sports & everywhere!

By: Dan Woog*/Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



In schools, in the military – and especially in sports – 2011 was The Year of the Gay.

High school, college, even professional athletes came out of the locker room closet. Pro teams asked players to film “It Gets Better” videos – telling LGBT youngsters there is hope in the future – and a broad array of athletes responded. Spurred by intriguing subjects like former Phoenix Suns president and CEO Rick Welts (now president of the Golden State Warriors), the media jumped on stories examining nearly every aspect of “gays in sports.”

So what can 2012 do as an encore?

Plenty.

Professional teams can take a stand against homophobic chants and banners. (Yes, you, New York Rangers. The anti-gay atmosphere in Madison Square Garden is so bad, *The New York Times* says, that some LGBT fans have stopped attending games.)

Professional leagues can double their efforts to combat homophobia, and embrace diversity. It’s great that the National Basketball Association fined Kobe Bryant \$100,000 after he called a referee a “faggot.” Now it’s time for all leagues to include same-sex couples in their promotional videos, sponsor floats at Gay Pride parades, bring in all executives for diversity training – you know, do the same things corporate America has done for years (with great success).

During this summer’s Olympics in London, the media should explore every gay story line (there will be many). Just four years ago in Beijing, Australian diver Matthew Mitcham won an improbable gold medal. NBC – which seldom misses any up-close-and-personal moment, the schmaltzier the better – announcers never said that Mitcham raised the money to bring his boyfriend, Lachlan to China. NBC never showed the medal ceremony, where Mitcham kissed Lachlan. They never even said Mitcham was gay.

All of that is important. Chances are good that at least some of it will happen in 2012.



The anti-gay atmosphere in Madison Square Garden is so bad, *The New York Times* says, that some LGBT fans have stopped attending games.

But the most crucial event of all still seems as far away as ever. Despite all the swimmers, rugers and soccer players who have come out, we’re still waiting for the first active male athlete in one of America’s major sports’ top professional leagues – Major League Baseball, the NFL, NBA or NHL – to come out.

In 1998 I wrote “Jocks: True Stories of America’s Gay Male Athletes.” A sequel – “Jocks 2: Coming Out to Play” – was published in 2002. In countless interviews, I’ve been asked the same question: “When will a big-name male athlete come out?”

I always answered the same: “It won’t happen that way. Instead, some athlete who’s been out all along – in high school and college – will be drafted by a pro team. They’ll know he’s gay. They’ll want him be-

cause he’s good. So it will happen naturally, from the bottom up. The MVP of the Super Bowl won’t suddenly say, ‘I’m here. I’m queer. I’m going to Disney World.’”

That line always got laughs. I still believe we’re on the verge of seeing openly gay athletes work their way into the pros, without too much commotion.

But I’ve changed my mind on the importance of the issue. Now – a decade and a half after I first wrote

about gay male athletes – there is still not one out male athlete in a major team sport.

I’m tired of waiting.

It’s time for one of dozens of candidates to seize the moment.

Earlier this year David Testo came out. He had just been released by the Montreal Impact, a Division II professional soccer club. Previously, he’d played with Major League Soccer’s Columbus Crew. Teammates knew he was gay – including big-time stars like Frankie Hejduk and Kyle Martino. Most didn’t care. He was popular, and developed deep friendships.

After coming out, Testo told *MLSsoccer.com* (the official league website, which impressively highlighted his story on its home page), “It can’t be that I’ve played professional soccer for 10 years and not known one other gay player. You just have to imagine all the guys out there struggling with the same issue, and maybe if I take this step, it will create some kind of moment of change.”

Yet that was not the only reason Testo decided to come out publicly. Another was the recent suicide of 15-year-old Jamie Hubley.

The death of that gay teenager crystallizes for me the reason that an active, major league male athlete must come out this year. He needs to send a message to everyone – teammates, opponents, the media, fans (especially young ones, gay and straight) – that we are indeed here. We’re queer. And we’re on your favorite big-league pro teams.

“It Gets Better” videos are nice. Knowing that an NBA executive is out is fine. But it’s past time for a major sports figure to tell the world who he really is.

So the last question is: Who is he?

*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.dan-woog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at his email at: OutField@qsyndicate.com.

To Cook is To Love: A Foodies Journal

Feed Me! – 1st in a Food & Politics Series & the 2012 Elections

By: John Verlinden*/Special for TRT

¡MUCHO GUSTO!



On Halloween, the UN announced that there were now 7 billion people on planet earth. We’re growing at an even faster rate in the U.S. – 312 million today, 439 million by 2050. Can we possibly

feed everybody? Of course we can, but we’ll need to do things differently!

Agricultural technology advances, improvements in transportation and medical innovations enabled us to get here. A hundred years ago, the U.S. had less than a 100 million residents, but by increasing food production and improving distribution systems, reducing infant mortality rates and extending longevity, we were able to reach this milestone. This achievement, however, came at a very expensive price to the earth – air, water and soil pollution, deforestation, dramatic reductions to wild fish stocks in the ocean, and extinction of other species just to name a few.

We can do better. The challenge is how do we produce enough food and get it to where it is needed without damaging the earth further. Translating this challenge into viable public policy is complex. But, as you evaluate candidate’s positions and prepare to

cast your vote, here are some things to look for:

- Policies that reduce subsidies to and incentives for industrial agricultural practices – (giant single crop corporate farms that depend on chemical fertilizers and pesticides for yields, feedlots and other animal production factories, etc.)
- Policies that support small family farmers and promote sustainable, organic operations and fund research for better production and distribution systems (we can find another way)
- Policies that encourage people to move to rural areas, into agriculture and local production of foods – (82% of us live in cities, transporting food across the country reduces quality and increases expense)
- Policies that encourage all of us to reduce our consumption of meat (it takes 16 pounds of grain and 2,000 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef. What a huge impact on our environment a single meatless meal per week could make.)

Next month our focus will be on food safety. Share your thoughts about things we can do to make our food safer, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article – contact me: john@muchogusto.com or visit www.muchogusto.com and join our food forum.

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

*Tells us about a teachable moment in your life, share your experience cooking with kids, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article – contact me: john@muchogusto.com or visit www.muchogusto.com and join our food forum.

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