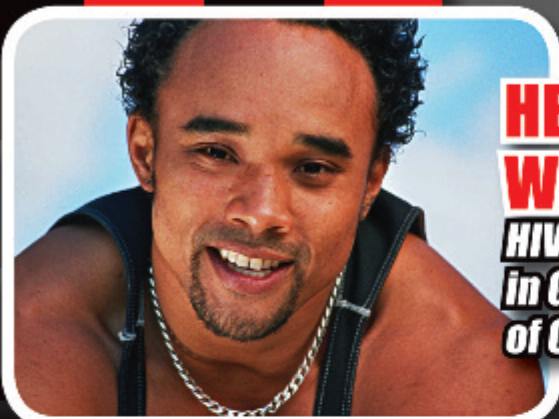


Year 6, Vol. 1 • January 10, 2013 - February 6, 2013 • www.therainbowtimesmass.com

The Rainbow Times

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

FREE!
• HEALTH EDITION •



HEALTH & WELLNESS

HIV Rate Higher
in Gay & Bi Youth
of Color p3



BETTE MIDLER

Talks Gays in
Heels & Bullying
Epidemic p13



DEDICATED TRANSMAN

Takes Strides to
Help Benefit
LGBTQ Youth p23

DOMESTIC ABUSE: VAWA KILLED, DOMA FUNDED p4

FISCAL CLIFF: DEAL HURTS LGBT, OTHERS p15

RI: FEDERAL FUNDING LOST FOR HIV p20



RACHEL

MADDOW

The boss of news p18

PHOTO: KERRY HAYES

PHOTO: MSNBC

All for one and one for VAWA, or not

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

OPINIONS For the first time since its enactment in 1994, last year's 112th Congress failed to pass a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA. Historically, this bill has effortlessly passed Republican, Democratic and bipartisan led Congresses, until now. Despite overwhelming support and passage of the bill by the Democratic-led Senate, House Republican leadership denounced it by refusing to bring the measure to a vote on the floor, notwithstanding efforts by Vice President Joe Biden. According to a report by the Huffington Post, the embattled bill would have extended domestic violence protections to 30 million LGBT individuals, undocumented immigrants and Native American women. The mere thought that majority Republicans in the House believe that even a fraction of domestic violence victims should be left without protections is deplorable and certainly un-American. Hopefully, the thousands of women and other minority groups and their allies will remember this lack of action on the Republican's behalf when it comes time to

vote again for Congressional leadership, or in this case, lack-there-of.

Never has there been a time of greater hostility toward American sub-cultures as there is today. It is a power struggle for the "majority" that has been in power throughout the history of our country, thereby controlling the legislative process to keep themselves at the top and

everyone else at the bottom. It is about the old ideas vs. the new ones and the tolerant vs. the intolerant. It is about equal liberty, a concept that has been forgotten by those who lead; a concept that should be bestowed to all Americans. Minority groups are gaining great strides. Likewise, there has never been a time where such diversity is represented in Congress, municipal and Federal positions. And with that advancement,

comes fear and an internal power conflict. That is why the House Republican leadership refused to let VAWA come to a vote. They knew it would pass, even other Republicans strongly expressed support of it. But the leadership halted its progress with deliberate intent. The leadership predicts their ship is about to sink.

See VAWA on page 19

Faith, family, and God: Time, death and not looking forward to the 2012 New Year

By: Paul P. Jesep*/TRT Columnist

New Year's makes me depressed. I've never liked the holiday. The more time passes, the more distasteful it gets. There's much on my to-do list and time is diminishing at a faster clip.

This is not about Seasonal Affective Disorder. Nor is it about Blue Christmas Syndrome where millions struggle with sadness during the entire holiday season. Although a Christian, I'm indifferent to Christmas, a co-opted Pagan holiday that conveniently ignores the birth of Jesus in late

spring or early summer. Thanksgiving is nice, but the only thing most seem to remember about it is the inevitable family drama and petty feuds. Still, it's New Year's that brings me down.

It's as if instead of having a light bulb over my head offering a wealth of good ideas and solutions, I have an hourglass and I can see the sand running out. I almost feel as if a force is pressing down on me.

I've even developed a bizarre ritual of sometimes not letting myself go to sleep. If I don't go to sleep then it's not tomorrow. It's still today. Tomorrow has been delayed.

My anxiety about time isn't about death. Death doesn't frighten me. Perhaps it should. Although I haven't been to the other side yet, I sincerely believe there are far worse things than death. In fact, death liberates the soul to move to a higher spiritual level.

No one knows for certain what's waiting for them on the other side, but I'm curious to see it. I hope to be reunited with my precious Seal Point Siamese cats, Tristan and Isolde. The possibility of reincarnation bothers me. One life has been enough. I'm not interested in coming back as man, cat, mineral, vegetable or anything else. Just let me move on to a better place.

New Year's revelers enjoy the holiday because it's another chance to party and also look

ahead to a brighter time. It can signify moving beyond the trials and tribulations of an awful year, whether from unemployment, health ...

See Christian on page 11

Unfortunately, John Boehner (R) and Eric Cantor (R) are still at the helm of the Republican House enterprise. I say it's about time that ship sinks and the captains should go down with it.

Fiscal cliff budget cuts hurt HIV/AIDS

By: Jason Lydon*/TRT Columnist



When this newspaper hits the stands we will be in the second full day of cuts instituted by the "fiscal cliff," if Congress and the Obama Administration are unable to come up with an alternative.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 mandates that there will be \$1.2 trillion in cuts, including an 8.2 percent cut across the board to public services, if an agreement is not reached on the budget. At the time of this writing, the last day of Congress session before the Christmas break, there are no viable agreements coming out of the House under the leadership of Speaker Boehner. President Obama, in his embarrassing efforts of negotiating, has agreed to cut at our Social Security benefits. Things are a mess in Washington and they are making decisions about the lives of those most dependent upon state resources to survive.

In May I wrote about the cuts we are already experiencing in AIDS services, and I spoke with a social worker from an AIDS Service Organization in Boston about the devastation to programs already coming to Massachusetts in 2013. If the fiscal cliff cuts go into effect, we will see even greater loss of resources to AIDS services. Based on the 2012 federal budget, there will be a \$538 million cut to domestic AIDS programs and \$689 million to global AIDS programs. Domestically these numbers mean \$64 million cut to Center for Disease Control, where we get most of our prevention

funding and outreach work; \$196 million cut to Ryan White, which is used to fund HIV/AIDS specific care for people living with HIV/AIDS; \$77 million from AIDS Drug Assistance Program; \$251 million from National Institute of Health AIDS research, which will set us back in finding a vaccine; and \$27 million for Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), which provides essential homes and stability for people living with HIV/AIDS. Not only do

these cuts to AIDS specific programs put people's lives in danger, people living with HIV/AIDS rely upon so many of the other social services getting cut. The reality of the fiscal cliff is that it is an attack on poor and marginalized people.

The good news is that people are fighting back. The press had a great time with ACT-UP Philly's action in Speaker Boehner's office on November 27. In case you missed it, AIDS

activists went into Boehner's office, disrobed, their naked bodies with calls to end cuts painted on them, and ...

See HIV Cuts on Page 23

... AIDS activists went into Boehner's office, disrobed, their naked bodies with calls to end cuts painted on them, and chanted slogans ...

The Rainbow Times

The Freshest LGBT Newspaper
in New England - Boston Based

www.therainbowtimesmass.com

editor@therainbowtimesmass.com
sales@therainbowtimesmass.com

Phone: 617.444.9618 / 413.282.8881
Fax: 928.437.9618

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

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
I'll be frank, I wasn't too keen about reading the low municipal index from Northampton. I agree it should be higher. I'd like to alert our municipality to work on bringing more members of the GLBT community to work for them. Maybe our Mayor can make it happen. The information was good to know, just when your town is criticized, it's not taken lightly.

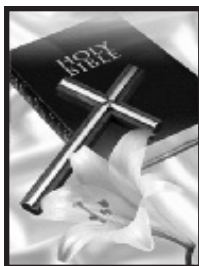
— Jim Crevasten, Northampton, MA

Dear Editor,
Just wanted to let you know that I printed the vouchers for the Salvation Army kettles and even had to give them an LGBT course on discrimination by the company. I had two people be nice about it and one who said he agreed with the company's position. Nice huh? Good 'ole Christian, he said he was.

—Mark Reindheart, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,
Thank you for exposing the work that the Rhode Island organizations do, especially the work of Miss Kitty Litter. I just love her! It's important to give to RI HIV organizations, especially now that most funding is needed.

—Edward Julien, Providence, RI



Fenway: CDC reports high rates of HIV infection in young American gay and bisexual men

By: Brook Rosini/Special to TRT

HEALTH & WELLNESS

On November 27, 2012, just a handful of days before World AIDS Day, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a striking new report about the status of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S. According to the CDC, young people between the ages of 13 and 24 represent more than a quarter of new HIV infections each year, and over half of these youth living with HIV are unaware they are infected. Furthermore, the report stated that the most affected group of young people are young gay, and bisexual men, as well as African-Americans. The Rainbow Times interviewed Dr. Ralph Vetter, M.D., of the Fenway Institute's Sidney Borum, Jr. Health Center, to discuss the implications of the report and how Fenway's programs address the issue.

The Rainbow Times: I think it might help the reader to know how the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can estimate numbers for a demographic whose individual population does not know it is affected. In other words, how can the CDC know these individuals are affected without the people themselves knowing?

Dr. Ralph Vetter: The CDC uses a number of statistical tools to get the numbers you're talking about. It's what we call the treatment cascade. The following web sites have the best up to date numbers: <http://tinyurl.com/6m3vt6x> and <http://tinyurl.com/6jil28>.

They get these numbers by looking at rates of testing in different populations and then looking at the number of positive results within tests done in that particular population. Say we're looking at a population of 100,000 people.

If, for example, 1.5% of all those tested in a particular population are HIV positive, then we would expect that there would be 1,500 people with HIV in that population. But if there are only 300 people who have been diagnosed HIV+ in that population then we can say that 1,200 people are likely to be infected but don't know they are infected: in this imaginary case that would be 80% [of the infected population that is unaware they are infected]. Of course, there are a lot of problems with this method — maybe the people who are getting tested know that they are the highest risk people and so the number of HIV+ cases is high just because of their risk behaviors, but we can't necessarily think that every member of the entire population shares those particular risk behaviors. So the CDC probably does a number of statistical checks to "weight" the population by likely risk behavior to get the final numbers.

Q. What contributes to people being unaware that they are infected with HIV?

A. People are unaware they are infected because frequently there are no symptoms when they first get infected, or they are very mild.



There is a thing called HIV Conversion Syndrome, and the typical symptoms are fever, rash, swollen lymph nodes, sore throat — things that look a lot like a cold or viral infection. And these symptoms can be very mild or nonexistent. And they may not be very closely related in time to the incident that caused the infection, so people don't tend to connect the dots, especially when the dots are very mild. It can then be years before the

other symptoms of HIV come about — the opportunistic infections — pneumonias, meningitis, anemia, et cetera — and only then might they get tested and find out they are HIV+. One of the big concerns is that people are most infectious and able to spread HIV in the period of time right after they get infected when their blood is full of the virus at extremely high levels. Shortly afterwards the viral load — the number of virus particles in each drop of blood — goes down to pretty low levels and stays there for years, only creeping up again to high

levels when the immune system has been destroyed.

That's the medical reason why people might be unaware that they are infected. Not getting tested is the other reason, and that happens because of fear of being positive, fear of being stigmatized, fear of losing insurance coverage, fear of losing family and friends and employment, distrust of medical providers and fears about confidentiality. Also access to free testing. And among some younger gay men fatalism — I'm going to die anyway, I'm going to get it anyway — why bother getting tested. All this varies across populations — ethnicities, races, ages, genders, class.

Q. What is it about the young gay and bisexual men and African Americans that cause them to be most affected? Are there certain factors or risk behaviors that they have in common?

A. Lots of reasons. First, the number of people in those populations who already have HIV is higher percentage-wise than white women in suburbia, for example. That means that any unsafe interaction is more likely to involve exposure to HIV — there are just more people who are HIV+ around. In addition, that means that the number of people with brand new infections is higher and that they have a larger amount of the virus in their blood, making it easier for the virus to be passed along with even small amounts of blood or seminal fluid. This is a concept called the "community viral load." It turns out that young black gay and bisexual men do not engage in any different kinds of sexual activity than white gay men

See HIV At-Risk on Page 8

FENWAY HEALTH

One Mind. One Body. *One You.*



Fenway Health is your one-stop provider for your health care needs. Our staff is sensitive to each patient's needs and we have a long history of caring for our neighborhood, the LGBT community and people living with HIV/AIDS.

PROVIDING THE SERVICES YOU NEED

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

SERVING YOU AT TWO LOCATIONS:

ANSIN BUILDING
1340 Boylston Street
Boston MA 02215
TEL 617.267.0900

FENWAY : SOUTH END
142 Berkeley Street
Boston MA 02116
TEL 617.247-7555

WEB fenwayhealth.org

Congressional hypocrisy: VAWA perishes but DOMA fight lives on in GOP-led House

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

IN THE LIMELIGHT

The Republican leaders in the U.S. House started off the 2013-14 session giving unusual prominence to their legal defense of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

As part of a routine package of "rules" by which the House is to govern itself during the 113th Congress, Republican leaders included language authorizing the continued legal defense of DOMA.

Drew Hammill, press spokesman for House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, said the request runs counter to the Republican "mantra" to find cuts in spending and counter to the trend toward acceptance of same-sex couples marrying.

"Republicans will take the extraordinary measure of including an authorization of their efforts to defend DOMA in the Rules of the House of Representatives and by doing so, continue to spend taxpayer funds, already adding up to \$1.7 million, in their attempts to defend this shameful law in federal courts and the Supreme Court," said Hammill.

Even Log Cabin Republicans complained.

"At a time when sound fiscal policy should be front-and-center, diverting taxpayer funds to defend the Federal Defense of Marriage Act should not be a priority, period," said Log Cabin's interim executive director Gregory Angelo.

The draft of the text for the rules bill, passed along partisan lines January 3, was made known

to Democrats on the evening before the first day of the 113th Congressional session. It was, otherwise, a day of celebration for most in the LGBT community as Vice President Joe Biden swore in the first openly gay elected person to the U.S. Senate – Tammy Baldwin, Democrat of Wisconsin. The House also swore in its largest ever LGBT caucus – with six members, all Democrats, including Reps. Jared Polis of Colorado, David Cicilline of Rhode Island, Mark Takano of California, Mark Pocan of Wisconsin, Sean Maloney of New York, and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona.

Polis, now the senior most openly gay member of the House, went to the floor Thursday, to express his disappointment with the DOMA litigation language.

"Big spending Republicans on Day One spending millions of dollars of taxpayer money on a federal takeover of marriage and lawyer stimulus – wrong foot to start off on," said Polis.

The DOMA legal fees provision appears in Section 4 of House Resolution No. 5. It authorizes the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG) to continue its legal defense of DOMA "or related provisions" in the *Windsor v. U.S.* case and "other cases that involve a challenge to the constitutionality" of Section 3 of DOMA. The provision states that BLAG "continues to speak for, and articulate the institutional position of, the House in all litigation matters in which it appears, including *Windsor v. United States*."

The provision does not identify a dollar amount authorized to continue this defense, but, a spreadsheet from Democrats on the Committee on House Administration in October showed

BLAG had paid out more than \$1.4 million in legal fees between April 25, 2011, and October 9, 2012.

The fees were paid to Republican former Solicitor General Paul Clement and his legal team, who were hired by House Republicans.

House Democrats criticized Speaker John Boehner, who heads the five-member BLAG committee, when House General Counsel Kerry Kircher and House Administration Committee Chair Dan Lungren (R-Calif.) signed a contract to pay attorney Clement \$500,000 to defend DOMA after the Obama administration said it believed the law to be unconstitutional. (The Obama Department of Justice continues to enforce DOMA but said it would no longer defend the law in court.) The Committee and Congress had not authorized expenditure of the funds for such litigation. Democrats said the contract was made without proper authorization for the funding.

Hammill said he does not believe the language in the rules bill satisfies that need to authorize funding, saying it was still "outside the appropriations process."

LGBT groups were quick to criticize inclu-



sion of the language in the rules bill.

"It is particularly disappointing that this historic Congress – with the largest-ever class of openly lesbian, gay and bisexual Members and same-sex Congressional spouses – has begun with a vote that disrespects those new Members and all LGBT Americans," said Allison Herwitz, legislative director for the Human Rights Campaign.

Marc Solomon, national campaign director of Freedom to Marry, called it "truly disheartening."

DOMA, he said "has been struck down as unconstitutional 10 times, with support from judges appointed by Presidents Nixon, Reagan, and both Bushes."

"It's past time for the Republican leadership to listen to their constituents, a majority of whom support the freedom to marry, and stop wasting precious resources in an effort to treat fellow Americans as second-class citizens," said Solomon.

That shift is not likely to happen before the U.S. Supreme Court weighs in on the constitutionality of DOMA, in the *Windsor* case, later this year.

Meanwhile, in the Senate, *Roll Call* newspaper reports that there are 51 senators ready to back a new rule change that curb the use of filibustering to stall or block legislation. Currently, nearly all legislation has to gain at least 60 votes in order to pass a procedural vote to close debate and move to a vote on the bill itself. The fight over that rules change is not expected until after the inauguration, January 21.

© Copyright 2013 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

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



Find strength. Embrace hope.

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

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

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

Admissions 24 hours a day. 7 days a week.

Call 802-258-3700

or find out more at brattlebororetreat.org/lgbt



Brattleboro Retreat

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION CARE

Brattleboro, Vermont

YouTube f b e LinkedIn

2012 healthcare institutions' proven excellence when treating LGBTs

HEALTH & WELLNESS

In the Healthcare Equality Index, HEI, 2012 (www.hrc.org/hei), — an important measure of healthcare devised by the Human Rights Campaign, HRC — 71 survey respondents met *all* of the Core Four HEI criteria, earning them the status "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality 2012," even when 407 facilities participated in it.

These 71 respondents represent 234 facilities that protect their LGBT patients and employees from discrimination, ensure equal visitation access for LGBT people through explicitly inclusive policies, and provide staff training in LGBT patient-centered care. From these healthcare facilities throughout the country that met the Core Four criteria, according to the HRC, only 10 of them earned such excellence criteria in New England. Unfortunately, the 10 facilities are all located within one state in this region. LGBT members from other New England states are not as fortunate to have the treatment nearby, as do the LGBT residents of Massachusetts.

Because of these results and the limited facilities that fully care for LGBT patients and their rights, it is vital to stay informed about LGBT healthcare and the institutions that go the extra mile to provide members of the LGBT community with equal care and treatment with 100% satisfaction level to the patient and his/her family.



According to the HRC, The Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) is a unique and invaluable resource for healthcare organizations seeking to provide equitable, inclusive care to LGBT Americans—and for LGBT Americans seeking healthcare organizations with a demonstrated commitment to their care.

In *The Rainbow Times*' areas of coverage (New England), the following facilities were Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality 2012.

- Baystate Health (9 facilities), Springfield,

MA

- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA
- Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA
- Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA
- Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Northampton, MA
- Faulkner Hospital, Boston, MA
- Fenway Health, Boston, MA
- Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates, Newton, MA

- Mount Auburn Hospital, Cambridge, MA
- Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Newton Lower Falls, MA

These Leaders are all located in Massachusetts, two in the western part of the state. Members of the LGBT community in New England may have to travel, if they want to experience the quality care that these healthcare institutions provide, which has earned them the status of "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality 2012."

Healthcare organizations are warmly invited to participate in the HEI 2013 (<http://tinyurl.com/bbe3a4u>), an online survey that closes on February 15, 2013, and is free of charge. Participating organizations enjoy these benefits:

- Free online training for staff at all levels
- A customized needs assessment for planning and benchmarking
- Featured status in the HEI report (<http://tinyurl.com/a5ecpf2>) — and designation as Equality Leaders (<http://tinyurl.com/bx-aclq3>), if the Core Four criteria (<http://tinyurl.com/aghat9o>) are met, according to the HRC website.

LGBT patients can search the HEI report (<http://tinyurl.com/abnkdcq>) to learn which facilities have participated in the HEI, and which have been designated as Equality Leaders (<http://tinyurl.com/agnoe5n>). In 2012, a record 407 facilities were represented in the HEI, with an unprecedented 57% designated as Leaders.

To read the complete HEI 2012 report visit: <http://tinyurl.com/a34tmjs>.

It's 84°

In Aruba!

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

5 STAR TRAVEL

617-536-1999 or 800-FLY-1999

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

First ever Pioneer Valley e-philanthropy event gives over \$1 million to local nonprofits

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — The first 24 hour e-philanthropy event in Western Massachusetts was held by the Community Foundation in partnership with nine leading funding organizations. Valley Gives, an online day of donating to local nonprofits, aimed to reach out in unique ways to donors to invest in organizations that are the fabric of Western Massachusetts, according to information from the Valley Gives online fact sheet.

Caroline Deltoro, Director of Communications for the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and Michael Kusek of Communication Angle explained that the idea for Valley Gives was thought up by two local philanthropists, Al Griggs and Paul Doherty, who were inspired by the Gates Foundation's Giving Pledge, which asks the wealthy to donate half of their wealth to charity. "The basic idea was to inspire a 'culture of giving' throughout the community ... we were hoping to encourage everyone, regardless of income, to contribute, to get out a message that philanthropy is not restricted to the wealthy," said Deltoro and Kusek.

The online event utilized the Razoo Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes and provides online charitable giving solutions, to allow visitors to donate to nonprofits throughout Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties. Deltoro and Kusek stated that their goal was to raise \$1 million, and the event ended up giving \$1,174,737 in total to 268 participating organizations and programs.

"It was fun and exciting to see gifts come in



from new donors!" said Leslie Tarr Laurie, President and CEO of Tapestry Health. Tapestry Health raised \$3,513 and, said Laurie, "hundreds read about our work for the first time. Some may have already known about our more publicized work in women's health, but not known about our LGBT, HIV and suicide prevention services."

Wendy Payson, Director of Communications and Community Relations at ServiceNet, Inc., an organization, according to its website, that provides a wide range of human services for people in the Pioneer Valley, said that the day allowed them to raise

over \$1,800 and gain new supporters.

Payson also said, "Beyond that, we raised significant awareness in the community about the services we provide. We weren't sure what to expect, and we were pleased with the result."

Another organization, Family Diversity Projects, a national nonprofit, according to www.familydiv.org, that creates traveling exhibits to help eliminate prejudice and harassment of those who are discriminated against, also benefitted from the

day.

"It sounded like a great way to increase awareness of our work, raise funds and help

support other Valley nonprofits, too," said Peggy Gillespie, Co-Director of Family Diversity Projects, who also donated that day to other area nonprofits. "We feel our local roots, and have done a great deal of our interviewing and photographing for our exhibits, such as Love Makes a Family: Portraits of LGBT People and their Families, locally." Gillespie stated that they raised approximately \$12,000 and increased their donor base, and the funds will be used for general operational support to make the exhibits accessible to any venue that wants to show them.

All organizations interviewed said that they would absolutely participate again.


Initial feedback was positive, and Deltoro and Kusek said that "nonprofits were very pleased with the day, as it can be a challenge to raise operating support, and this provided an opportunity to be a part of something big and high profile without having to make major investments of time and other resources," and also that donors "talked about how it was fun and exciting to watch the totals come in throughout the day and to track the progress of their favorite charities."


Deltoro and Kusek said that Valley Gives will be an annual event, and that their "hope is to build on the success of the first year to raise even more money in subsequent years, as awareness continues to grow."

For more information about Valley Gives and participating organizations, visit www.valley-givesday.org.



protect your package





FREE Rapid HIV Testing

Condoms & Lube

Mental Health Counseling

The MALE Center

571 Columbus Avenue
Boston, MA 02118

contact us for an appointment:
T: 617-450-1987 E: malecenter@aac.org

follow us:
www.malecenter.org
f/MALECenter @MALECenter

OUR HOURS

Monday 12-4 • Tuesday 12-8
Wednesday 12-9
Thursday 12-8 • Friday 12-4
1st & 3rd Saturday
of each month 12-4
Sunday Closed

Successful Counseling for Adults, Children, and Families



Flexible appointment times
Evening hours available
Most insurance plans accepted

Amherst
549.0095

Northampton
584.6855

Holyoke
533.5201

Greenfield
772.2935

Pittsfield
442.4003



www.servicenet.org

2012: The year we'll remember the tide turning against HIV/AIDS?

By: Brook Rosini/TRT Reporter

HEALTH & WELLNESS

For those of us who grew up in the 90s, we remember sex ed classes with videos that included testimonials from people who looked just like us — but a little older — about how they became infected with HIV. We remember haunting photographs and heart-rending stories chronicling the short lives of those diagnosed with the virus. We remember Pedro from *The Real World*, a sweet soul who came into our living rooms weekly via MTV and humanized the illness in ways those sex ed tapes couldn't. We remember that being diagnosed with HIV was a death sentence.

Things certainly have changed. The good news is that contracting HIV does not have to be a death sentence anymore. The bad news is that HIV infection rates among American youth are actually increasing. And that dichotomy of good and bad essentially sums up the news we heard about HIV/AIDS in 2012.

Indeed, last year proved to be a complex one for news about the epidemic, with both positive and negative statistics and figures being reported by leading organizations working in the fields of treatment and prevention.

In July, for the first time in twenty-two years, the International AIDS Conference (www.aids2012.org) returned to the United States, seeing 24,000 participants from 183 countries gather in Washington, D.C. to present the latest research and discuss measures needed to ensure that financial support keeps pace with scientific advancements in the fight against the epidemic. The tenor of publications from the conference tended to be optimistic, as was the UN, stating in a report released in November of last year that ending AIDS is a feasible goal for the near future within the next generation.

At the same time, a 2012 report by the United Nations Programme on AIDS stated that deaths by AIDS had dropped from 2.3 million in 2005-2006 to 1.7 million in 2011. Meanwhile, the number of people living with HIV increased by 18% from 2001-2011 — a combination of the longer lifespan of those living with the virus and new infections.

In fact, while UNAIDS reported last year that new HIV infection rates dropped by half in low- and middle-income countries around the globe, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in November that of the 50,000 new HIV infections in the U.S., young people aged 12-24 make up more than a quarter of that number, with 60% of those individuals unaware that they are infected.

The conclusion one can draw is twofold. On the one hand, treatment for the human immunodeficiency virus has advanced to the point that it need not develop into acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, allowing those affected to live to a nearly normal life expectancy if treatment is begun soon after infection with the virus. But on the other hand, the alarming story told by new infection rates indicates that something must be going awry in the efforts against the epidemic.

What could be at the root of the issue of high infection rates among young people?

Speculation might lead one to believe that part of the blame should go to the nation's public schools, whose lack of robust sexual education programs could indicate that young people



might not be receiving information about HIV in meaningful ways. According to the Guttmacher Institute, only 20 states mandate both sexual education and HIV education in public schools. And while 33 states total mandate HIV education, 13 mandate HIV education only — meaning that the virus is discussed without including it in a more general discussion of sexual health and sexual awareness. This amounts to less than half the states in this country's public school system offering comprehensive sexual education, leaving countless young people in the dark about sexual issues — and the realities of sex's relationship to HIV infection.

Yet although these figures are troubling, and these policies are problematic, they might not fully answer the question.

New infection rates among youth are especially high in certain demographics. Specifically, young gay and bisexual men and African American men tend to be at greatest risk for infection, making up the lion's share of new infection statistics. Young men who have sex with men comprise 72% of new infections, and young African American men total 50% of new infections, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report released November 27, 2012.

Dr. Ralph Veters, MD, of the Fenway Institute's Sidney Borum, Jr. Health Center, is an expert in HIV research, treatment, and prevention, especially in this particular high-risk demographic. Dr. Veters oversees programs that "specialize in caring for youth and young adults ages 12 to 29 who may not feel comfortable going anywhere else, including those who are LGBT or just figuring things out; homeless or living on the streets; struggling with substance use or abuse; sex workers; or living with HIV/AIDS," according to a recent press release from Fenway.

Dr. Veters was able to provide some answers as to why these groups see higher infection rates, explaining that there is a certain amount of fatalism among the young male gay population regarding the virus, and that because the number of people who have HIV in those populations is already higher, risky interactions are more likely to involve exposure to HIV. This in turn means that the number of people with new infections is higher, meaning that they have more of the virus in their blood, making it more transmissible, even via only relatively small amounts of blood or seminal fluid. Dr. Veters refers to this as the concept of "community viral load."

In addition, although young gay black men do not engage in different kinds of sexual activity than young gay white men, the community viral load in the population is higher, according to Dr. Veters. "This is in part a function of the way the white gay community has organized and created venues for testing and treatment, part a function of racism within the gay community so that black gay men aren't integrated into those testing and treatment venues, part a function of the economy and the fact that the young black population is less likely to have health insurance

and therefore less likely to be engaged in care and getting their HIV disease managed and treated: treatment reduces the community viral load."

When asked how these issues might be addressed, Dr. Veters pointed to the strategies of programs at Fenway Institute. According to Dr. Veters, reducing barriers to testing and treatment is key to the effort. Working closely with local youth service organizations like BAGLY (Boston Area Gay and Lesbian Youth) and Boston GLASS (Gay and lesbian adolescent support services) enables the Borum Health Center to uniquely engage with HIV-positive youth. "By working closely with these organizations, the Borum has developed a reputation of understanding the lives these youth lead — we are non-judgmental, sex-positive and focus on harm-reduction — supporting behaviors over time that will reduce exposure to the community viral load. Youth who test positive are referred to us for management. We provide free STD and HIV screenings; we help people get signed up for health insurance; we offer an environment that is youth focused — not adult or baby focused in the way that pediatricians' offices or adult care clinics can turn off youth. We are able

to be the first and most successful place where HIV+ youth can get into regular health care."

In addition, three other programs at Fenway — Project PrEPare, SMILE, and Connect 2 Protect — focus specifically on this particular high-risk population of young gay and bisexual men of color, and act in complementary ways to reduce new infections, improve treatment, reduce the community viral load, and attack head-on some of the structural barriers in the community that have limited the efficacy of previous attempts at intervention in this demographic.

However, Dr. Veters cautions, "When we see that 26% of all the new cases of HIV nationwide are from this relatively small segment of the overall population, it means that there is, in a sense, a different kind of epidemic going on among young, gay and bisexual African American males. It implies that the public health approaches, community outreach programs, and clinical treatment plans that have been working to some extent for the rest of the population are not working for this particular population and so we have to rethink our entire game."

But amidst all the data and numbers, all the science and medicine and research papers, and the 34 million people living with HIV around the world, there are two things everyone seems to agree on. The first is that great strides have been made in the thirty years since the epidemic first came to national attention in the early 1980s. And the second is that only through coordinated efforts to expand HIV prevention and treatment initiatives, integrate HIV programs into broader health services, maintain funding, and improve human rights across vulnerable populations will the international community begin to end the AIDS epidemic.

THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

More than 1 in 3 gay or bisexual men have experienced sexual abuse as children or adolescents.

PROJECT THRIVE

ready to thrive?

Fenway Health is seeking male volunteers to participate in a research study to treat issues related to sexual abuse and adult sexual health.

You may be eligible if:

- You are a man sexually active with other men
- You have a history of unwanted sexual contact during childhood or adolescence
- You are HIV-negative

Participants will receive no-cost individual therapy and are compensated up to \$500 over the course of the study.

For more information and to see if you may be eligible, call 617.927.6119 or email THRIVE@FenwayHealth.org.

readytothrive.org

HUD Enforces LGBT Equal Access Rule

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On January 2nd, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced a settlement agreement in a claim it brought against Bank of America for discriminating against a lesbian couple applying for a federally insured mortgage loan. This settlement marks HUD's first enforcement action taken under its recently enacted LGBT Equal Access Rule.

The rule, which represents one of the most significant federal nondiscrimination efforts ever taken on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, went into effect on March 5, 2012. It prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and marital status in public housing and HUD's core housing programs, including eligibility determinations for mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). NCLR worked closely with HUD in the development of this rule, and has continued to partner with HUD on implementation of and education about the rule.

HUD brought the claim alleging that Bank of America's denial of an FHA-insured mortgage loan from an otherwise eligible Florida lesbian couple because they were not married constituted discrimination based on sexual orientation and marital status. The agreement requires Bank of America to pay a fine of \$7,500 and to notify its residential mortgage loan originators, processors and underwriters of the settlement agreement. Moreover, it requires Bank of America to take steps to re-train its employees that the Equal Access Rule prohibits discrimination against applicants based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and marital status.

"[This] announcement is a turning point for the LGBT community in its fight for equal access to fair and affordable housing," said NCLR Policy Director Maya Rupert, Esq. "This settlement agreement shows how serious HUD is about working to ensure all people and their families can access public housing and crucial housing programs."

We congratulate Assistant Secretary John Trasviña and his staff on this important victory, and we look forward to continuing to work with HUD on its efforts on behalf of the LGBT community. We hope to work with entities like Bank of America as they bring their policies into compliance with the LGBT Equal Access Rule and train their staff to serve the LGBT community."

The National Center for Lesbian Rights is a national legal organization committed to advancing the human and civil rights of the LGBT community through litigation, public policy advocacy, and public education. www.NCLRrights.org.

HIV At-Risk From page 3

(unprotected receptive anal sex, for example), or engage in them more frequently than white gay men, but that the community viral load among young black gay and bisexual men is higher than it is among the white gay community. This is in part a function of the way the white gay community has organized and created venues for testing and treatment, part a function of racism within the gay community so that black gay men aren't integrated into those testing and treatment venues, part a function of the economy and the fact that the young black population is less likely to have health insurance and therefore less likely to be engaged in care and getting their HIV disease managed and treated: treatment reduces the community viral load. We also have to think about other sexually transmitted infections such as herpes, chlamydia, gonorrhea: rates of these disease are higher among the black gay/bisexual male population for the same reasons as above, and having those diseases makes it easier to contract HIV.

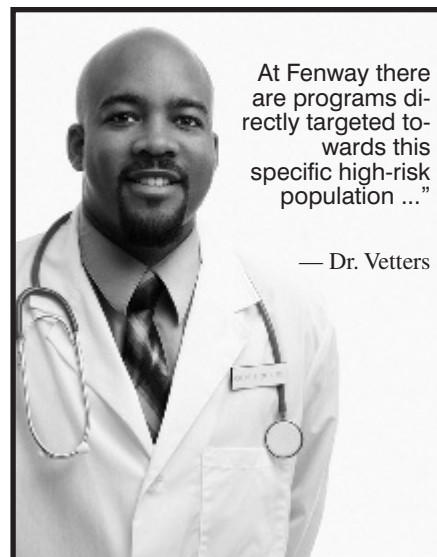
Q. Can you explain the significance of the CDC study's findings for the present and future of the HIV/AIDS epidemic? How do these figures fit in to overall trends since the disease first received wide attention?

A. The biggest deal about this is that in other segments of the population the rates of increase in infection are going down: for example, white males who have sex with men are getting infected at a lower rate than before. In fact, some people are now talking about the idea that by treating everybody we know who has HIV we can reduce the rate of new infections and by doing that snuff out the epidemic much the way was done with smallpox and is being done with polio. But, when we see that 26% of all the new cases of HIV nationwide are from this relatively small segment of the overall population, it means that there is, in a sense, a different kind of epidemic going on among young, gay and bisexual African American males. It implies that the public health approaches, community outreach programs, and clinical treatment plans that have been working to some extent for the rest of the population are not working for this particular population and so we have to rethink our entire game.

Q. What must be done/what does Fenway's Borum Center do to address these issues?

A. At the Borum, where we see mostly adolescents and young adults and focus on providing care to high-risk populations, we mostly try to reduce barriers to testing and treatment. We work closely with local youth service organizations — BAGLY (Boston Area Gay and Lesbian Youth) and Boston GLASS (Gay and lesbian adolescent support services), for exam-

ple — to provide (in BAGLY's case) and support (in the case of GLASS) — peer-oriented outreach and HIV screening in unconventional venues. Screening gets done where the youth hang out and where they have confidence in the people who are providing the tests — they know that their "SH%t" won't get spread around the community. By working closely with these organizations, the Borum has developed a reputation of understanding the lives these youth lead — we are non-judgmental, sex-positive and focus on harm-reduction — supporting behaviors over time that will reduce exposure to the community viral load. Youth who test positive are referred to us for management. We provide free STD and HIV screenings; we help people



At Fenway there are programs directly targeted towards this specific high-risk population ..."

— Dr. Vetter

get signed up for health insurance; we offer an environment that is youth focused — not adult or baby focused in the way that pediatricians' offices or adult care clinics can turn off youth. We are able to be the first and most successful place where HIV+ youth can get into regular health care. And studies show that individuals who know they are positive alter their behavior in ways that reduces viral exposure to uninfected partners. So we have helped to create a network of HIV screening, SDT screening and treatment, and linkage to health care that is culturally appropriate, matches the cognitive and developmental stage of youth, and helps reduce the community viral load.

Q. A recent press release from Fenway in relation to the CDC report highlights three of Fenway's Adolescent Trial Network programs as of interest to the CDC research, presumably because they aim to reduce harm among some of the most at-risk popu-

lations. Can you explain how Project PrEPare, SMILE Linkage-to-Care Program, and Connect to Protect work together, and their goals?

A. These three programs are directly targeted towards this specific high-risk population of young (12 to 24), gay and bisexual young men of color. They are meant to act in complementary ways to reduce new infections, improve treatment and reduce the community viral load that I talked about before, and to attack head on some of the structural barriers in the community that have limited the efficacy of previous attempts to intervene in the epidemic among this population.

Project PrEPare will be offering medications to youth that are known to reduce new infections from exposure to HIV during high-risk sexual behavior among men. This project is meant to see if it will similarly reduce new HIV infections among youth — if it does, it could help break the chain of transmission that maintains the current epidemic.

The SMILE program is a direct patient navigation program where an outreach worker meets personally with HIV+ youth and helps figure out all the things that keep them from regularly engaging in care (transportation, behavioral health concerns, income issues, housing problems) and then helps them resolve those problems so that regular HIV care can keep them healthy and maintain their adherence to treatment and keep their individual viral loads undetectable, thereby helping to reduce the community viral load.

Connect 2 Protect is a community wide collaborative program trying to identify and then rectify built in barriers to individual youth's ability to engage in less risky behavior: this team is looking at: 1) the role of faith groups and family and how that may increase a youth's sense of isolation and alienation, contributing to their risky behavior; 2) the lack of comprehensive, culturally appropriate sex education in the schools and how simple knowledge deficit may contribute to behavior that increases the risk of HIV infection.

None of these programs expects immediate results; the goal is to develop structural changes, and new habits as well as evidence-based clinical interventions that, over time, will bend the curve towards the extinction of the epidemic, or at the very least a reduction in the proportion of new infections found in this young age group.

To learn more about Fenway's Sidney Borum, Jr. Health Center, visit <http://sidneyborum.org/>. To find out more about the other Fenway programs mentioned in this interview, visit the Fenway Institute website found at: www.fenwayhealth.org/.



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

**As Affordable as Internet Dating with the
Touch of a Matchmaker**

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

Connecting
both gay & straight singles
in Western MA & neighbor-
ing communities

ADVOCATE
★ BEST ★
OF
THE VALLEY
READERS POLL
2012

AD
★ THE VALLEY
READERS POLL
2011

AD
★ THE VALLEY
READERS POLL
2010

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

SECOND PLACE
ADVOCATE
★ BEST ★
THE VALLEY
READERS POLL
2012

"Adult Video/Book/
Novelty Store"
and
THIRD PLACE
ADVOCATE
★ BEST ★
THE VALLEY
READERS POLL
2012

Place to Buy
Lingerie

Adam & Eve.

Lingerie and More

The most well known name in the Adult Industry
for 40 years now in you own backyard!

18 Main Street, Greenfield, MA
Take Route 91; Exit 26; 2A East;
1/2 mile on your left. Next to Swift Cleaners
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10-9, Fri.-Sat. 10-10, Sun. 12-7

ADAMEVEgreenfield.com • (413) 774-9800

Sexy & Stylish Lingerie (sizes small to 3X)
Dresses & Corsets • Shoes & Gift • Toys & DVD's

Gift Cards Available

3219147

PHOTO: TOM HURLBUT



HGLHC's One Big Event attendees, including Senator Richard Blumenthal (second from left-to-right) and Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra (first, from left-to-right).

New theme for annual LGBT health event draws big crowd, raises funds

By: Emily Scagel/TRT Assistant Editor

HEALTH & WELLNESS

HARTFORD, Connecticut — The tenth annual fundraiser for the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective, the largest organization in Connecticut devoted to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, succeeded in raising monies to support their LGBT and HIV/AIDS health programs and services in the greater Hartford area. One Big Event, held yearly in the fall, was reinvented for this year, and was attended by over 500 people.

"One Big Event is unique because it is the largest black tie LGBT event held at the largest event facility in Connecticut. Our goal was to raise \$125,000, and we did," said Dan Millett, Development Coordinator for the HGLHC.

According to a press release published after the event, this was the best One Big Event yet, and "dignitaries such as Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra and Senator Richard Blumenthal ... commented on the significance of the evening."

The evening included over 200 live and silent auction items, dinner, cocktails and dancing. This was the first LGBT event ever held at the Connecticut Convention Center, the largest such venue in the state. This new location was part of their new ad campaign, "New Look, New Venue, New Attitude," which aimed to be "sexy and sophisticated," according to Millett. "We outgrew our old venue and ... the new at-

titude was to emphasize the tenth year of One Big Event and how it has grown."

The Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective seeks to provide medical and dental services, education and support groups and referral services for the LGBT communities, according to the HGLHC website, and it serves clients of all genders and gender identities, sexual orientations, ages and ethnicities.

Funds raised from the event support all programming by the HGLHC, including HIV programs, counseling/testing and education, educational and social groups for Latino men, an assortment of support groups for LGBT people of all ages and needs, as well as various medical services. The press release stated that this monetary success was due to the support of not only attendees, but auction donors, advertisers and sponsors, and that an appeal to the audience by Michael Wilson, former Artistic Director of the Hartford Stage, raised over \$15,000 alone, by reminding those in attendance how the Health Collective meets the many needs of the community.

Next year, the event will be held in October, again at the Connecticut Convention Center, and will mark HGLHC's 30th anniversary of

service to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, said Millett. The organization is also beginning to develop other fundraising events to be

held throughout the year.

For more information about One Big Event and the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective, visit www.onebigevent.org and www.hglhc.org.



FENWAY  HEALTH

I AM OWNING MY HEALTH.

I AM ONE OF 500.

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



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

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IF YOU:

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

FENWAY **500**

BE ONE OF 500.

For more info, call

617.927.6450 or visit

facebook.com/beONEof500

Photos not of study participants. COM.11.139

High prevalence of tobacco use & nicotine dependence in LGBTs

Work of The Fenway Institute's Network for LGBT health equity spotlighted by Tobacco Foundation

HEALTH & WELLNESS

BOSTON, Massachusetts — Legacy has released a report entitled *LGBT Communities & Tobacco Use* (<http://tinyurl.com/aoss9x>). This is the twelfth publication in Legacy's dissemination series. It calls attention to the issue of the high prevalence of tobacco use and nicotine dependence in LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) communities in the United States and examines socio-cultural facets of tobacco use and tobacco-related knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors among LGBT individuals. It also includes four examples of promising projects implemented by Legacy's past grantees to address the high prevalence of tobacco use and tobacco-related disparities in this population, including The Fenway Institute's Network for LGBT Health Equity (<http://tinyurl.com/a55hv87>).

The release of the Legacy report will be complimented by a video titled *Tobacco Control in LGBT Communities* (<http://tinyurl.com/aoss9x>), which looks at tobacco use among the LGBT population through personal stories and expert insights from Scout, PhD, Director of the Network for LGBT Health Equity and others. There will also be a webcast at 3:30 p.m. EDT titled *Tobacco Use in the LGBT Communities: Why LGBT People Smoke So Much & What Can Be Done About It* (<http://tinyurl.com/bxa8wxm>) and Scout will be one of a panel of experts featured. You can

get more information about the panelists and view the webcast online at <http://tinyurl.com/bxa8wxm>.

The three-pronged release represents one of the largest spotlights ever shone on LGBT tobacco use by a major tobacco control organization. A recent article in the *American Journal of Public Health* (<http://tinyurl.com/ay9515x>) analyzed nationally representative survey results and found that LGBT people smoke cigarettes at rates that are nearly 70 percent higher than the general population. Legacy is committed to raising awareness of the high prevalence of tobacco use within these communities and highlighting solutions to address it.

Individual projects at the grassroots level have succeeded in shifting some norms within the LGBT community. Some of these projects are detailed as case studies in the report.

- **Leave No Funds Behind:** Bridging the Gap Between LGBT Organizations and Tobacco Control Funding: The Network for LGBT Health Equity worked with Legacy to create a

project called "Leave No Funds Behind," to create a national database and toolkits and provide technical assistance and training in order to establish a bridge between LGBT organizations and tobacco control funders.

- **CRUSH:** The LGBT Lifestyle Project: CRUSH was an experiential marketing campaign by the Southern Nevada Health District Tobacco Control Program designed to address tobacco disparities among LGBT populations in Las Vegas, Nevada.



- **Delicious Lesbian Kisses:** A Social Marketing Campaign with Staying Power: The National Lesbian Health Organization (Mautner Project) designed the campaign to address tobacco disparities among women over the age of 40 by promoting the idea that non-smoking women were sexier and more fun to kiss through posters and launch events in five cities across the United

States.

- **30 Seconds:** Helping Health Care Providers Reach LGBT Tobacco Users: The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association created an online Continuing Medical Education (CME) course for health care providers to teach culturally tailored strategies for conducting Brief Tobacco

Interventions with LGBT patients.

Legacy (www.legacyforhealth.org/) is dedicated to building a world where young people reject tobacco and anyone can quit. The Foundation develops programs that address the health effects of tobacco use. We want to help all young people reject tobacco, and give everyone access to tobacco prevention and cessation services.

The Network for LGBT Health Equity (<http://tinyurl.com/a55hv87>) is a community-driven network of advocates and professionals looking to enhance LGBT health by eliminating tobacco use, and other health disparities within our communities. We are one of six CDC-funded tobacco disparity networks and a project of The Fenway Institute in Boston.

For more than forty years, Fenway Health (<http://tinyurl.com/aphj6x6>) has been working to make life healthier for the people in our neighborhood, the LGBT community, people living with HIV/AIDS and the broader population.

The Fenway Institute (<http://tinyurl.com/29pl78d>) at Fenway Health is an interdisciplinary center for research, training, education and policy development focusing on national and international health issues. Fenway's Sidney Borum Jr. Health Center (<http://sidneyborum.org/>) cares for youth and young adults ages 12 to 29 who may not feel comfortable going anywhere else, including those who are LGBT or just figuring things out; homeless or living on the streets; struggling with substance use or abuse; sex workers; or living with HIV/AIDS.

viva!

16TH ANNUAL GALA TO BENEFIT THE
AIDS FOUNDATION OF
WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
JANUARY 25, 2013
AT THE LOG CABIN



FEATURING
HEDDA LETTUCE



20th Anniversary Celebration!

For tickets & more information
please call (413) 301-0955
or visit aidsfoundationwm.org

PRESENTING SPONSORS:

Baystate Health

log cabin delaney

C&W
BERRY COMPANY

NEPA
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Franks wants the MA Senate appointment

BOSTON, Massachusetts — One day out of retirement as a member of the U.S. House, Barney Frank said Friday that he has asked Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick to appoint him as the interim senator to replace John Kerry, who is expected to be confirmed Secretary of State later this month.

Frank told MSNBC's Morning Joe talk show panel on that he would like to serve as U.S. Senator from Massachusetts for the several months before a special election chooses Kerry's replacement.

Host Joe Scarborough, racing to close off the eight-minute free-for-all "exit interview" with Frank, asked: "Former Congressman Barney Frank, would you consider possibly being future Senator Barney Frank if the governor calls you and says..."

"Yeh," said Frank, before the question was fully out of Scarborough's mouth.

"...fill in for a few months?"

"A month ago, a few weeks in fact, I said I wasn't interested," said Frank. "It was kinda like you're about to graduate and they said you've got to go to summer school. But that [temporary fiscal cliff] deal now means that February, March, and April are going to be among the most important months in American financial...."

"So, you'd consider it?" interjected Scarborough.

"Yes, in fact, I'm not going to be coy, it's not anything I've ever been very good at, but I've told the governor that I would like, frankly, to do that because I would like to be a part of that."

President Obama nominated Kerry December 15 to replace retiring Secretary of State



Barney Frank
PHOTO: OFFICIAL PHOTO

Other names being tossed around the rumor mill as potential interim senators include Mike Dukakis, a former Democratic governor of Massachusetts, and Vicki Kennedy, the widow of the late Senator Ted Kennedy. Frank has the advantage of still having a residence and staff in Washington.

Meanwhile, U.S. Senator Scott Brown, a Republican who held the Kennedy seat until he was replaced by newly sworn-in Senator Elizabeth Warren on Friday, is expected to run for the Kerry seat. And, at the moment, Democrats in Massachusetts appear to be coalescing behind U.S. Rep. Ed Markey, who has announced his bid for the Kerry seat.

Frank, 70, and just retired after more than 30 years in Congress, said he is not interested in running for the Kerry senate seat.

© Copyright 2013 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

Christian from page 2

issues, or relationship breakup. Ironically, even in years objectively considered challenging, I've never been enthusiastic to send a bad one on its way.

The maddening discussion I have with myself about time, and probably purpose, is tempered by one of my favorite writers — Leo Tolstoy.

"You say you would do twice, ten times, a hundred times, more than you did," wrote Tolstoy. "But if you did ten thousand times ten thousand more than all men [and women] have done what would that have been in the work of God? A mere nothing! God's work ... is infinite. God's work is you ... be not a laborer [but a son or daughter], and you will become a partner of the infinite God ... your work will be neither small nor great, it will be God's work."

The quote keeps me grounded. There are a lot of very old, bitter, unhappy people I've met. I've realized they were probably as nasty when they were in their 30s as they are in their 80s. It speaks to the quality of one's life, not how many years you live. It speaks to celebrating something every day with friends and the family you make. There's always more you can do with your career or in trying to make a difference for others. Just do what you can, where you can, and find joy. If only I could follow my own advice.

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

New LGBTQ organization formed in Vermont

BRATTLEBORO, Vermont — Green Mountain Crossroads, a new organization for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community, has formed and will hold an official launch party on Friday, January 25, at 6 p.m. at the Backside Café in Brattleboro, VT.

Green Mountain Crossroads (GMC) is a non-profit organization with a mission of supporting the local rural LGBTQ community in being visible and connected with each other. Based in Brattleboro, GMC will feature community events, news and information from the tri-state area of southeastern Vermont, southwestern New Hampshire, and northwestern Massachusetts.

GMC hosts an interactive Community Calendar at its website

<http://tinyurl.com/ah4938w>

— and an email list for announcements.

One of GMC's primary goals is to keep the local LGBTQ community

informed of events and activities of interest, and maintain information on resources for LGBTQ individuals.

As 2013 progresses, GMC will also host workshops and events for the community, including performances by renowned

performers such as Peterson Toscano. Toscano visited Brattleboro with his show "Transfigurations: Transgressing Gender in the Bible" in 2012, and plans are underway to bring him to Brattleboro again this year with his new show.

The official launch party on Friday, January 25 is a public event, open to the LGBTQ community and straight allies alike. Refreshments will be served and drawings for door prizes will take place. Snow date is Friday, February 1. For more information on Green Mountain Crossroads, visit the organization's website at: <http://tinyurl.com/ah4938w> or email them at: greenmountaincrossroads@gmail.com.

Mathew Brockelman LMT

Leominster, MA
At Home Availability

Help yourself reduce
stress and pain today!

Massage by Mathew Brockelman, LMT

Call 978-660-5289



Be Our Next Success Story

At HCC, we have thousands. Discover what an HCC degree can do for you!



- Nearly 100 degree and certificate options for transfer or immediate career entry
- personalized academic support services to help you succeed
- convenient day, evening, Saturday, and online classes
- transfer opportunities to four-year colleges and universities
- student clubs, activities, sports & fitness facility
- affordable tuition and fees; financial aid and payment plans

www.hcc.edu • (413) 552-2321

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Futures Inspired

**Spring classes begin
January 28!**

it
could be
partner
abuse

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

617.742.4911 (v)

617.227.4911 (tty)

- bilingual hotline
- emergency shelter
- support group



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

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

puede
ser el
abuso
de
pareja íntima

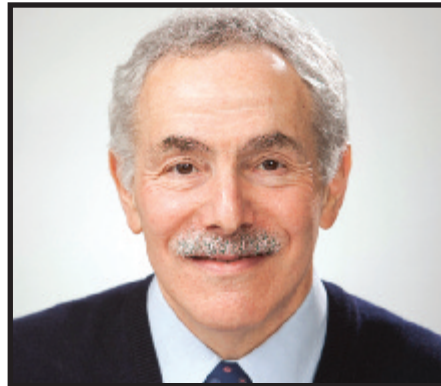
Fenway: More HIV prevention funding needed for gay men

HEALTH & WELLNESS

BOSTON, Massachusetts — New HIV infections held steady at about 50,000 in 2010, the CDC reported last month, but new infections among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) are up 12% from 2008 to 2010. MSM represented 64% of new infections in 2010 compared with 61% in 2009, even though MSM comprise only 2% of the adult population. New infections were up 22% from 2008 to 2010 among MSM age 13 to 24.

Despite the disproportionate burden of HIV among MSM, especially Black MSM, targeted HIV prevention is largely targeted toward heterosexuals and other risk groups, according to an analysis conducted by The Fenway Institute last year at the request of Funders Concerned About AIDS and amFAR. That analysis found that:

- In a 2009 Wisconsin case study, among Blacks, male on male sex accounted for 58% of HIV diagnoses that year. Yet Black gay men only received 19% of targeted tests, and made up only 11% of HIV prevention clients.
- Only 27% of HIV education and risk reduction funding was targeted toward MSM, according to a 2011 Centers for Disease Control analysis; 38% was targeted toward high-risk heterosexuals, while 20% was not targeted or was targeted toward other risk groups.
- Only 16% of National Institutes of Health funding for HIV that was targeted to a specific risk group was allotted to MSM, according to a 2011 report by the White House Office of



Kenneth H. Mayer, MD, Co-Chair of The Fenway Institute.
PHOTO: MARILYN HUMPHRIES

National AIDS Policy.

"The HIV epidemic is increasingly impacting gay and bisexual men, especially Black men and young men, despite new advances in treatment and prevention," said Kenneth Mayer, MD, Medical Research Director and Co-Chair of The Fenway Institute. "We must redouble our efforts to prevent HIV among gay men by shifting prevention funding to more closely match the incidence data." Many working in AIDS policy on the federal level are aware that prevention with MSM is underfunded and are working to change this. Dr. Kevin Fenton, Director of the CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention for the past seven years, recently acknowledged that funding for prevention and research with gay men was "about

half of what it should be." "Our own stigma, our own homophobia," Fenton said, "cascades down in our funding and allocations, intentionally or unintentionally resulting in underfunding of gay men's work across the country." (Source, The Georgia Voice, March 30, 2012.)

The CDC recently launched new behavioral intervention programs aimed at Black gay men and transgender women. The CDC's pro-HIV testing ads feature positive images of gay men of color. However, these don't challenge the anti-gay prejudice that increases young gay men's vulnerability to HIV and still discourages HIV testing in many communities.

HIV is just one of many health disparities affecting gay youth. Many correlate with experiences of being bullied or socially isolated. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth are at greater risk than their heterosexual peers of violence and victimization, self-harm, substance abuse, sexually risky behavior and school absences because they feel unsafe.

There are a number of resiliency factors linked to lower rates of risk behavior among LGBT youth. These include having openly gay role models among teachers, school staff or family; having nondiscrimination and anti-bullying policies in schools, and family acceptance — especially parental acceptance. Young people who have these supports are less likely to have unprotected sex, multiple sexual partners, abuse substances, suffer from depression or be homeless.

"The Obama administration has the power to change the current dynamic, in which gay men are more than 40 times as likely as their



Sean Cahill, PhD, Director of Health Policy Research at The Fenway Institute.
PHOTO: JOHN HANAWALT

straight counterparts to become HIV infected," said Sean Cahill, PhD, Director of Health Policy Research at The Fenway Institute. "The Centers for Disease Control could challenge anti-gay stigma as the public health threat that it is, through innovative social marketing campaigns aimed at shifting social norms related to anti-gay prejudice. The CDC and public health departments should fund campaigns and interventions that promote parental acceptance of gay sons as a resiliency factor that can be protective against HIV infection."

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which the US Food and Drug Administration recently approved, can significantly reduce HIV's preva

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://tinyurl.com/a22m5gq>

It's not too late to register for Spring Semester Classes!

Take advantage of our **EXTRA HOURS** and **SERVICES:**

Super Saturdays!

9:00am-3:00pm

January 5 Registrar's Office/Garvey Hall

January 12 Gymnasium/Scibelli Hall

Late Registration!

January 14-18 Gymnasium/Scibelli Hall

Mon. - Thurs.: 8am-7pm

Fri.: 8am-4pm

Apply and Get **ACCEPTED!**
Meet with an Advisor
Register for Classes

www.stcc.edu

(413) 755-3333

Classes Begin January 22nd



Scan to take a virtual campus tour!

Springfield Technical Community College

Exceptional Education. Proven Results.

Bette Midler: The Showgirl talks boys in heels, bullying and more

By: Chris Azzopardi/Special for TRT

More than 30 years have passed since Bette Midler made her screen debut as a rocker with a self-destructive drug habit. The film, 1979's *The Rose*, turned the Hawaii native's dreams, and her nights performing for half-naked gay men at a New York City bathhouse, into a legendary and undeniably influential career in music — the title song is one of her biggest hits — and in film.

Later roles would include parts in *Beaches*, *Hocus Pocus* and *The First Wives Club*, all of which go down as gay cult classics. A star of the stage, screen and recording studio, with numerous Grammys, Golden Globes and Emmys to her name — even the moniker “The Divine Miss M” doesn't quite do her justice.

But now that the curtain's closed on her two-year Las Vegas spectacle — *The Showgirl Must Go On* wrapped in 2010 — she returns as a leading lady in her first major picture in more than a decade. In *Parental Guidance*, the 67-year-old plays a grandparent alongside Billy Crystal, who both try to navigate modern-day parenting conundrums when they're stuck watching their daughter's three kids.

In this chat with Midler, she talked about *Parental Guidance* — including the film's stance on bullying — and the “bittersweet” beginning of her career.

Chris Azzopardi: You share some similarities with your character, Diane Decker, in *Parental Guidance*. One thing I'd like to believe you don't have in common with her, though, is when one of the kids dresses up as a girl. You would have let that boy wear those high heels, wouldn't you have?

Bette Midler: I haven't seen it. I wasn't in that scene.

Q. The part where you and Billy Crystal won't let the youngest boy go to school in those heels — that wasn't you?

A. (Laughs) Oh, yes — that's right.

Q. You would have let him wear those, right?

A. What are you trying to get at?

Q. That you're a gay icon. I could see you being OK with him in heels.

A. I sort of try to avoid encouraging kids to be hustlers.

Q. The movie also takes a stand against bullying. It suggests standing up for yourself and fighting back. Is that what you would tell a kid? What would your advice be?

A. I would tell them to tell someone immediately. Tell a grown-up. Tell an older person immediately that this is happening. Say, “Please help me stop this.” You shouldn't keep it a secret. I would encourage a child not to keep it a secret and to get help as quick as they can, and if they don't get help in one place, try to get help in another place.

It's completely unacceptable. It's a big country and there are so many different kinds of people in this country now — and everybody doesn't raise their kids the right way, you know? Sometimes children who are a little bit different are not considered — and they have to be! Everybody has to be considered and treated fairly. It's just unacceptable.

Q. You must've appreciated that *Parental Guidance* spotlighted that issue, right?

A. Oh, you know, Billy's a guy with a pretty big heart, and he's a fair-minded guy and I'm sure that was something he never even thought of not putting in. Of course he'd be a fan of doing the right thing.



Billy Crystal and Bette Midler play the grandparents in the movie *Parental Guidance*, as their characters try to navigate modern-day parenting woes as they babysit their grandchildren for three days.

Q. Who came up with the singing bits in the film? You and Billy?

A. It was his idea. We had been singing to the kids to keep them entertained for a week or two. We had a big tornado scare and everyone was in the basement at one time, so we were entertaining the kids. It just sort of happened that we were singing these doo-wop novelty songs, and the kids seemed to like them. They had never heard any of this stuff before, so it just sort of fell into place and seemed like a fun addition to the movie.

Q. Which songs were you singing?

A. “Get a Job,” “Yakety Yak” and “Poison Ivy” — the old Leiber and Stoller catalog. Both of us are around the same age, so that's our childhood music. We're very steeped in it.

Q. It was cool to see Marc Shaiman's name on the project too, because you've worked together before. What was it like having him work on *Parental Guidance*, as well?

A. He's a dear friend of Billy's and a dear friend of mine, so when they needed someone to score the picture, Billy brought him up because he has such a great sense of humor.

Q. Your career started in the '70s when you performed with Barry Manilow at the Continental Baths in Manhattan, where you got your nickname “Bathhouse Bette.” Do you have any good stories or memories from those days?

A. To tell you the truth, it's in the dim, dark recess of time. I remember I had a wonderful time. I remember I made a great mark. I remember that I had a lot of friends in the gay world. I mean, I remember friends more than I remember instances. Unfortunately, a lot of those people are gone, and I think about them often. They would've just been hitting their stride at this point. It's very bittersweet.

Q. You mention having lots of gay friends then, but I'm sure there's no shortage of them in your life now.

A. Of course I have a lot of gay friends. I'm in show business!

Q. Do you still keep in touch with anyone from those bathhouse days?

A. Actually, most of them have passed. I hear

from a couple of people. My old assistant from those days is still in my life, and so is my costumer. We're still in touch and I see a couple of the girls, The Harlots, from time to time. But honestly, it's a big, big life and a big world, and people go off on their own and do what they do. Everyone tries to do the best they can.

I will say that in the old days when all of this was all so underground, the excitement in the gay community now about gay marriage and coming above the ground, older people (must) think, “Wow, look how far the gay community has come by sticking together and toughing it out.” You know, gay marriage, being able to adopt children, being part of the mainstream as opposed to always being sub rosa — it must be so fascinating and such a strong validation.

Q. You've really seen the evolution of the gay rights movement.

A. I certainly have.

Q. You were at the forefront of it when you got your start, so where do you think — or where do you hope — the gay movement is headed?

A. I'm not gay so it's kind of hard for me to answer that question. I watch and I'm fascinated and I'm interested. And I'm enthusiastic. I'm all those things. I try to help where I can. I just think it's just fantastic for the gay community. Just fantastic. And I know they're happy. I know there's a lot of joy in the community. I know there are a lot of people who are very, very excited about the change that all this acceptance has given them. I know it's a real thrill. At the same time, there's also the part that was exciting because there was nothing that they were allowed to do. There was all this stuff about doing things under the radar that was also exciting in a whole other way. So it's interesting to watch. Very interesting to watch. And I'm happy for those who are happy. I really am.

See Midler on page 21

Provincetown Winter Weekends

Martin Luther King Jr. Day ~ January 19-21, 2013

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



PBG
Provincetown Business Guild
PROVIDING A GREAT FIRST

ptown.org



Costs of surgery: Does one need to physically “do it all” to transition?

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



A few months ago, I did an outreach at a local college as part of a panel about gender expression and identity. At one point someone in the class asked how much it costs to transition. A transman on the panel stated that to physically transition from male to female it costs about \$40,000. I was amazed, and said that I was surprised that “the surgery” costs that much. He explained that he was speaking of not only “the surgery” but also

facial feminization surgery and breast augmentation surgery, as well as face and body hair removal by laser or electrolysis and the cost of hormones. I must have looked confused because he then explained if one wants to do it all then it would cost that much.

I suppose it would cost that much if you want to “do it all.” I know of a few who have had all of those surgeries done, but most of the transwomen I know haven’t. I realize that there are monetary constraints on most of us to have everything done, but then I wonder, if we all had the financial resources would we “do it all?” Do we need to “do it all” to feminize our

bodies? If not, then how much is enough?

An overwhelming majority of the girls want to have genital reconstruction surgery, and if they get to do only one of the surgeries, this is the one. This is the one that matters most and it’s constantly on the mind of almost every

Breast augmentation involves cutting the skin and inserting and positioning the implants. I would imagine that this is probably the least painful of the three surgeries, but I’m sure that the addition of implants to an already fairly tight chest might hurt a bit, at least for a

A transman on the panel stated that to physically transition from male to female it costs about \$40,000. I was amazed, and said that I was surprised that “the surgery” costs that much.

transwoman I know. This is what many deem as the defining point of becoming a woman. This is the “holy grail” surgery.

There are also some who want facial feminization surgery, FFS. I’ve heard that this is among the most painful of surgeries, as there is bone cutting involved. FFS may also include non-bone cutting procedures such as eyebrow lifting, hairline straightening and nose reconstruction. It may not be as painful as cutting into the bone but I’m sure it still hurts plenty, and if you’ve had any nose work done, I’m sure that you want to keep your sneezing to a minimum.

while.

Hair removal is nowhere near as painful as the three above surgeries, though may be irritating and uncomfortable. The cost may be not as much as the above surgeries either, but it may creep up over time.

Hormones are taken to destroy the testosterone and increase the estrogen in the body. Hormones are pretty magical, as they usually do a very good job over time and can really feminize a body. There are, however, drawbacks to taking hormones. Two drawbacks to the hormones which destroy testosterone are that one’s sex drive is decreased and the pleas-

ure of orgasms is decimated. One drawback to the hormones which increase the estrogen is the chance of a deadly blood clot. Except for the blood clot possibility, hormones involve no pain. The cost of hormones isn’t too bad and insurance will usually cover some of it.

Two surgeries that could also help feminize the body are hip and butt implants. Strangely, I know of no one who is even thinking about them, as transwomen usually have no shape on the lower part of the body. It’s like two parallel lines straight down with no feminine curves, so I’m not sure why this part of the body is overlooked by most transwomen.

So there, in a nutshell, are the ways that you can feminize a masculine body for a price that may lead up to \$40,000. Yes, it costs plenty and yes, it does hurt a lot. Does one need to “do it all?” Maybe, maybe not, it all depends on the individual and what they want, and/or what they need and/or what they can afford. I think that most of all it depends on what makes one happy. One may not need to “do it all” to be happy. One may need to just do enough. What is enough to make one happy? There is no one answer. It varies from person to person.

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

Ask a Transwoman: A defense of transgender solidarity and an argument for radical inclusion

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



Q: I read your solidarity piece. I disagree. First, drag queens are entertainers; at the end of the show, they clean off the makeup, get in their male street clothes and go home. Second, crossdressers are either on their transitional path -- not even sure, or sometimes even aware that they might transition — or they are men who like to be pretty. These are two things that link crossdressers and drag queens, as far as why they aren’t part of the umbrella, neither one needs rights; they go out for a short bit, then go home and back to their male lives.

I was part of the movement that helped pass the Equal Rights Bill, and the main reason public accommodations weren’t passed as well had everything to do with how crossdressers and drag queens are perceived, and how visible they are due to their flamboyance. If we want to succeed, we need to cut them loose and show the world we are just people who want to live.

Clarissa

Thanks for your response and for expressing an all too common view within our community, Clarissa. Let me tell you why I find this to be an often ill-conceived and also dangerous argument. It’s not that you are entirely incorrect about your assessment of either group, and though sometimes those two groups represent not so much sisters and brothers, as cousins. Here’s why I include them. Or rather more specifically, why it’s important not to exclude them.

I’ll start with Drag Queens (And Kings!). Though “drag” can be accurately defined as a

performance style, and you are correct that many Drag Queens identify as gay men (and Kings as lesbians), I can tell you from having met lots of different trans folks, that a good many transgender people come through the drag community. It’s their avenue for experimenting with gender and discovering themselves. More than a few transpeople identify as gay or lesbian before transition. Many play with drag before anything else.

But for every underwear fetishist, there’s a transwoman just trying to find herself, like an awkward teenager. Often there just isn’t any good way to know the difference until they themselves make it clear.

Some of these will continue to perform “drag” on stage during and after transition. As you noted, they may also be entertainers, and it is their particular performance niche. In point of fact, the Miss Trans New England Pageant was originally started to address the dilemma that many transwomen, who were on HRT and going through transition already, were pretending to be gay men doing drag so they could compete in “Miss Gay... etc.” pageants.

Let me come right out and admit to you my own biases. I get very frustrated when people assume I’m a Drag Queen because I’m a performer and also trans. And frankly, I find crossdressers sometimes “sucky.” I’ve even played a game with my roommates to see how many emails I have to open in my OKCupid account before I get to some guy telling me he likes to

wear silky underwear.

But for every panty fetishist, there’s a transwoman just trying to find herself, like an awkward teenager. Often there just isn’t any good way to know the difference until they themselves make it clear.

It is an easily discoverable narrative that many transwomen go through a phase of trying on the identity, passing through the community, or appearing to be crossdressers. Your

their connection to the “T” when we remind them that many of us come from the G and the L as part of our journey.

It’s a slippery slope for us to try and draw all of these arbitrary lines. We risk alienating those parts of our community most in need of our support in the process. Not only that, but by presenting a splintered front and fighting over who does and who does not belong, we not only draw energy away from more important work, we provide our enemies with the tinder with which to burn us down.

Further, I would assert that “Public Accommodations” were not passed, not because of how crossdressers and drag queens are perceived, but because there are bigots who would use these perceptions to stoke the fears of otherwise good, rational and caring citizens and politicians.

There’s a thing I like to do when I’m doing improv. If an ensemble member is perceived as a weak team member, I make a point of working with them whenever I can. If that player is onstage and I notice hesitation from anyone else, I will jump right in. Not only does it help that person to grow and learn, it also makes me a better improviser and it makes the ensemble stronger as a whole!

Look to the things and people that make you uncomfortable and ask yourself, what is it really about these people, that makes us uncomfortable? Is it perhaps the mirror they hold up to ourselves? Our own insecurities? Our fear of being “othered?”

If we address these questions ourselves, within a unified, radically accepting and supportive community, we can only become stronger. Slainte!

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

own words acknowledge this. And yes, some crossdressers have no desire to transition and simply want to “feel pretty” or have some fetish attached to it. We often have no way of knowing for sure who is a sister and who isn’t.

But remember all those brave people at Stonewall and Compton’s Cafeteria who we claim for our own? Powerful transgender women and men, pioneers of our movement. Who were also Drag Queens and Kings, or were perceived as such. These were undeniably our sisters and brothers. But culture translates kind of awkwardly sometimes.

Also, it’s worth noting that transpeople who come from the drag communities can be an important through-line for connecting up to the better-funded and more powerful Gay and Lesbian parts of the movement. They cannot deny

Fiscal deal creates cliff hanger for LGBT centers

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Services

LGBT service groups and others who depend on federal funding for a portion of their work can breathe a sigh of relief — for about two months. Congress sent President Obama a bill Tuesday night (January 1) to satisfy part of its mandate to address the nation's growing debt.

The House, after 11 p.m. Tuesday night (Jan. 1st), passed a bill that was approved by the Senate at 2 a.m. that same day, extending tax cuts to most Americans while increasing taxes for taxpayers earning more than \$400,000 per year or \$450,000 per couple.

But the bill was clearly aimed at calming the Wednesday morning stock market reaction to the Congress's failure to approve an adequate measure against the country's budget crisis. It did not address how the federal government would cut spending and, instead, agreed to come up with another bill to do that by March 1.

Cece Cox, chief executive officer of the Dallas Resource Center, the fourth largest LGBT center in the country, says the deal struck Tuesday night "helps us escape the immediate cuts but doesn't mean we've escaped them permanently." The Dallas center, which is already into the second quarter of its current budget year, will now start running projections, said Cox, to anticipate what might yet come from Congress.

"Running projections can't be done with much scientific certainty at this point because

who knows," said Cox. "But we can run some scenarios of things that could happen and think through how we would continue to function and provide services."

Thirty-five percent of the nation's more than 200 centers for LGBT people are non-profit groups that rely on federal grants to fund more than a quarter of their program expenses, according to a report in June from the Movement Advancement Project (MAP). The centers provide programs for young people, seniors, people with HIV, and others to address such concerns as — coming out support, suicide prevention, and addictions with sensitivity to sexual orientation.



Lorri Jean, chief executive officer of the nation's largest LGBT community and health center — the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center — says that, if the federal government does make dramatic cuts in spending, it could much less funding for the LGBT centers. And that, she said, would come at a time when cuts to federal agencies would likely push more and more LGBT people to seek out the services at their

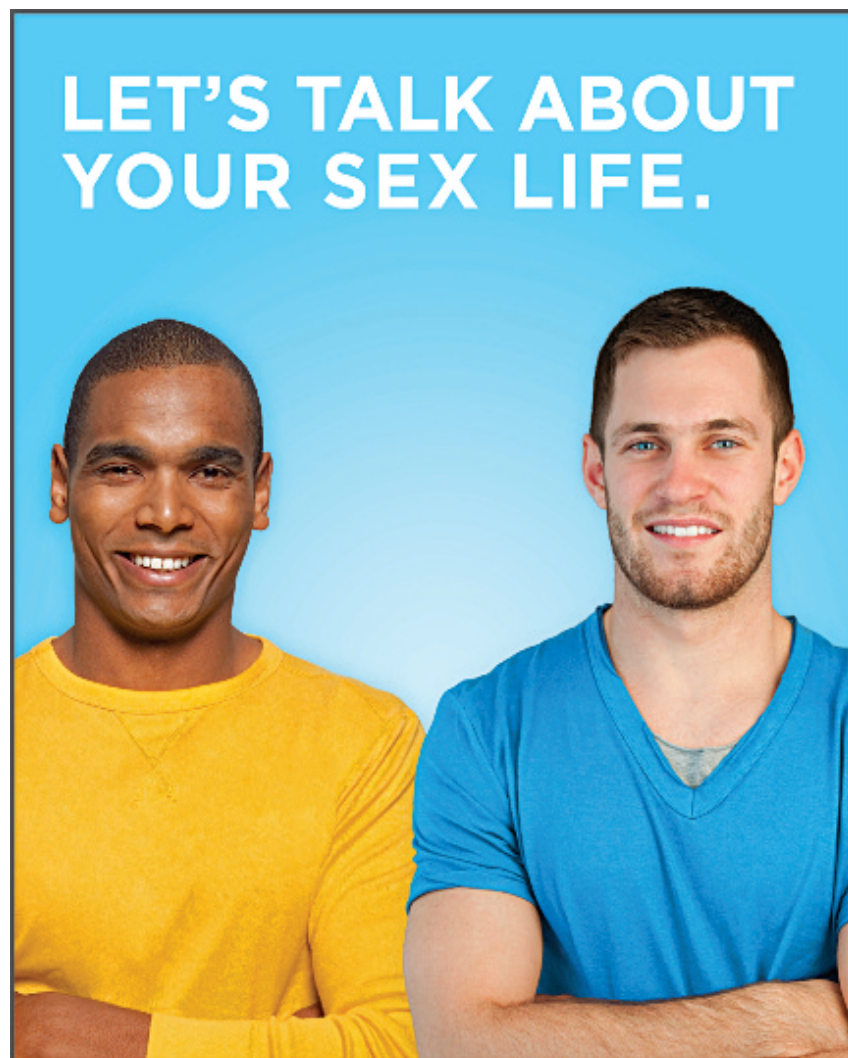
Health Services center in San Francisco, estimated the cost of such automatic cuts would have amounted to about \$167 million for the nation's LGBT community health centers. A report from several national LGBT groups with the Center for American Progress estimated the automatic cuts would have cost the Ryan White HIV program about \$196 million of federal funding in the first year, leaving as many as 9,000 patients without access to vital medications.

The bill passed by Congress, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, extends tax rate reductions that were passed in 2001 under President George W. Bush to the end of 2013. It also requires Congress to take up a "tax reform bill" no later than April 30 to create "a fairer, simpler, flatter tax code."

In other Congressional news of potential interest to the LGBT community, House Republicans have named Rep. Jack Kingston (R-Ga.) to head up the subcommittee that oversees the appropriations for the departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services. The Human Rights Campaign rated Kingston's Congressional voting record a zero. He replaces another HRC zero-rated member, Rep. Dennis Rehberg of Montana.

According to last June's MAP report on funding of LGBT centers, the majority of federal grants to LGBT centers were awarded by HHS.

© 2013 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.



LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR SEX LIFE.

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

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

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

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

HELP US EVALUATE THIS PROGRAM!

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

FENWAY  SIXTEEN

16 Haviland Street, Boston MA **TEL** 617.267.0159

WEB fenwayhealth.org/16evaluation

Reality star of *The Real L Word* discusses her successful jewelry line, more

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

At only 32, Lauren Bedford Russell is both a reality star on *The Real L Word*'s third season and an accomplished jeweler. Since the end of filming she has spent most of her time bouncing back and forth between New York and Los Angeles. Her company, Lyon Fine Jewelry, has created various charity bracelets, and beginning in January 2013, she will be selling an anti-bullying bracelet. Recently, she took time out of her hectic work schedule to speak with *The Rainbow Times*.

TRT: Did you always want to be a jewelry designer or did you ever think about pursuing any other careers?

Lauren Bedford Russell: I didn't know growing up. I definitely have been interested, since I was little, in jewels. My dad is really knowledgeable and really into jewelry and gemstones. But I didn't decide to go into it until I was living in New York. This was about three years ago, when I decided to start designing the line and actually make it my own business. [It had been] between jewelry and publishing. I was kind of like, "I don't know what I want to do!" Then I finally decided and went for it.

Q. Is there any particularly item you prefer making?

A. My passion has always been bracelets. But I definitely feel like rings are something that's more universal. I like to make rings that men and women can wear ... Between all types of jewelry, rings and bracelets are my two favorites and that's what I have the most of in my line. But I see myself putting out more men's

PHOTOS BY: LYON FINE JEWELRY



rings soon.

Q. How successful have you been using social media to promote yourself and reach out to fans?

A. It's so rewarding! I have never been the sort of person to be promoting myself like that, but I feel like it's all lumped together. To promote my line, I need to promote myself. To promote myself, I need to promote my line. But the important thing for me now is reaching out to the fans, because they have been so amazing. I have really gotten such a great reception from people. [I've] been touched by so many people's messages and words of what's going on in their lives, and how I've affected it, large or small. So that's been a huge, huge positive result of the show.

Q. Is there one medium that you'd say is your favorite?

A. I think the fans really enjoy Instagram be-

cause they don't get to watch us on television anymore. So the next best thing is pictures. Without overdoing it, I decided to keep that up and show them what's going in my life. I also have a Tumblr (<http://tinyurl.com/bkxjSee>) that I answer questions on ... They've really praised me for being very active on that and so it's good for everyone. It makes me feel really good to answer people's questions [and give] advice ... I'm really happy to talk to them.

Q. Would you consider yourself a role model in the LGBT community at this point?

A. Well I would love to be, but obviously there are parts of the show I think about when you say that. I think about getting drunk at Dinah [Shore Weekend] ... But people now know that I'm more than a lot of the stuff they show. The real reason they chose me was because I'm a professional, successful entrepreneur. In all those aspects of my work life, and my help

with the charities, in those respects I definitely hope to be a role model for sure.

Q. How did your family feel about you going on the show?

A. My family has been really supportive. They've been awesome, even when my mom saw my chest on television. My dad actually watched the original drama series *The L Word*, from the beginning. And he was always like, "You've got to watch it! You've got to watch it!" So he was one of my first fans, of course he's a huge fan.

Q. How have you decided to split up the holidays?

A. [Kiyomi and I are] going to Canada the day after my birthday on December 22. Then we fly to San Diego to see my family on the 27, and then right after Christmas my sister is getting married. Then we go to Houston for New Year's [laughs] like I said all over the place ... It's been one of those situations where if you told me I'd be doing this a little while ago I would've said, "I don't have the energy." But when you're in it, you get some sort of adrenaline that kind of pulls you through.

Q. Is there any word on a fourth season of *The Real L Word* coming out?

A. You know we've all, every single one of us, not really heard a definitive answer. We're supposed to find out at the end of December. We're all kind of wondering what's going on. So I don't know, we'll see. You'll definitely find out when we do, we'll definitely let people know.

To find out more about Lauren Bedford Russell and her Lyon Fine Jewelry and Charity Bracelet line, visit www.lyonfinejewelry.com.

WOW! WOW! WOW!

DO WE HAVE A SEASON FOR YOU @ THE FAC!

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

PRE-CONCERT FIRESIDE CHAT: Ticket holders are invited to a pre-performance talk by NEPR's Jazz Safari host Kari Njiri at 6:30 p.m. at the University Club.

LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO
Wednesday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., Concert Hall
For 43 years, the voices of Ladysmith Black Mambazo have married the intricate rhythms and harmonies of their native South African musical traditions to the sounds and sentiments of gospel music. They will feature favorites from their catalogue as well as selections from their recent release *Songs From A Zulu Farm*.
"You don't go to a Ladysmith Black Mambazo show for innovation; you go to be reminded that the human voice is the most beautiful sound on Earth." —Washington Post
SPONSORED BY: NEPR, The Republican/MassLive, WGBY

UPRIGHT CITIZENS BRIGADE TOURING COMPANY
Friday, February 8, 8 p.m. & 10 p.m., Bowker Auditorium
A night of provocative and absurd improv with the creme de la creme of UCB Theatre's NYC and LA talent pool. The Upright Citizens Brigade Touring Company cast is hand-picked from the best improv comedians in the country -- a veritable "next wave" of comedy superstars from the theatre that brought you Amy Poehler, Horatio Sanz, Ed Helms, Rob Corddry and many more. (Advisory: Performances are improvisational. Content is likely to include mature subject matter.)
"... The CBGB of alternative comedy." —New York Magazine
SPONSORED BY: Easthampton Savings Bank, WRSI, & Valley Advocate

DON'T MISS THESE EXCITING SHOWS:

TRACES BY LES 7 DOIGITS DE LA MAIN
Tuesday, February 26

MILES DAVIS AND THE BLUE FLAME INCIDENT
FEATURING THE METTA QUINTET
Tuesday, March 5

DAVE SAMUELS AND THE CARIBBEAN JAZZ PROJECT
w/ guests The New York Latin All-Stars
Saturday, April 6

IMAGO: ZOOZOO
Thursday, April 11

AND MANY, MANY MORE!
VISIT FINEARTSCENTER.COM TO FIND OUT MORE.

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

Este año ama a tu prójimo y deja tu huella para la posteridad

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa*/Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

¡Ya comenzó otro año lleno de expectativas! ¿Qué va a pasar? Nadie lo sabe pero lo que sí debemos reconocer es que cada uno de nosotros/as puede hacer algo para mejorar el mundo en donde vivimos. Las pasadas semanas estuve de viaje por Centro América y por dos estados en el sur de E.U. ¿Qué mucho hay que hacer! En Nueva Orleans todavía las cosas no han sido resueltas desde los daños dejados por el huracán en el 2005 especialmente cuando ya la ayuda cesó de llegar y ¿ahora qué? Honduras, Costa Rica, México, y otros países centro americanos y del Caribe están llenos de pobreza, crímenes y personas desamparadas, y ¿qué hacemos al respecto? Nuestros/as hermano/as LGBT están sin derechos en muchos de estos estados del sur de E.U., Centro América y el Caribe, ¿qué podemos hacer al respecto? Hay tanto por hacer pero ¿dónde comenzamos? Cada uno de nosotros puede traer el cambio y ayudar en algo aunque sea simple.

Durante las vacaciones escuché por primera vez una canción escrita por Dianne Warren y cantada por Beyoncé que me trajo a la mente

que cada uno de nosotros puede dejar una huella en este mundo y saber que cada cosa, aunque sea simple, puede significar algo para otra persona. Esta canción titulada, "I was here" o Estuve aquí, en español habla de esto. La canción menciona que no deberíamos vivir sin lamentos sino vivir amando, viviendo, y dejando nuestra marca para que todos/as sepan que estuvimos aquí. Las letras de la canción dicen, "Quiero decir que he vivido cada día hasta que muera y reconocer que significó algo en la vida y corazón de otros y esta será la prueba de que dejo e hice la diferencia en este mundo".

Reconozco que el 2013 comenzó con algunas altas como el derecho al matrimonio gay en tres estados y bajos en nuestra economía y crímenes de odio; pero debemos ser optimistas y pensar que las cosas van a cambiar. Si no cambian, lla-

men o escriban a sus legisladores y demanden este cambio y reconocimiento. No seamos personas que sólo aceptamos. Seamos personas que actuamos y traemos el cambio. Debemos reconocer que hay mucho que hacer y que en nosotros está la fuerza. Cada uno de nosotros/as puede dejar una marca en el 2013. Hubo demasiadas penas en el 2012. Tenemos que movilizarnos y traer el cambio. Aplaudo a todos/as

en Puerto Rico quienes están marchando y trayendo a la conciencia de la sociedad la humillación y homofobia que sufren la comunidad LGBT. ¡Los crímenes de odio, físicos y verbales, no pueden ser aceptados por ninguna sociedad y ningún programa de televisión puede

¡Los crímenes de odio, físicos y verbales, no pueden ser aceptados por ninguna sociedad y ningún programa de televisión puede mofarse de estos crímenes y víctimas! Basta ya de esta homofobia en Puerto Rico, México, EU, Centro América, y alrededor del mundo.

mofarse de estos crímenes y víctimas! Basta ya de esta homofobia en Puerto Rico, México, EU, Centro América, y alrededor del mundo.

Vivamos en el 2013 haciendo todo lo que po-

damos hacer y reconozcamos que podemos vivir una vida llena de alegría, amor y de que hicimos todo lo que pudimos hacer sin lamentaciones de lo que pudimos hacer pero no lo hicimos. Cada uno de nosotros podemos ser más de lo que somos, no hablo sobre ser más poderosos o ser más ricos sino que me refiero a una riqueza espiritual y de un poder de auto-estima más grande. ¡Haz una caridad humanitaria aquí, allá o donde quieras o como puedas pero hazla durante este año! Creo que si cada uno de nosotros hace algo el mundo será diferente y la alegría y amor podrán reinar. Hay tanta tristeza, frustración en el mundo que algunas veces uno se siente oprimido, deprimido y sin deseos de hacer nada pero hay que superar esto y seguir hacia adelante.

Como dice la canción, "Sólo quiero que sepan que di mi todo, hice mi mejor, traje a alguien algo de felicidad y dejó este mundo un poco mejor porque estuve aquí, viví, amé y estuve aquí." Cada uno queremos dejar una marca en este mundo... ¡espero que en el 2013 todos/as podamos tomar el primer paso en dejar esta marca! Les deseo a todos/as que hayan pasado un Feliz Día de los Reyes y Feliz Año 2013 — uno lleno de paz, felicidad, prosperidad y amor.

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

Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: Ataque antigay en contra de los tribunales

Por: Eric Lesh/Gerente del Proyecto Tribunales Justos

Querido Lambda Legal:

P: Vivo en Iowa, y en los días antes de la elección, recuerdo ver un autobús con el lema "No Wiggins" haciendo campaña contra el Juez de la Corte Suprema. ¿He escuchado a adversarios de la igualdad que hablan de "jueces activistas," ¿qué hacemos en respuesta?

R: En 2009, la Corte Suprema de Iowa publicó una decisión unánime en el caso de Lambda Legal, Varnum V. Brien, extendiendo el derecho a casarse a parejas del mismo sexo. En respuesta, grupos antigay como "National Organization for Marriage" y "American Family Association" decidieron concentrar su coraje en contra de los tribunales. En 2010, estos grupos invirtieron casi \$1 millón de dólares en una serie de anuncios negativos y una campaña engañosa por autobús para castigar los jueces por fallar en contra de la extrema agenda política de estos grupos. Al final, esta injusta campaña consiguió derrotar a tres respetados jueces durante una elección rutinaria de retención judicial.

Este año, los adversarios al derecho al matrimonio para parejas del mismo sexo, se reunieron de nuevo en otro esfuerzo bien-financiado para derrotar a David Wiggins, el cuarto juez, relacionado con el fallo en el caso. Varnum. El esfuerzo fue encabezado por el ex-candidato para gobernador Bob Vander Plaats y consistió en una campaña con el slogan "No Wiggins" en los autobuses. Tal campaña incluyó políticos como Rick Santorum y el Gobernador de Luisiana, Bobby Jindal. La campaña instó a votantes a expulsar a los llamados "jueces activistas" por hacer su trabajo — decidir casos difíciles y ratificar los derechos constitucionales, aun y cuando sus decisiones

no son políticamente populares.

¡Pero esta vez el autobús anti-gay se quedó sin llantas! En el día de las elecciones, los votantes rechazaron la politización de sus tribunales al retener al Juez Wiggins. Al rechazar este ataque a la propia justicia y el intento a intimidar a los jueces, los ciudadanos de Iowa demostraron que no se quedaran callados y que protegerán el sistema diseñado para preservar las garantías individuales.

Para la comunidad LGBT, los tribunales determinan casos en asuntos fundamentales que nos afectan a todos — nuestro ambiente famil-

iar, las protecciones de empleo y vivienda, el acceso a la atención médica, derechos de padres de familia — todos los cuales pueden tener efectos duraderos.

Lambda Legal trabaja cada día en los tribunales estatales en toda la nación y sabe lo importante que es tener fallos decididos por jueces imparciales que hacen sus decisiones basados en la ley, los hechos y los argumentos presentados en cada caso, sin temor de un ataque

político.

La protección de nuestro sistema judicial y los tribunales imparciales es muy importante en nuestra búsqueda por la igualdad. ¡Aprende cómo reconocer ataques judiciales y lo que tú puedes hacer para defender los tribunales con nuestro documento! ¡Vivan los tribunales justos en 2013! Para más información sobre esta guía visita: <http://tinyurl.com/bxo9dj7>.

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

• • • • •

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

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

• • • • •

617-444-9618

caspar

hope for today

CASPAR,
proudly serving
the LGBT community!

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

CAMBRIDGE AND SOMERVILLE PROGRAM FOR ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG REHABILITATION

www.casparinc.org • 617-628-3850

The biggest LGBT entertainment stories of year 2012

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Magic Mike sizzles, The Paperboy does whatever the opposite of sizzle is

It was a year of male nudity at the movies, but it came with some strings attached. It turns out that sometimes what you think is going to happen... well, it just doesn't. Steven Soderbergh's hit summer stripper movie opened with a lot of buzz about a lot of naked men. And it more or less delivered, especially where *True Blood*'s Joe Manganiello was concerned. But what the unsuspecting gays-and-their-straight-girls audience didn't know was how the film would turn out to really be about the economic crisis and how much of a drag it is to be stuck in Tampa, Fla., in a go-nowhere job. Not quite the lap dance we were promised. Meanwhile, after a storm of press for its Cannes Film Festival premiere, Lee Daniel's much-outraged-about *The Paperboy* (the one where Nicole Kidman urinates on Zac Efron's face) barely made a noise at the box office. And it can be argued that Efron — mostly appearing in the film in a variety of dampened pairs of underpants — and co-star Matthew McConaughey both show much more skin than anyone in *Magic Mike* (McConaughey included, since he was in both films). It's just that nobody seemed to care.

Gay shows get cancelled, audiences refuse to freak out too much about it

The New Normal is still buzzing along, thanks to juggernaut-master Ryan Murphy grabbing hold of the TV zeitgeist and turning every show he creates into miniature tempests of one-liners and plot continuity frustrations. But *Partners* is already done, out of here, erased. From the creators of *Will & Grace*, it came and went without audiences making much online outcry (the place where all outcries go to be stoked these days). It turns out that with so many gay characters on so many shows, the days of rallying around the only flag in town are over. You have to be the kind of gays we want to actually watch. And no, nobody has a good answer for what kind of gay that is. Ask the still-smarting-from-defeat cast of *The A-List: Dallas* about it.

Rachel Maddow is the boss of election night 2012

How great is it to have a brilliantly smart, rational, funny lesbian leading the pack of TV political pundits? That's a rhetorical question, of course. Sure, Rachel Maddow fumbles the ball every now and then, like any human being hosting a news program will, but overall she couldn't be any better if she were dreamed up by a team of thoughtful lesbian marketing wizards. And the MSNBC host cemented her place as a leader in the world of talking heads on election night, as one run-of-the-mill, middle-of-the-road male pundit after another seemed to be casting her favor while results poured. And because she is a recently installed queen, she was still gracious to them all. Long may she reign.

The Beekman Boys Race amazingly

OK, to be honest, we were actually rooting for Natalie and Nadiya, the Sri Lankan identical twins who never stopped shouting, "GO TWINNIE!" to win this season of *The Amazing Race*. But when they were ousted close to the end, our second favorites, the bickering married gay goat farmers from upstate New York (making a sideline visit to competition game shows from their own reality program about what it's like to be, well, gay goat farmers), were still waiting in the wings. Former *Martha Stewart Show* fixture Brent and author Josh had their share of rocky roads during the race: mistakes and errors nearly sent them home more than once. But when it was all said and done it was a pleasure to watch this couple give each other a big fat victory kiss on primetime television. And nab that cool two million bucks. Free goat cheese for everybody!

The Times of Harvey Milk makes The National Film Registry

The Times of Harvey Milk, the Oscar-winning 1984 documentary from Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, which also helped lay the cinematic foundation for Gus Van Sant's later fictionalized biopic, *Milk*, was recently selected for The National Film Registry, which archives historically important movies

for preservation. The story of the 1970s San Francisco City Councilman and gay rights activist marks a first for the Registry,

which was previously without any films by or about gay Americans. And if you're wondering if this is going to open some kind of floodgate, rest assured that *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry* and *Boat Trip* are probably not on anyone's short list.



Rachel Maddow

Gay indie film *Keep The Lights On* makes critics' year-end best lists

It's an explicitly sexual indie film about a gay couple dealing with drug addiction. But Ira Sachs's *Keep The Lights On*, an autobiographical account of his relationship with a partner caught in a spiral of substance abuse (a character based on Bill Clegg, whose own memoir *Portrait of An Addict As a Young Man* tells his version of events) crossed over from the usual gay-indie-cinema world of film festivals and

low-key DVD release schedules to win acclaim across the board and a wider release than this sort of thing usually receives. It was sensitive, intimate, harrowing and maddening, intelligently written and directed, and acted with quiet intensity by Danish star Thure Lindhardt and Zachary Booth (*Damages*). Just because you watched an episode of *Intervention* once, don't think you know everything. This movie will take a bite out of you.

"One Million" moms pick fights with Elle and J. Lo

A group of several thousand online activists calling themselves — counting be damned — One Million Moms, decided to court media attention by organizing an ineffectual boycott of JC Penney after they put Ellen DeGeneres in some of their TV ads. Yes, that Ellen DeGeneres, the frothing monster and supervillain, that one with her own widely watched afternoon talk show, the one who dances adorably with the audience and is generally beloved by actual millions.

Then "One Million Moms" decided to get mad at Jennifer Lopez. Why? J. Lo is now a TV producer, see, and she is working on a show where two characters are a lesbian couple with children. Obviously, this is also an outrage because "One Million Moms" hate other moms almost as much as they hate Ellen. When the J. Lo tempest went nowhere, OMM decided to return to the scene of the crime and get angry about JC Penney again for putting Ellen in their Christmas-themed commercials. Or maybe they're mad about elves and little gingerbread cakes. It's hard to keep track. More from them in 2013, we're sure. Hope it's just as entertaining.

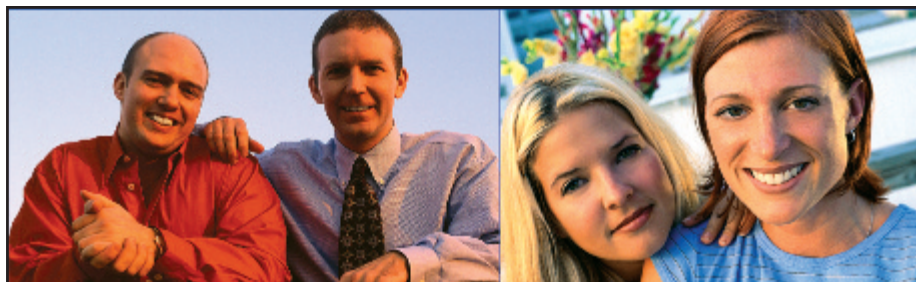
Frank Ocean (and some more usual suspects) come out

Yes, Anderson Cooper. Yes, Matt Bomer. Yes, Jil-lian Michaels. Yes, Kristy McNichol. We're glad each and every one of them decided to go public with the information that

pretty much everybody already knew. It's welcome information, yes, and we can always use more people with public voices coming out and committing themselves to the cause of LGBT rights. But who was surprised? OK, besides One Million Moms. And then a real surprise took place in the form of Frank Ocean. Not a household name before the release of his now-Grammy-nominated album *Channel Orange*, the singer-songwriter and member of the indie-cool Odd Future collective turned the hip-hop world upside down by coming out as a man who

loves men. It prompted supportive responses from the (formerly) notoriously anti-gay hip-hop world. Well, mostly. There are always haters. But when you make them upset you're really doing something right.

*Romeo San Vicente can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.



Corporate Chaplaincy provides personalized, confidential services for LGBTQ people of faith, who are spiritually hungry or healing from the abuse of organized religion. Corporate Chaplaincy offers spiritual health and wellness services to senior executives and their organizations in an interfaith, non-denominational way with a particular sensitivity to LGBTQ faith.

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

The Highlands Inn

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

-Planet Out

www.highlandsinn-nh.com
1-877-LES-B-INN
Bethlehem, New Hampshire

A Lesbian Paradise

Thinking Out Loud: Confessions of a Marriage Doubter, yes I was

By: Abby Dees*/Special for TRT



I've been writing about marriage a lot lately, which seems weird to me because even up to my own wedding in 2008, I had mixed feelings about the massive focus on marriage equality over the last decade. I mean, when I came out in ... well, a different century, we weren't talking much about marriage as a

tic partnership was important too, of course, and I was happy, single as I typically was, to fight for it. It made good, practical sense if you were lucky enough to hook up with a normal person.

What's happened now that I'm beating the drum for marriage equality? Did I finally drink the Kool-Aide? Am I a patriarchy-and-heterosexuality-blinded zombie? No, and I still don't like to be called anyone's wife. I just got to the core of the thing: The difference between marriage and domestic partnership, aside from

... an end to workplace discrimination, sodomy laws, and gay bashing; access to hospital visitation and adoption; the right not to be declared an unfit parent just because you were gay or lesbian; positive representation in the media; recognition of bi-national couples, and the right to political asylum based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

major goal. We talked about rights, dammit. All of them. Marriage too, I guess, but there was some odd mix in our collective queer psyche that both poo-pooed marriage for aping heterosexual norms (we talked this way then) and thought that achieving marriage equality was about as likely as changing the word "God" to "Goddess" on our money. There were more important things to fight for anyway.

We could enumerate our demands like we could count Madonna hits on our fingers: an end to workplace discrimination, sodomy laws, and gay bashing; access to hospital visitation and adoption; the right not to be declared an unfit parent just because you were gay or lesbian; positive representation in the media; recognition of bi-national couples, and the right to political asylum based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The closest we got to marriage was domestic partnership, which we fought for and won in many places.

All of these things were so practical and necessary and all are still pressing issues somewhere, even if we've moved forward in other places. We wanted then, and now, to live our lives like anyone else without running head first into stupidity, ignorance or violence.

Marriage, though, was different.

Marriage had baggage. If you were someone's wife not long ago – and today in some cultures – you were his property. Marriage in history was about securing money, property and power. And for me, chronically single and compelled to chase after indecisive idiots throughout most of my 20s and 30s, marriage didn't have a thing to do with my freedom as a lesbian. If you asked me in 2000 what the biggest issue facing our community was, I'd have said employment discrimination. Domes-

the fact that "domestic partnership" will always look better on a numbered administrative form than embossed in fancy curlicues, is a sense of dignity.

If we had civil unions under the law for everyone, and marriage were only a spiritual contract, then I'd be all over the domestic partnership thing. But that's not the way our culture does it. Marriage is the brass ring of agreements. The courts have held it to be the bedrock relationship of our society since the Magna Carta. (In fact, the 1879 Supreme Court case that upheld bans on polygamy didn't mention morality; instead, it spoke about protecting the democratic system: If a man could have a dozen wives, he became, essentially, a despot). In its most basic form, everyone knows, more or less, what you mean when you say, "We're married." Likewise, everyone understands why you sometimes need a divorce, but I once had to explain to someone, repeatedly, why she needed to dissolve her domestic partnership when the relationship tanked.

As the right wing reminds us, marriage is special and important – which is why we're fighting so hard for it. Marriage equality could happen as soon as 2013. It could move us dramatically closer to legal equality in all realms, regardless if we're single, married or otherwise arranged.

I get why some people don't give a toss about conventional marriage. I'll fight for their rights too. But most of us, LGBT or not, and me too, are inevitably drawn back to our cultural roots. It can be a beautiful thing as long as we don't get all zombieified about it.

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

Creep of the Week: Pope Benedict XVI – Judging & Hating; His “Christian” Way

By: D'Anne Witkowski*/Special for TRT

CREEP NEWS

There are a lot of things that threaten world peace: The ready availability of assault rifles. The Military Industrial Complex. Terrorism. Chemical weapons. Nuclear arms. Global warming. Religious intolerance. Greed. Power hungry dictators. The War on Drugs. Vast inequality. You know, just to name a few little things.

But I can't help but feel like I'm forgetting something. Something else as terrible as a dictator killing his own people or a suicide bomber or an elementary school full of dead children... Oh! I've got it: a guy marrying another guy (or a lady marrying another lady).

But don't take my word for it. Take it from Pope Benedict XVI who said as much in his Dec. 8 Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace (which is Jan. 1, by the way, in case you wanted to celebrate).

After decrying abortion and saying that pro-

bomber. Homos are ruining marriage, and therefore peace, for everybody. Boo.

Apparently not satisfied with calling out the gays during his "peace" speech, the pope also wagged his gnarled finger at them during his Christmas speech, too.

What it comes down to is that Pope Benedict XVI is pretty freaked out about all of the gains gays and lesbians have made toward marrying for real in this world. And so he used his Christmas speech to accuse gays and lesbians of giving the bird to God.

Thanks to homos, the pope said, sex and gender are "no longer a given element of nature that man has to accept and personally make sense of: it is a social role that we choose for ourselves, while in the past it was chosen for us by society."

In other words, God assigned you a role, damn it. You're either a woman who wants a penis in her vagina or you're a man who wants to put his penis into a vagina. For peace. (Alternately you can be a priest or a nun.)

This penis/vagina "duality" is "an essential aspect of what being human is all about."

In other words, God assigned you a role, damn it. You're either a woman who wants a penis in her vagina or you're a man who wants to put his penis into a vagina. For peace. (Alternately you can be a priest or a nun.)

choice people are actively working against happiness and peace, he turned his attention to the gays. He said, "There is also a need to acknowledge and promote the natural structure of marriage as the union of a man and a woman in the face of attempts to make it juridically equivalent to radically different types of union; such attempts actually harm and help to destabilize marriage, obscuring its specific nature and its indispensable role in society."

He added that homosexuality was basically "an offence against the truth of the human person, with serious harm to justice and peace."

Got that? A woman marrying another woman is the moral equivalent to a suicide

"When freedom to be creative becomes the freedom to create oneself, then necessarily the Maker himself is denied and ultimately man too is stripped of his dignity as a creature of God," Benedict said.

Being gay, in the pope's eyes, is a choice and a bad one at that.

All this coming from the man who has eschewed a traditional marriage in favor of an alternative lifestyle.

**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.*

VAWA from page 2

America is changing. It is time that all of our elected leaders do as well.

VAWA is a public and social health issue as it designates the acceptable national response to sexual and domestic violence. Due to the passage of this human rights bill in 1994, the United States Department of Justice cited a significant reduction in these types of crimes. Without the House voting on this bill and allowing it to perish in Congress, what message does that send to women or other victims of domestic abuse? What message does that send to the Native Americans, LGBTs and immigrants? What value has that assigned to all of us? What message do we want to send back to them?

But there is hope. The New Year brings a newly elected Congress.

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women will con-

tinue to push for the law's return in 2013, according to a statement released by the organization.

"The U.S. House of Representatives continued to voice strong opposition to offering basic protections to certain vulnerable populations..." the task force wrote. "There is no time to waste in addressing the needs of victims. We call on the 113th Congress to act immediately on VAWA this month and pass a bill that safely and effectively meets the needs of all victims."

Unfortunately, John Boehner (R) and Eric Cantor (R) are still at the helm of the Republican House enterprise. I say it's about time that ship sinks and the captains should go down with it.

**Nicole Lashomb is TRT's Editor-in-Chief. She holds an MBA from Marylhurst University and a Bachelors from SUNY Potsdam. Contact her at: editor@therainbowtimesmass.com.*

BOSTON PRIDE 2013 ... ADVERTISE!

RI cuts federal funding for HIV prevention and education programs, organizations react

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

HEALTH & WELLNESS

December 31 marked the end of Rhode Island's federal funding for community-based HIV prevention and education programs in the state. Thereafter, RI state funds for HIV will only go toward testing and those already living with the virus and not toward prevention funding. In spite of that, HIV averages 100-125 new infections each year in RI within the last decade, according to an Epidemiology profile published by the Rhode Island Department of Health.

This will affect a variety of Rhode Island's well known organizations, such as AIDS Project RI, Pawtucket Citizens Development Corporation, Thundermist Health Center, Youth in Action RI and Youth Pride Inc.

"Because we're a smaller state, the cuts are really going to be shaking the nonprofits that have been kind of championing the work for the best 10 or 12 years," explained Adeola Oredola, Executive Director, Youth In Action RI. "Huge, huge chunks of money are completely disappearing from our State Department of Health and it's going to hurt youth programs [and] all different populations."

Nothing like this has ever happened before in terms of federal funding, confirmed Oredola on a telephone call with *The Rainbow*



Governor Lincoln Chafee on World AIDS Day

PHOTOS BY: RI GENERAL ASSEMBLY, GOVERNOR CHAFEE STAFF

Times. Previously, the Rhode Island Department of Health funded many primary prevention programs, therefore creating a brand new set of challenges for these nonprofits.

"We have a long way to go [and] we're still trying to anticipate especially next year ... We're hoping to be doing some really good community health work. Hopefully with the support of our friends we can continue to do that at some level," continued Oredola.

The support, advocacy and educa-

tion center, Youth Pride Inc., had initially received a three-year grant from the RI Department of Health.

The money was set to go toward a program called the Mpowerment Group, where LGBT youth would learn about HIV prevention and safe sex through community building events, explained Kerri Kanelos, Executive Director of Youth Pride Inc., and said the goal was to educate five youth leaders to teach their peers, as well as staff person to oversee

them.

In the grant's starting year, 2011, the organization received \$90,000 toward the project. Then in its second year, 50 percent of the budget was cut, followed by a complete loss of funding in 2013. As a result, Kanelos said the organization has reached out to the best places it could think of, Elizabeth Taylor's AIDS Foundation, Elton John's AIDS Foundation and even local RI charities, to try to recover from lack of RI Department of Health funding.

"It was a big surprise to us ... When we initially went for the funding we saw it as something that was much more stable than what it has turned out to be," said Kanelos. "The minute we heard that year three wasn't going to happen, and there was a cut in year two, we started looking for private foundation money."

In an effort to get past these budget cuts and combine efforts, the RI HIV Prevention Coalition was formed about a year ago, explained Kanelos, and contains more than 20 community groups. The Coalition's mission statement reads, "a forum for community-based organizations and other agencies in RI to work together to prevent HIV through sharing information, doing advocacy, strengthening partnerships and raising public awareness."

The Coalition recently held a large meeting in celebration of World AIDS Day. The event took place during midday in the State Room of the RI State House, with about 40 attendees. Those present were graced with the words of Governor Lincoln Chafee, U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and RI House Speaker Gordon Fox.

Kanelos attributes the Coalition's strong public efforts to Thomas Bertrand, who is also the Executive Director of AIDS Project RI. "We're still formalizing our relationships ... it is a member-driven network of organizations," said Bertrand.

The next RI HIV Prevention Coalition meeting will be open to the public, and will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on January 16. The location has not yet been determined. For more information, please contact Thomas Bertrand at Thomas@aidspjectri.org or join the "Rhode Island HIV Prevention Coalition" Facebook Page, <http://tinyurl.com/a2ygd36>.



State Representative Eileen Naughton of Warwick, RI, a big supporter of assisting the AIDS cause

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. A Perfect Ending: Auto-graphed Photo + DVD
2. Kiss Me
3. Jessica Clark 2013 Calendar
4. Lost Girl: Season 2
5. The Guest House
6. Chely Wright: Wish Me Away
7. Farewell, My Queen
8. Elvis & Madonna
9. Joe + Belle
10. Jack & Diane

GAY TOP 10

1. Gayby
2. The Men Next Door
3. The Wise Kids
4. Elliot Loves
5. Keep the Lights On
6. Weekend
7. North Sea Texas
8. August
9. The Skinny
10. Judas Kiss

Nominated AVN Awards
2012 Best Boutique
in New England!

Mister Sister Erotica

Lingerie • Fetish • Leather
Gift Certificates

More toys than
the devil has sinners!

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

268 Wickenden St. • Providence RI 02903 • 401.421.6969

Unexpectedly Gay

THE ADVOCATE MAGAZINE
TOP 15 GAYEST CITIES

SPRINGFIELD, MA
www.GLBTSpringfield.com

This could have been your ad!
617-444-9618

Controversial & new LGBT sports documentary released on NBC Bay Area

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

A documentary about homophobia in the professional sports world called "The Last Barrier" recently aired in the Bay Area. This hourlong special investigates the personal concerns professional gay athletes face, including locker room acceptance, fans, team ownership and more.

"I don't think fans care about the sexual orientation of players, and I don't think the players in the locker room care about sexual orientation. It's all about winning," said Amani Toomer, NFL veteran and NBC Sports NFL analyst, in a defining point of the movie.

"The Last Barrier" includes additional comments ranging from a wide variety of people in the sports industry, from players like Chris Kluwe, Minnesota Vikings Punter, to Rick Welts, the President and Chief Operating Officer of the NBA's Phoenix Suns.

"The goal of the show was to generate discussion ... amongst the viewers after they watch the show. I think that's the most you can ask for. Then hopefully discussion will lead to people examining their values, and their feelings," said Ted Griggs, Comcast SportsNet Bay Area President.

The documentary itself came about through an already existing partnership - Comcast SportsNet Bay Area produces a show for NBC Bay Area that airs after Sunday night football games. It is traditionally a half-hour segment that discusses issues in sports, but when they tried to conquer the topic of sexuality, it became apparent that 30 minutes was not going to be sufficient, explained Griggs. NBC then agreed for a full-hour piece, and the show cast Comcast SportsNet anchor Dave Feldman, CSNBa.com's Senior Insider Ray Ratto and Comcast SportsNet's MLB analyst Shooty Babitt as hosts.

"The people are great. Comcast SportsNet works with the [LGBT sports organization] You Can Play project, and they've made a real commitment to helping end homophobia in sports," said Cyd Zeigler, Jr., the Co-Founder of Outsports.com, the self-proclaimed worldwide leader in gay sports.

With over a decade of experience in the LGBT sports industry, Zeigler was selected as one of the documentary's guests. Although he personally enjoyed his interview experience, he did not agree with all of the perspectives given on "The Last Barrier."

"Shooty Babitt, this one guest they had on, really just doesn't know what he's talking about, you know? He's talking like it's still 1979 and he's playing for the Oakland A's. I mean, it was a different perspective to include, it was interesting that they chose him," said Zeigler in a phone interview.

Host Babitt is a former New York Met's scout, Oakland A's baseball player and friend of openly gay MLB player Glenn Burke. Zeigler was frustrated with some of Babitt's commentary, like the excerpt below.

"You have a guy that needs to come out and let everybody know who he is. But you know it's

going to be to a detriment to the team because now everybody else gets involved, everybody else has to answer all these questions that they probably shouldn't have to answer because someone has an agenda that they want the world to know about, rightfully so, but I just don't think this is the setting when you're talking about a team sport," said Babitt in "The Last Barrier."

Although an upsetting response to some, Griggs believes that it's important to try produce a fair and balanced documentary. "... you have to be careful to not be an advocate, even though we all have our own personal feelings about this topic. You have to sort of put the canvas out there and let people give their opinions," he explained.

"The Last Barrier" will air on NBC Bay Area throughout January, and is available on Comcast SportsNet Bay Area via DirecTV and Dish Network's sports packages.



Midler from page 13

Q. Have you heard of this documentary that Malcolm Ingram is working on about the Continental Baths that you performed at? I read that he was trying to get you involved.
A. No, I have not. This is the first I've heard of it.

Q. Where do you stand on the new wave of gay icons? Do you follow them?

A. No, I don't. I have to say I don't. I think that the gay community has always liked a certain type, and there are plenty of those around. But no, I don't follow it. I do my work; I keep my head down. I have my family, and I do — it's all fascinating and it's all wonderful, and it's a big river of life and people get on on one bank and wind up in another place. There are new people all the time. Paul Simon said it best when he said, "Every generation throws a hero up the pop charts." So I'm used to the idea that people come and go, and it's always fun to watch. It makes life glittery and fun. And that's what we're looking for.

Q. But Adele is now considered a gay icon, and I've heard you're a fan of hers.

A. I do love Adele. I adore Adele. I think she's a really good singer and a terrific songwriter. Her voice is such a beautiful voice. And she's funny and she's warm and she's all the things you want a performer to be. I mean, outside of who her fan base is, I think just as a human being she stands out. I'm really happy that she's around. I'm really happy that she's made it and that people adore her. She's going to have a long, long career.

Q. Now that you've made your screen return, will we be seeing more of you soon? A new studio album? Maybe a tour?

A. You know, I'm listening to music. Every day I pick something out of the pot to listen to. I



PHOTO: KERRY HAYES

Bette Midler

do keep very active with that part — in the songwriting world — and I'm studying the guitar just because I love music. So I'm very interested in music just as an art form, not necessarily to have records or to have hits or anything — just to make music. That's never left me. I've always loved that and I've always loved people who are actual musicians. I love the singers and the musicians, too. So I'm always interested in what people have to express and the way in which they choose to express what they have to say. So that part of me — the art part — will never leave. I do keep busy with that.

Q. But you know how much we'd love to hear a new album, right?

A. Oh, you're very kind. I'll do my best to deliver it ... before the afternoon is up!

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

BOSTON PRIDE GUIDE

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE NEW ENGLAND GUIDE TO BOSTON PRIDE

ADVERTISE

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

CONTACT SALES@THERAINBOWTIMESMASS.COM OR 617.444.9618

GAY BINGO!

The THIRD Thursday of every month!

Doors open at 6pm

Bingo starts at 7pm SHARP!

The Riviera Bingo Palace

1612 Elmwood Ave., Cranston, RI

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

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

Wear your Pride colors!

A FUNdraiser for AIDS Care Ocean State and AIDS Project Rhode Island!

Sponsors are ALWAYS needed. Contact Stephen Hartley at 401-521-3603 or e-mail at stephenh@aidscareos.org.

For more information, please visit www.aidscareos.org

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

GAYBORHOOD

Boston, MA

Grant received to educate gay men about domestic violence

The Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project has received a \$10,000 Verizon Foundation grant to support a program educating GBTQ men about domestic violence and the role they can play in responding to it. The campaign will aim to empower men to speak out against domestic violence, provide awareness and resources to the community and to educate them to act as a positive influence for other men.

LGBT organizations see increase in funding and donations

LGBT social justice organizations experienced a 17 percent revenue increase from 2010 to 2011 after several years of decline. The report, by the Movement Advancement Project, looks at the LGBT movement's finances spanning 40 major LGBT organizations representing 69 percent of the budgets of all LGBTQ social justice organizations. Organizations are also seeing an increase in funding through individual donations. Despite gains, challenges were also named in the report, including that the revenue of anti-LGBT organizations still greatly outweighs that of LGBT organizations.

Fenway Health urges for more HIV Prevention Funding for gay men

Despite a disproportionate amount of HIV infections among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, MSM, funding for HIV prevention is directed toward heterosexuals and other at risk groups, found an analysis conducted by The Fenway Institute. Sources from The Fenway Institute state that prevention funding needs to be shifted to match the incidence data.

Chicago, IL

New book documents the role of gay print media

A new book gives a comprehensive overview of the past, present and future of gay print media. "Gay Press, Gay Power: The Growth of LGBT Community Newspapers in America" contains essays, interviews and hundreds of news clips and images from mainstream and early gay publications and describes the critical role of the gay press. The book is available through Amazon.com, as well as Chicago's Women & Children First Bookstore.

Elected officials announce vote for marriage

equality

Illinois Rep. Greg Harris and Sen. Heather Steans have announced that they will call for a vote soon regarding the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act. The Marriage Project Director for Lambda Legal stated that by bringing this marriage bill to a vote, they have brought hope to thousands of same-sex couples in Illinois, and it is encouraging that elected officials agree with the freedom to marry.

Des Moines, IA

Lawsuit filed to permit same-sex parents listed on birth certificate The Iowa Supreme Court heard Lambda Legal's lawsuit that is seeking an accurate birth certificate to all children born in Iowa to same-sex married parents. In the case presented, Iowa's Department of Public Health denied a request for both lesbian spouses to be listed as parents on the birth certificate of their daughter. All other states that permit same-sex couples to marry, or enter civil unions or domestic partnerships, issue birth certificates to children of same-sex couples on the same terms of those of different-sex couples.

Montgomery, AL

Alabama ruling to stop segregating HIV prisoners

A federal judge ordered a stop to segregating Alabama prisoners with HIV. The ruling stated that the practice violates the Americans with Disabilities Act and that this discriminates against the prisoners and denies them equal access to rehabilitative programs. The decision also bans the state's policy of requiring HIV-positive prisoners to wear white armbands to alert others of their status.

New York, NY

LGBTQ- and ally-centered YouTube channel to debut

A new gay-centered YouTube channel will launch to specifically target an LGBT and like-minded audience, and will feature weekly short series. Gwist, TV With a Gay Twist, is designed to appeal to anyone who enjoys a gay sensibility. Gwist will also incorporate Google+ Hangouts into programming.

Providence, RI

Marriage bills introduced in House and Senate

House Rep Arthur Handy, as well as Senator Donna Nesselbush, have introduced bills in the House and Senate that would legalize marriage equality in Rhode Island. Handy has released

a statement saying that he is confident the bill will pass and that it is overdue. The House is committed to voting by the end of January.

South Lyon, MI

Teacher suspended for playing anti-harassment song

A middle school teacher has been suspended for playing a song that discussed the harassment faced by gay youth. The song was played during an eight-grade performing arts class, by request of a student. The teacher was suspended for three days and had pay withheld for two. Equality Michigan, the only LGBT anti-violence and advocacy organization in the state, is investigating the matter further and stated that they will make sure that diversity and love is taught over intolerance and hate.

Springfield, IL

Illinois bill for marriage equality progressing Illinois' Senate Executive Committee has adopted the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, in a first step of many toward advancing the freedom to marry. This is the first time an Illinois legislative body had voted to extend marriage equality, stated the CEO of Equality Illinois. This new House and Senate are believed to have more support for LGBT issues.

Washington, D.C.

LGB hate crimes are second most frequently committed

Crime statistics released by the FBI show that for the first time, crimes based on sexual orientation are the second most frequent hate crime committed. The number of reported hate crimes committed against gay men and lesbians increased from 1,277 to 1,293, surpassing crimes committed on the basis of religion, and falling only after crimes based on race. The HRC president stated that this is a reminder that even though strides are being made toward equality under the law, LGBT people still face dangers in America. The FBI will begin collecting data on hate crimes committed on the basis of gender identity in 2013.

Report documents services provided to LGBTQ students in college career centers

Career centers in higher education are improving in providing services to LGBTQ students, but there is still much work to be done, according to OUT for Work's 2013 Career Center Certification Report. The findings indicate that only 3 percent of the career centers surveyed earned an A+ Gold ranking, out of A+ Gold, Gold, Silver and Bronze. The assessment, completed by 158 college career resource centers, is intended to gauge the current career tools, resources and programs accessible to LGBTQ students through campus career centers.

HRC Statement in response to DOMA Recommitment

Changes to the House Rules for the 113th Congress include a recommitment to spending taxpayer money on defending the Defense of Marriage Act. The HRC released a statement in which they express their disappointment that the 113th Congress, with a historically large number of LGBT members and spouses, is beginning a vote that will disrespect those members and all LGBT Americans.

LGBTQA organizations call for support to defend sex workers

Over 50 LGBTQA organizations have called for support of worldwide efforts that will de-

fend lives, as well as rights, of all who are involved within the sex trade. In their statement, they recognize violence against sex workers as an LGBTQ issue and stand committed to ending it, while also calling for an essential policy approach focused on an increase of safety, opportunity, empowerment and harm reduction.

Supreme Court to hear cases against Prop. 8 and DOMA

The Supreme Court has announced that it will hear the Hollingsworth v. Perry case that challenges California's Prop. 8, as well as the Windsor v. United States case against the Defense of Marriage Act, the discriminatory ban on federal recognition of married same-sex couples. The HRC president stated that this is a milestone for equal justice under the law, and that this announcement gives hope that a landmark Supreme Court ruling for marriage will be seen this term.

Tobacco use disparities addressed in new report

Grassroots efforts have been working to fight LGBT targeting by tobacco companies. A new report released by Legacy focuses on these efforts, and explores the continuous disparities in tobacco use between LGBT people and the general population. The report, Tobacco Control in LGBT Communities, also explains Legacy's role in addressing this population's needs and details case studies of successful interventions. According to the American Journal of Public Health, LGBT people smoke cigarettes at rates 70 percent higher than the general population.

GOP called upon to stop funding DOMA

The nation's LGBT leaders have called upon the House GOP to stop funding the Defense of Marriage Act, which costs taxpayers millions of dollars. The letter sent to the House Republican leadership stated that with more states allowing same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses, DOMA creates burdens on tax-paying citizens. A 2004 report from the Congressional Budget office estimated that federal individual income and estate tax revenues would increase \$700 million per year if DOMA was not in place, and recent polling from Greenberg Quinlan Rosner found that most Americans oppose DOMA and the Republicans' court defense of it.

ACLU warns against National Defense Authorization Act

President Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which includes a provision that insists the military accommodate moral principles and religious beliefs of all armed forces members. The president did acknowledge that this provision is unnecessary and ill-advised. The director of ACLU Washington cautioned that the language of this provision was too broad and could lead to claims of a right to discriminate, not only against LGBT people.

West Point, NY

West Point Cadet Chapel holds first same-sex wedding ceremony

The first same-sex wedding ceremony at West Point Cadet Chapel has been held between an Army Veteran and OutServe-SLDN, the association of actively serving LGBT military personnel, board member and her partner. The pair stated that West Point holds special significance to them, and to be able to legalize their union there is very important.

FREE

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

SOLD

Find Your Perfect Agent Online:
www.GayRealEstate.com

Or Call Toll Free:
1.888.420.MOVE (6683)

GayRealEstate.com

The OutField: Chris Mosier runs after Hurricane Sandy

By: Dan Woog*/Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



These days, if you can run, you can raise funds. Every weekend, it seems, there are road races to cure breast cancer, build schools in impoverished African villages, and do just about every other good deed imaginable. Fundraising races are impressive affairs, complete with corporate sponsors, water stations and gushing publicity.

When Chris Mosier decided to run to raise money, though, he did it alone. The decision

clothing, medical care, and mental health and substance abuse services to thousands of youngsters annually, it was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. Flood waters from the Hudson River demolished computers, office equipment, refrigerators and food.

Chris was never homeless himself. But the plight of teenagers cast out of their families – then left to battle for survival, at the same time trying to figure out who they are and where they fit into the world – resonated deeply.

As a girl growing up near Chicago, she played team sports. She always knew on some level she did not fit society's expectations of gender, but she did not have the vocabulary to express what she felt.

Even in college, Chris says, “I didn’t know

“I delayed my transition because of sports,” Chris says. “I did well as a woman, and wondered how competing as a man would affect things. I wear Spandex. I’m in very body-conscious sports. Being an athlete was an important part of my identity, and I had a lot of questions.”

seemed apt. He was running to support homeless LGBT teenagers, and few populations are as lonely as that.

Chris's run earlier this month – 35.6 miles, a loop around the entire perimeter of Manhattan – benefited the Ali Forney Center. A shelter and drop-in center offering food, showers,

HIV Cuts from page 2

chanted slogans such as, “budget cuts are really rude, that’s why we have to be so lewd.” They brought a lot of attention to the fact that these cuts will steal resources from people who need them to survive. Right here in Boston the fight has been brought to the steps of Senator Kerry’s (future Secretary of State) front steps in Beacon Hill. Activists with ACT-UP Boston staged an empty Thanksgiving meal in front of his house, serving themselves only pill bottles. While Massachusetts may not see a cut to medications, people with HIV/AIDS cannot live on pills alone. AIDS activists, unsatisfied with Kerry’s response, showed up at his home again on December 1, World AIDS Day, still protesting the cuts. Demands are being made on politicians in Washington and when they choose not to listen, people are forced to use different tactics to get attention, whether that be naked bodies or showing up at a politician’s home.

There are plenty of possible solutions to this fiscal crisis that do not include cutting social services. A popular demand from AIDS activist groups, nurses and many others is the Robin Hood Tax. This is a financial transaction tax (.005 percent and .05 percent) on the buying and selling of stocks, bonds and derivatives on

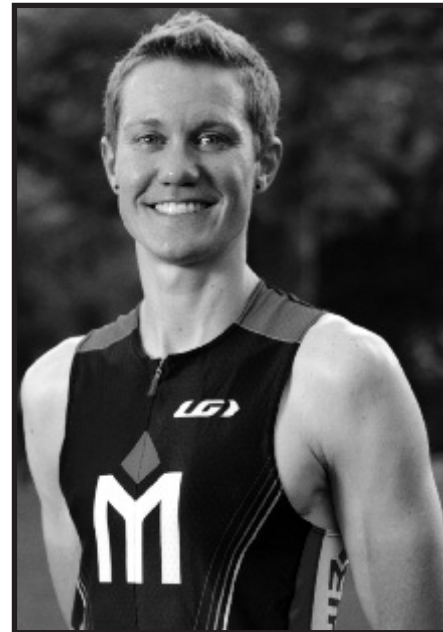
about the LGBT community. I was oblivious to it, and to any kind of self-awareness.”

About 10 years ago though, Chris finally met some transgender people. Gradually, that self-awareness grew.

Chris moved to New York and began a career in higher education. Chris identified as

Wall Street. This type of tax, already in place in 40 other countries, would bring in hundreds of billions of dollars each year from Wall Street. While I agree that taxing Wall Street is a great idea and I am excited for this money to come in, we already have more than enough money to fund all the social service programs. If we stopped putting trillions of dollars into war we could fund all of our programs. If we stopped putting hundreds of billions of dollars into prisons, police, immigrant detention and other repressive policies we could also fund all of our programs. We should fight for the Robin Hood Tax, but let us also fight for a new kind of prioritization of resource spending. 2013 will see harmful cuts to social services, whether we fall off the fiscal cliff or not, but your voice can join those who are working to keep money in programs that keep people living to fight another day.

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



Chris Mosier

“queer,” and played on men’s softball teams.

But Chris also ran and bicycled on teams and in events as a female. “I delayed my transition because of sports,” Chris says. “I did well as a woman, and wondered how competing as a man would affect things. I wear Spandex. I’m in very body-conscious sports. Being an athlete was an important part of my identity, and I had a lot of questions.”

Those worries proved groundless. Chris was accepted quickly during and after his transition. He's spent the last five years competing in road races and triathlons, and serves as a coach and ambassador for the Empire Triathlon Club and Team Aquaphor.

Like many members of New York's LGBT community, Chris had heard of the Ali Forney Center. As he learned of its devastation during the hurricane – and saw other destruction while running in local parks – Chris vowed to help.

As vital as its work is, Ali Forney is only a drop in the bucket. There are an estimated 3,800 homeless youth in New York, Chris says.

Forty percent are LGBT. The center provides only 250 beds. Still, it's something.

"I don't have the money to get Ali Forney back on its feet myself. But I could raise a little bit," Chris says. "And if I raised awareness, too, that might lead to something."

He chose a date – Dec. 1 – and spent three weeks spreading the word via social media. Donors could contribute any amount; suggestions included \$32 (a dollar for every mile he figured he'd run), \$50 (a dollar for every kilometer), or whatever else anyone wanted.

He also gathered prizes to raffle off to contributors.

Chris started and finished at the United Nations. And he started and finished alone.

"A lot of teammates and friends offered to join," he notes. "But it was important for me to do this by myself."

He wore no headphones; he just ran, and reflected. At one point he stopped at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal to warm his hands. "I realized, if I was homeless I couldn't just do that," he says. "I'd have to really think about things like where I could use the bathroom." He carried a bit of food, but dropped some along the way. "If I was homeless, losing that food would have meant a lot more."

Chris' run took 5 hours and 18 minutes. He felt pretty good until Mile 25. At Mile 30, he really started to feel the effects. But – like homeless youth with no other options – he kept going.

When it was over, he had an hour to shower, and get to work.

The Ali Forney Center had no idea who Chris was. They still might not. That's not the point, he says. "This isn't about me. It's about getting the word out, and helping an organization that helps kids who need help."

Chris continues to get the word out. And he continues to accept donations. The website is www.aliforneycenter.org. Search there for “Mosier” and give what you can.

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



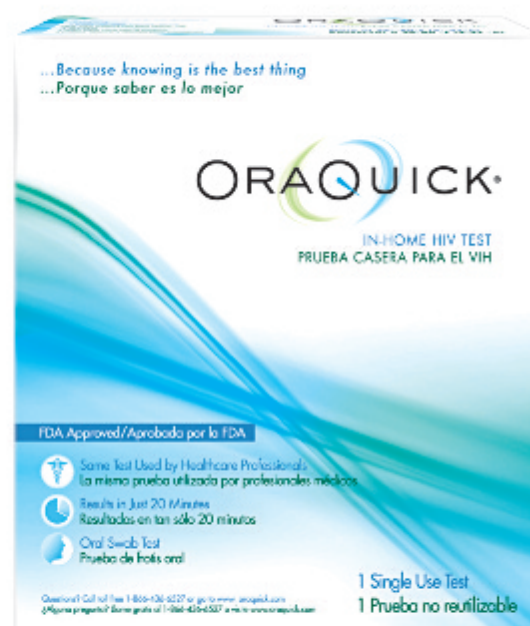
• TRT is Now Boston Based, New England Read! •

© 2012 OraSure Technologies, Inc.
OQ-C008 0712



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

Testing for HIV is
everyone's thing.



Introducing the first in-home oral HIV test

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

Knowing is the best thing.™

Available at your local retailer or OraQuick.com

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