

The Rainbow Times

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

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PHOTO: PAYNE FOR STATE REP.



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CABO: The leader in LGBT business building within the CT community

By: Jenn Tracz

I am pleased to announce the new relationship between *The Rainbow Times* and the Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunities (CABO).

CABO is Connecticut's first and only lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender chamber of commerce. CABO's mission is to focus on creating and enhancing business opportunities for LGBT and LGBT-friendly organizations throughout Connecticut and surrounding states.

The Rainbow Times has been a member of CABO for several years and just recently became the Corporate Print Media Sponsor for CABO. As the executive director I've taken on the role as a business matchmaker.

Our membership consists of non-profits, small businesses and corporations all with unique offerings to one another.

The Rainbow Times is a great resource to all levels of our membership by providing great content and great opportunities to members of CABO.

We have experienced a tremendous amount of growth in the first 6 months of this year. We have brought on three new major sponsors, *Foxwoods*, *Comcast* and *The Rainbow Times*. These three sponsors came to CABO because they have a commitment to support the gay and lesbian community at large.



Jenn Tracz

We are living in a time of great change where commitment to the community benefits us all; not only as individuals, but as employees of large corporations, small non-profits and as business owners.

CABO is your resource to doing business with those who are part of the community and/or support the community. You can shop with confidence when you see the red and purple CABO logo displayed on the store-front of a window or on a member's website. I hope you utilize our online member directory as your first stop to doing business in Connecticut.

CABO holds monthly events in North Haven and in West Hartford, as well as other open house events taking place throughout the state. For more details on CABO events in your

area, visit www.TheCABO.org.

If you have any questions or comments, I am always available via e-mail and would be happy to talk with you. Send me an e-mail today at jtracz@TheCABO.org.



Just Ask! Advice Column

By: Tetty Gorfine*/TRT Columnist

Hello Tetty:

I have been in relationship with my girlfriend for two years. I do love her but I can't stand it any longer. She wants to have sex at least every day and I have no space for myself. When I'm reading, she wants to know what it is and then begins a conversation with me. She has to go out with my friends all the time. I don't want to leave her but I don't know what to do.

Helpless, Eve

Hi Eve:

You are not alone in your desire to balance your relationship with your own individual needs. It is common for

al, she is hoping that you can fill the gaps or comfort old hurts. It does not surprise me that you are struggling with this. For you though, the question is why you haven't been able to tell her how you feel.

If you've been reading this column you have heard me talk about how communication is a vital cornerstone of a healthy relationship. I realize that speaking your mind may bring tension to your relationship. But you are already experiencing a lot of tension and



Tetty Gorfine

... speaking your mind may bring tension to your relationship. But you are already experiencing a lot of tension and not actively working on it will cause it to build. The longer tensions build, the stormier the result when it finally comes out.

not actively working on it will cause it to build. The longer tensions build, the stormier the result when it finally comes out.

My suggestion to you, Eve, is to begin to talk more with your partner about your feelings and needs. Tell her when you want to have sex and when you do not. Try to talk to her about your feelings, with statements that begin with "I feel, I need," rather than "you're doing this." In general, people respond much more openly when they hear statements about the

speaker rather accusations about themselves. And, really, what you are asking for is about you and not what she is doing wrong.

Speak lovingly and tell her what you do want

See Express Yourself on page 3

The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something!

By: Suzan Ambrose*/TRT Columnist

Female orgasms are in the news. Or should I say, lack of such things is what is making the news this week. But this is no "Girls Gone Wild" segment; rather, more like girls getting sleepy. Viagra for chicks appears to be a bust.

The female equivalent to Viagra has fallen "short" of its intended mission; i.e.: to give women a boost in their sex lives. Ah, the mysteries of women ... their drive, interests, orgasm and ejaculation concerns.

"What? Women can *ejaculate*?" Oh yes! This is one mystery that we can clear up now. Even if you or your partner have yet to experience this normal (but almost invisible topic of discussion at the dinner table!) female function, don't despair; it doesn't mean it won't ever happen. One just needs to follow your own personal yellow brick road to Oz ... but it's probably not the one where the pretty pink pill lives.

What drives women's sexual desires, interests and makes them as happy as a well-oiled engine at Jiffy Lube? After countless studies and tests of some sort (oh, to be in *that* sample group!), experts are finally coming up with something most women have known for years: it's not *just* about blood to the genitals.

With Viagra in men, it's a fairly simple "cure" for sexual impotence. Just increase blood flow to the penis, and *viola!* If it's hard,



all's well in Denmark. Not that society appears to want men to show the slightest bit of interest or work at getting their partners or themselves in the mood ... nope! Just

take a pill! Viagra becomes a simple and easy way to stave off any real mental exercise in the lovemaking department.

No wonder the (probably all male) scientists at Boehringer Ingelheim, who have created the drug flibanserin for premenopausal women (a group who consistently report a lack of sex drive) aren't having any real luck in coming up with a drug that gets women hot and bothered. I mean, we lesbians have been working on this conundrum our whole lives, and we know how complex the female persona is concerning this subject. Why, many of us have devoted our entire lives to solving this little puzzle! This is where a little guidance from an ancient text might help. And no, I'm not referring to my diary, although much could be gleaned from such an exploration.

If one studies the *Kama Sutra*, or rules of love, a little clarity can appear. The *Kama Sutra* is one of the ancient Indian texts concerning wisdom and the aims of life. Mentioned for one to ensure a good life are: virtuous living, material prosperity, aesthetic and erotic pleasure.

According to *SpaceandMotion.com*: "Of the

See Couch on page 13

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I thought that Jason Lydon's story was really good, and liked his emphasis on protection and consenting sex.

—Ramon S., Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

Katherine Patrick's story by Susan Ryan Vollmar was extremely exciting! The young Patrick sounds like her father and seems prepared for the task at hand. If there's someone that can get the LGBT crowd aroused, that someone is Katherine. I'll support her and she's very nice looking too!

—Jan S., Cambridge, MA

Dear Editor,

I liked Susan Ryan-Vollmar's story on Gov. Deval Patrick's daughter Katherine. I like the impartial focus of it and enjoyed reading about the young woman's strong desire to help her father's campaign. Her involvement at such a young age makes her a pivotal presence on Gov. Patrick's campaign now and opens up her possibilities for a political career of her own. I admire that drive that our younger generations are showing and she's a Smithie too!

—Martin S., Northampton, MA

Dear Editor,

Deja Nicole Greenlaw's story about bathroom usage is right on the money! I am a pre-op trans man and I've had so many issues when I have to go to the bathroom. Often times, I simply don't go, to avoid any problems, harassment or insults. It's sad that we, trans folks, have to even go to that extreme to feel accepted or to use the bathroom.

—Ray M., Hartford, CT

See Letters on page 14

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Express Yourself

important.

People can look to their partners and their relationship to satisfy all their needs. Since no two people are alike, there will always be differences in tastes, preferences and needs. Each person entering into a new relationship brings with them all their life experiences. These include all the good things as well as all the old hurts. Unintentionally, people hope their new relationship will fill in where life has otherwise fallen short.

Your partner seems to be asking that you provide more than you can. Likely unintention-

Cambridge welcomes 3rd openly gay mayor

Eastern MA News

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, MA—Cambridge Mayor David Maher caused a stir when he announced he is gay during the city's annual Pride brunch earlier this month.

"In the early 1990s my city council colleague Ken Reeves came out as the first openly gay mayor of Cambridge – since that time Denise Simmons and I have both had the privilege and honor of serving as mayor," he told the crowd assembled on June 12 inside the Council Chambers.

The 51-year-old mayor acknowledged that he fits a recent trend: the past two mayors of the city have also been openly gay. He has been mayor since last February, when his fellow councilors selected him to fill that position.

"I have never made a secret about who I am or what I am," he told the Cambridge Chronicle. "I've tried very hard to separate my public life from my private life."

The paper reported that the mayor has been in a committed relationship for more than 30 years.

Last year, Simmons made headlines when she married her longtime partner Mattie B. Hayes in a predominantly African-American church, a historic first.

In his speech, Maher also recognized many history-making moments in the LGBT community – the first same-sex marriage that took place in Cambridge in 2004, the 40th anniversary of Boston's Gay Pride, the 41st anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York City that paved the way for the gay rights movement, and the 20th anniversary of the Pride Brunch in Cambridge.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE
Cambridge Mayor, David Maher

Maher graduated from Suffolk University School of Management and began his career in local government in 1991 when he was elected to the Cambridge School Committee, according to his website. After serving four terms on the School Committee, Maher was elected to the Cambridge City Council in 1999.

Maher has chaired several of the council's most important committees: serving as Chair of the Finance Committee, Chairman of the Government Operations and Rules Committee, Co-Chair of the Ordinance Committee for six years and founder and first Chairman of the University Relations Committee.

Maher had been the director of development for Cambridge Family and Children's Service, a multi-service, non-profit agency.

Express Yourself from page 2

and what you appreciate in your relationship. She might feel some hurt or rejection so speaking with kindness is important. We all grow and listen much more out of love and kindness than judgment.

Eve, you raise a very good issue here, one that will indeed resonant with many other readers. Being able to speak needs and wishes is important to all of us and I thank you for raising this.

Good luck to you, Tetty

C'mon Out! - Submit your questions to Tetty Gorfine, Director of LifeCourse Counseling Center. Simply go to www.lifecourse.net and click on "Ask Us A Question." All questions will be answered on the bulletin board. One or two will be printed next month here in The Rainbow Times.

Tetty has also been a psychotherapist since 1980. She has worked extensively with LGBTQ individuals, couples and groups and has supervised both clinicians and therapists in training. Her vision and leadership spirited nearly all of LifeCourse Counseling Center's programs. Tetty has also been on numerous radio talk shows and television programs. She has presented at professional conferences on topics pertinent to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

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Text by John Cameron Mitchell
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Mohegan Sun a world at play

Faith, Family, and God: On being remembered

In the Name of God

By: Paul P. Jesep*/TRT Columnist

Earlier this month an aunt transitioned from this life after a prolonged, very difficult illness that no one deserves. I sincerely pray my aunt is in a better place, has rejoined friends and family that have gone before, and has been forgiven for wrongs she may have committed. How she'll be remembered and who will miss her is tough to say.

My aunt probably wrestled with demons buried deep in her subconscious. Her childhood during the Great Depression in a struggling mill town was not charmed. She grew up in an era when national unemployment exceeded 33 percent and lines for soup and blankets wrapped around city hall. In those days people even took tissue wrapped around fruit at the grocery store for toilet paper.

The loss of her first child to polio no doubt played a role in how she saw and engaged the world. Her second son became an abusive alcoholic who tormented her for decades before his death from cirrhosis. Some said my aunt re-

ceived back what she had raised for being deceitful, manipulative, and disingenuous. She had no qualms using people and often did. She seemed to enjoy playing people off of one another. The woman may have even taken some satisfaction in seeing the children of other parents fail.

As I reflect on her life she had a peasant-minded survival mentality. One memory I have is when she called the city's animal control officer to take away her family's arthritic stricken dog who at 16 sometimes lost control of its bowels. Laurie was the basset hound's name. Sweet. Gentle. Loving. Protective. My aunt had Laurie carted off in a truck to be euthanized, refusing to claim ownership.

She grew up at time when unwanted kittens or puppies were sometimes put in a bag with a stone and thrown into a river. This was part of life during the Great Depression in some parts of the country.

In later years, she took for granted the gracious and generous help of the few individuals who gave of their time. On the other hand, years before, she had taken in an older sister who had a life-changing emotional breakdown. The sister lived with my aunt and her husband for more than 30 years.

See Remembered on page 7

Someone's death should give everyone pause to think about how he or she is living their life. Is it with purpose? What kind of purpose?

Physics-inspired contemporary ballet work comes to the Pillow

BECKET, MA—Jacob's Pillow Dance presents *Armitage Gone! Dance in Three Theories*, a new contemporary ballet work choreographed by Artistic Director Karole Armitage and inspired by physicist Brian Greene's best-selling book *The Elegant Universe* July 14-18.

A former member of the Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, Armitage has worked with Mikhail Baryshnikov, Merce Cunningham and Madonna, and her dance repertoire ranges from ballet to a Tony Award nomination for the Broadway show, *Hair*.

In June, Armitage will create a world premiere on the dancers of Ballet Program of The School at Jacob's Pillow in just four days, which will premiere at the Season Opening Gala on June 19.

This new work, titled *Red*, features a music score by Boston-based composer Christine Southworth and will be performed by 22 dancers of the Ballet Program hailing from Argentina, Canada, Finland, France and across the U.S.

Greene's book *The Elegant Universe* details the inherent conflict between the two great pillars of modern theoretical physics, quantum

mechanics and Einstein's general theory of relativity. It ventures into the ideas emerging from attempts to resolve the conflict, particularly string theory. Using concepts specific to



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JACOB'S PILLOW

each theory as a springboard to generate inventive movement, Armitage has created a contemporary ballet work in three distinct sections. Each section, *Relativity*, *Quantum*, and *String*, is defined by its own dance structure and musical language. For Armitage, contemporary physics is replete with visual metaphor and she uses such principles as a means for exploring new possibilities in movement and spatial patterning.

A work for 11 dancers, *Three Theories* is set to a commissioned score by composer Rhys Chatham, Sangeeta Shankar's South Indian Classical Carnatic violin music, and John Luther Adams's evocative *"Dark Waves."* The dance features stark lighting design by longtime collaborator Clifton Taylor and costumes by Deanna Berg.

Karole Armitage began her career in 1973 as a member of the Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève,

See Jacob's Pillow on page 11

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DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD: Will Heather Matarazzo go Helter Skelter?

Entertainment News

By: Romeo San Vicente*

John Waters' *Role Models* one for friends and "family"

It's been more than 40 years since members of the Charles Manson "family" committed the horrifying Tate/LaBianca murders, but it's a story that continues to captivate the public imagination.

John Waters' latest book, *Role Models*, describes his decades-old friendship with penitent and rehabilitated Manson-ite Leslie Van Houten – and now casting buzz suggests that lesbian actress Heather Matarazzo (*Saved!*, *Welcome to the Dollhouse*) will join the cast of *Manson Girls*, a new drama about the troubled young female hippies who were entranced by this psychopath, from writer-director Susana Lo, a TV vet making her feature debut. There's also talk that Q'orianka Kilcher, who memorably played Pocahontas in Terence Malick's underappreciated *The New World*, will join the cast as well. *Manson Girls* could creepy-crawl its way into theaters in 2011 if these young actresses decide to put X's on their foreheads sooner rather than later. And it's always a pleasure to

see Matarazzo working, so here's hoping it happens.

Crawford gets caught in *Misunderstanding*

Chace Crawford – that rare celebrity who can make even a mug shot look flattering, even when Gawker and other sites endlessly speculate about his sexuality – is keeping his burgeoning big-screen career going during his hiatus from TV hit *Gossip Girl*. In addition to appearing in this summer's *Twelve*, from gay director Joel Schumacher, Crawford has signed onto *Peace, Love and Misunderstanding*, a '60s-set dramedy from director Bruce Beresford (*Driving Miss Daisy*, *Breaker Morant*). Catherine Keener stars as a conservative lawyer who, after her divorce, takes her teenage children to visit her hippie grandmother (Jane Fonda) at Woodstock; what's supposed to be a peaceful retreat just winds up reminding Keener's character why she left home in the first place. TV hunk Crawford will play an anti-war townie who hooks up with Keener's politically active daughter. Shooting starts



Romeo San Vicente

in July—time for the actor to grow out his hair and/or be fit with appropriately groovy extensions—and the film is set to open in 2011.

Mapa and Plotnick make *HSM* sequel more *Fabulous*

For all their squeaky clean Disney Channel-ness, the *High School Musical* franchise has always been fervently gay-adjacent. (They tried hooking up Lucas Grabeel's Ryan with that songwriter girl, but you know that character is going to start dating boys the second he gets to college.) For *Sharpay's Fabulous Adventure*, they've gone full-tilt homo, hiring very funny and very gay actors Alec Mapa and Jack Plotnick for the supporting cast. This time, Sharpay (Asley Tisdale) dreams of making it big on Broadway, only to find that her little dog is more cast-able than she is. As an added bonus for queer viewers, there's also the presence of *Degrassi: The Next Generation*'s Lauren Collins; if her character here is anything like that show's Paige, expect Collins and Tisdale to enact a big-time Battle of the Blondes. This Disney Channel original is set to air next year; start stocking up on pink fuzzy pillows for your sofa.

Business is booming for Sean Hayes

Things were looking tough for Sean Hayes for a minute there – his coming-out interview in *The Advocate* came off as cranky and too-late, and then that *Newsweek* piece suggested he was too gay to be convincing as the hetero leading man of the Broadway revival *Promises, Promises*. It looked for a second like he was damned if he did and damned if he didn't. But the one-time *Will & Grace* star is having

the last laugh: He scored a Tony nod for the show, reviews for his gig as host of the Tony Awards were glowing, and his production company scored a hit with the sitcom *Hot in Cleveland*, which premiered to high ratings on TV Land. Hayes will be keeping his TV mogul hat firmly in place, with NBC Universal signing a two-year deal with Hazy Mills (his company with Todd Milliner) to develop new shows for network and cable. (You'll recall Hayes showing off his sitcom-creating acumen on Bravo's *Situation: Comedy*.) So yes, nay-sayers, this guy's officially a little more than "Just Jack."

*The last time Romeo San Vicente found himself in a hazy mill was the morning after he stumbled into that gay lumberjack bar. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeeplinsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.



Sean Hayes

PHOTO: WARNER BROS. PICTURES

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Close Encounters with my own kind: Why I might just be a Gaysogynist

By: Mikey Rox*/TRT Special

As summertime prepares to unleash its perspiratory fury, I'm asked the same question over and over regarding my warm-weather plans – "Going to Fire Island?"

The answer is always no. I've never been to Fire Island – and it's not on the itinerary this year. Understand that I'm not opposed to spending time on that isle of misfit homos and three-day hangovers, but it's not on the top of my list. Never has been, never will be. And there are two reasons why.

The first reason is that last year I was hired to write a press release about a well-known gay area on Fire Island in advance of the summer

segregate myself. I want to enjoy a weekend away with my fiancé without having to flip-flop stomp a triffin' hoe for not keeping his hands to himself. All valid reasons to avoid Fire Island, in my opinion.

I can't say that I was surprised when the middle-aged douche bag nearly lost his mind (and remaining strands of silver hair) and verbally assaulted me by suggesting that I'm discriminating against my "own kind" by choosing not to participate in gay activities.

As the meeting continued to take a dusty-white nosedive, he essentially fired me from the project because, as someone who's never been to Fire Island, I wasn't "capable of writing a good press release" about it.

I disagreed (I'm an award-winning writer, and I know it doesn't take a Pulitzer Prize to churn out one sheet of marketing copy about a vacation destination),

but I respected his opinion. I was offended, though, when he suggested that I didn't like gay people.

That day and his words have stayed with me since then. In fact, I've thought about it a lot. And as much as I wanted to knock him off his gold-plated throne then, now I think he was right. Not so much about my capability as a writer (I still think I could vomit a press release in my sleep that'll have the boys lining up at the dock), but rather that I have something against

the gays.

I don't have an issue with all gays, mind you – I have very good gay friends – but for the most part I don't want to have anything to do with all the drama that follows young (and eternally, if not tragically young) gay guys around like a swarm of venomous bees.

Take a night out with my fiancé this past winter, for instance.

After dinner we stopped by Barracuda, a divey watering hole in NYC's Chelsea neighborhood, for a couple of drinks. We scored a few chairs around a table near the back where we sat with some friends. While I was chatting with our pals, a waiter took it upon himself to make a move on my fiancé. Immediately, my guy explained to him that he wasn't interested and that he was with me. As they say, that's all she wrote.

Like the Fire Island man who fired me, this control freak waiter doesn't like when people tell him things he doesn't want to hear. So he flipped his s&#%.

A few minutes later (I'm still chatting with my friends, unaware of what had happened between my fiancé and the waiter), the waiter comes up to me to ask if I'd like another beer. He leaves for a minute and returns to hand me an empty bottle. Naturally I was confused.

"What am I supposed to do with this?" I asked him.

"You figure it out," he snapped back.

Pause. Count to 10. Recoil.

As I reached down to place the bottle on the floor, the waiter barked, with an effeminate growl and what can only be described as signature snark, "If you put that bottle on the floor, I'll have you kicked out of here."

Savor this, because I did: If I could have dropped that bottle on the floor any faster, I'd have set a world record.

True to his threat, the waiter had security escort me out. But what he didn't know is that I'm not a pushover.

I exited the bar peacefully and asked for a

manager. I explained the situation – how the waiter hit on my fiancé, was turned down, got his 2(x)ist all twisted, asked me if I wanted another drink, then handed me an empty beer.

Five minutes later, the waiter was leaving the bar – likely heading home to search for a new job.

That situation is reason number two why I don't like gay people. Most of us don't know

when enough is enough. We think we can have whatever we want when we want it – and if we don't get it, we throw tantrums wherever the hell the most people are congregating.

It's not becoming, and it's not something of which I want to be a part. Which brings me back to taking a gay vacay. Why in the name of Lady Gaga would I drop all kinds of cash to spend a weekend covering my crotch, defending my relationship, and otherwise telling b\$%&*##@ to back the f\$#@ off.

It's absurd. And it's a primary reason why the majority of the world doesn't like us.

We segregate ourselves, but demand inclusion. We cry discrimination, yet we discriminate. We claim gay isn't all about sex, but many of us are so hypersexualized that we need an intervention.

Yeah, I'm probably going to get a lot of flack for this article. But I don't give a damn. It's about time someone told all the uppity, entitled gays out there to grow up.

As someone dear to me once said after an encounter with a particularly nasty person: "She thinks she's hot snot on a silver platter, but she's just a cold booger on a paper plate." The moral of that anecdote? The world doesn't revolve around you, honey.

Regardless of what they told you at Abercrombie training camp.

**Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer/journalist and the principal of Paper Rox Scissors, a marketing and advertising company in New York City. He can be reached at mikey@paperroxscissors.com.*



Mikey Rox

But I don't give a damn. It's about time someone told all the uppity, entitled gays out there to grow up.

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State Rep. candidate Payne points to her comprehensive community service record

Boston News

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, MA—Karen Payne is running as a Democrat for state representative for the 6th Suffolk District in Massachusetts. Payne is an activist in the lesbian community who has lived in Dorchester, Mattapan and Roslindale.

If successful in November's elections, Payne will be the second openly lesbian African American elected official in Massachusetts.

Denise Simmons became the first openly lesbian African American elected official in 2001 when she was voted City Councilor of Cambridge. Simmons went on to become the nation's first openly lesbian African American mayor in 2008.

Payne noted that her status as an openly gay politician is not the most important thing about her candidacy: "I am running because I have worked in the community. I am running for the 6th Suffolk and to serve all the people in the district which includes the GLBT community."

Payne wants to focus on health care, jobs, and education.

"I really want to serve the district on job creation, sustainable jobs, implementing education reform and some of the other recommendations that came out of the education dropout prevention commission," Payne said. "There's a huge public safety issue that we have in the 6th Suffolk District that needs to be addressed."

Payne feels her experience as a community

activist and working with state leaders on major issues will be a huge benefit to serving in government.

"I'm committed, I have knowledge of what's going on in the community," Payne said. "I really sincerely care about what goes on not only in the (6th Suffolk District) but in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Payne worked for nearly 25 years at New England Medical Center as a staff technologist, a computer tomography technologist, computer operator, program analyst and data center manager. She made a career change to IBM/Lotus to become the Data Center manager and advanced to Northeast Region IT Disaster Recovery Manager.

Payne has been a member of the Boston branch of the NAACP since 2002, serving as president from 2007 through 2010. As president of the NAACP, she led the organization's involvement in the Multicultural Dropout Outreach Collaborative, led the organization through its 100th anniversary of the Niagara Movement, the organization's 100th year celebration and membership drive to boost local membership, collaborated with the "Test 1 Million Campaign" to lead six HIV/AIDS awareness and testing events, worked with the American Heart Association on their stroke awareness campaign and worked closely with the Boston Police Department, Boston Public Schools and other organizations to curb youth violence and to persuade youth from dropping out of school.

Payne has led six HIV/AIDS awareness events, has served as the Democratic State Committeewoman since 2004, and is Co-chair

of the Ward 19 Democratic Committee. She's the recipient of the 2007 E-5 Community Service Award from the Boston Police Department's Neighborhood Crime Watch Unit; the 2009 Women of Color: Changing Our World Award, given by the Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star; and received the 2009 Unsung Heroines Award.

She is a member and past co-chair of the Healthy Roslindale Coalition, past volunteer and board member of the Hyde Park YMCA, an elected Democratic State Committeewoman since 2004, co-chair of the Ward 19 Democratic Committee and former Campaign Treasurer for State Representative Liz Malia, who has endorsed Payne's campaign.

Payne has won the endorsement of several other politicians including state Rep. Willie Mae Allen, Gloria Fox and Alice Wolf and Cambridge City Councilors Rob Consalvo, John Tobin and Maureen Feeney.

"I have not only support from elected officials but from the grassroots in the community," Payne added.



PHOTO: PAYNE FOR STATE REP.
Karen Payne

Remembered from page 4

My aunt also let me play as a child at the boat yard she and her husband operated. I was always well fed and she had a birthday cake for me every year. At Christmas there were gifts.

My aunt was a child of the Creator. She shouldn't be judged. Things are rarely black and white. God will have to sort things out. Her passing is an opportunity for reflection for me and anyone reading this column.

How someone is remembered says a lot about a person's character, reputation, and how they treated people. Someone's death should give everyone pause to think about how he or she is living their life. Is it with purpose? What kind of purpose? In the end, my aunt didn't know any better. Her limitations were apparent.

Individuals who are sensitive to their surroundings, have a consciousness that transcends status, consumerism, and materialism are challenged to reflect on a daily basis.

Life isn't about being on, staying on, or trying to get on "the A-List." In the end it won't matter. After you're gone no one will remember and no one will care. What people will remember is whether you were fair, decent, honest, likeable, and compassionate, among other things. Do you live with purpose?

**Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. His new book, "Credit Card Usury and the Christian Failure to Stop It," was released in June. He may be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.*

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GLAD to honor Bishop Robinson with *Spirit of Justice Award*

BOSTON, MA—GLAD is proud to announce the Right Rev. V. Gene Robinson, the first openly gay person to be elected bishop in the Episcopal Church, will receive the 2010 *Spirit of Justice Award*.

Bishop Robinson is the leader of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire. Since his consecration in 2003, he has become one of the most visible, eloquent and respected advocates for LGBT equality nationally and internationally, despite intense opposition from the right wing of his denomination, which continues to oppose his ordination because he is a proud gay man.

"Bishop Robinson's fearless advocacy for LGBT civil rights is an inspiration to all of us working toward the day when each and every member of our community is recognized as a full and equal member of society," said GLAD Executive Director Lee Swislow. "We are so pleased to honor him this year."

"Though I once resisted being known as 'the gay bishop,' I realize that it's given me an opportunity to speak out for LGBT people around the world and I embrace that opportunity," said Robinson. "I'm proud that GLAD, an organization that has successfully taken on some of the toughest battles in the LGBT movement, will recognize my work."

GLAD created the Spirit of Justice Award to recognize one individual whose work and achievements reflect a profound dedication to our ideal of a just society. Bishop Robinson will accept the award at the 11th Annual Spirit of Justice Award Dinner on Friday, October 29 at the Westin Copley Place Hotel in Boston.

About 1,000 people are expected to attend the dinner, GLAD's signature fundraising event, co-chaired this year by Marianne Monte and Pete Dziedzic.

Since becoming a focal point of both celebration and condemnation within the Episcopal Church USA and the worldwide Anglican Communion, Bishop Robinson has actively participated in the LGBT movement, including testifying in favor of marriage equality at the New Hampshire State House last year. He has also been vocal about the need for full acceptance of LGBT people in faith communities; last month he sent a letter to Pope Benedict urging the Catholic Church to stop scapegoating gay men in the clergy sexual abuse crisis. He was featured in the 2007 documentary "For the Bible Tells Me So," and chronicled his story in the 2008 memoir *In the Eye of the Storm: Swept to the Center by God*. In 2009, Bishop Robinson gave the invocation at the opening inaugural ceremonies for President Barack Obama at the Lincoln Memorial.

He has also worked to end HIV/AIDS in both the U.S. and Africa and has advocated within his denomination for anti-racism training and clergy wellness programs.

Bishop Robinson is married to Mark Andrew, who works for New Hampshire's Department of Safety. He has two grown daughters and two granddaughters.

Major sponsors for the 11th Annual Spirit of Justice Award Dinner include Bingham McCutchen LLP, DLA Piper, The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc. and Reproductive Science Center. To become a sponsor or purchase tickets, please visit www.glad.org.

GLAD
EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

Creep of the Week: Family Research Council, yet again

By: D'Anne Witkowski*

Ah, yes. The fabled "Gay Agenda." Having invested so much in the fight against it, anti-gay groups will leap at anything that they can hold up as proof that a sinister gay agenda exists.

So when the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C., released "Agenda: 2010," the Family Research Council pounced, claws out.

GLAA calls "Agenda: 2010" an "election-year briefing paper on local LGBT issues." FRC calls it a veritable blueprint for a hostile LGBT takeover.

In a June 16 Washington Update post, FRC posits, "What's left for homosexual activists to do after they've trampled voters on their way to the altar? In Washington, D.C., where same-sex 'marriage' is legal (for now), the gay and lesbian crowd is just getting warmed up."

The post is accompanied by a graphic reading of the "Homosexual Agenda" alongside a list of things like innocence, family and public health. Through each item is a blurry red line with a few drops of red here and there. Presumably it's supposed to be spray paint (What, is the gay agenda written on the wall of an abandoned warehouse?) but it could also be blood. AIDS blood, of course.

"Apparently, their updated political agenda spans everything from classroom infiltration to legalizing prostitution," FRC's message continues.

I have to ask – what does "classroom infiltration" even mean? Sending in undercover homos to high schools like a gay "21 Jump Street"? And I have a follow-up: Will there be a reality show?

So just what is the "everything" this new

agenda covers?

"Local groups will try to elect more homosexuals to places of power, push in-school gay-straight alliances, support D.C. sex-oriented businesses, defend adult entertainment, grant special perks to cross-dressing prisoners, force same-sex adoption and legalize sex trafficking," claims FRC.

Woah. Sounds ambitious. But let's address some of these claims.

First of all, what FRC calls "cross-dressing prisoners" are often actually transgender people, some who have broken the law, others who have been victims of crimes. The "special perks" include not throwing them into jail cells based solely on what's between their legs. GLAA also doesn't want to see them "denied appropriate health care, sexually assaulted, abusively strip-searched, (or) placed in protective custody that amounts to punishing the victim," which are some of the current "perks" of being a tranny.

As for legalizing "sex trafficking," that's not quite it. GLAA does advocate legalizing prostitution. While a controversial position, they're hardly calling for a sex-for-money-free-for-all. GLAA raises a lot of important issues, including "survival sex," where people – frequently gay runaways and transgender people – turn to prostitution out of desperation, when it's the only option they have left. Throwing them in jail doesn't address the core problems.

"If (policymakers) want to provide safer, healthier and more sustainable alternatives to survival sex, you can support the creation of drop-in centers, transitional housing, job training, counseling, addiction recovery programs and other services for at-risk populations," GLAA's agenda reads.

See Creep on page 14

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Wright-ing History: Open lesbian Country singer, Chely Wright, on “coming out”

By: **Chris Azzopardi**

Chely Wright is sitting in the sun on the backyard patio of her New York home while her two Chihuahuas run wild. Since making national headlines for being the first major country artist to come out, the Kansas native hasn't had many days like this in the past few weeks. Her recently released memoir, *Like Me*, chronicles her journey to live openly, after spending much of her career – which really hit its stride in the late '90s with two country chart-toppers, “Shut Up and Drive” and “Single White Female” – hiding her sexuality under faux relationships with men and songs about them. *Lifted Off the Ground*, her seventh CD, is also her first album since coming out, and a documentary due in the fall, *Wish Me Away*, will capture her life over the last couple of years.

Wright, 39, spoke to us as a new person, gearing up to celebrate her newfound freedom at Pride festivals across the country. She revealed what it was like attending her first festival while she was still publicly closeted, defended her decision to come out as something more than a publicity stunt, and criticized country music “friends” for not reaching out.

Chris Azzopardi: What have these last few weeks been like since coming out?

Chely Wright: Pretty amazing. Chaotic and hectic as far as scheduling, but really great. I've had a few people call me in the past few weeks from Nashville and say, “I just wanted to reach out to

you in this difficult time.” And I'm like, What are you talking about? This is not the difficult time. The past 16 years of my life in hiding my career – that was the difficult time.

CA: Who's been reaching out? Country stars?

CW: Some. Mostly industry people, but some country artists.

CA: Did it help you come out knowing that several country artists – Rascal Flatts, Martina McBride, Reba McEntire and the Dixie Chicks – have addressed gay issues and their gay fans, affirming that they accept them?

CW: I haven't heard from any of those artists.

CA: No? But knowing that they were OK with gay people, did it make it easier for you to

open up about this?

CW: Again, there's a difference in talking the talk and walking the walk. When you say that and then when a gay artist that you know – that you've known for a long, long time – comes out and you don't reach out, I don't know what that means. I don't understand that.

CA: Do you expect them to?

CW: I expected to hear from them, and I didn't.

CA: Maybe they thought doing those interviews with gay publications were enough. But is it?

CW: Yeah, is it? I've been friends with Rascal Flatts. Martina and I have been friends for a long time. Reba and I were on the same label. One would think that in declaring we're good with gays, that when the very first commercial country music artist comes out those people who've made those declarations would send up a, “Hey, way to

go!” or something on Twitter – “Sending out some support to Chely!” – to at least send a signal to their gay fans that they do indeed support them, to galvanize their gay fans, not just me – see, we meant it when we said it.

CA: There's been talk about the timing of your coming out and the release of your book and CD. People are calling it a publicity stunt. How do you respond to that?

CW: Oh, I hadn't really heard that. Well, the book is my coming out story, so I have to put that out at the same time (laughs). I can tell you that the publicity stunt is my pretending to be straight my entire career. That's the publicity stunt.

CA: Being on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* recently was very emotional for you, and you explained to Ellen that her mom's book, *Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey*, helped you to come out.

CW: It did. As I told Ellen, it was bittersweet to read that book, because I read it well before I came out to my father, and it was torture for me because when I read it I just knew that I would never get to have a parent like that. I would never have the love and support of a parent like Ellen did. And lo and behold, I did.

CA: Didn't Ellen's coming out in the '90s push you farther into the closet?

CW: It did, because I happened to be watching her coming out with my dad and my sister – as I talked about on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* – and my dad flicked off the TV and said, “That's disgusting,” and I just had to reaffirm my commitment to myself that, holy crap, I'm never coming out. Fortunately, the minute I did come out to him in 2005, the minute that tiny word gay was attached to his daughter, it changed everything. I really believe that if we can attach hearts and faces and real people with that little word, the scariness of that little word – to people who don't understand it – can be minimized. That word is made to be something big and ominous and scary and it really changes when it's someone's cousin or son or aunt. It changes everything.

My dad said it so well on *Oprah*. Oprah asked my dad, “Stan, what changed for you? How did you come so far when you went from thinking gay was sick and perverted and sinful, to accepting your daughter when she came out to you?” And my dad looked at Oprah and said, “Oprah, I know her. That's the difference.”

CA: You're scheduled to appear at Pride festivals throughout the summer. Have you ever been to one?

CW: I was at New York's Pride two years ago.

CA: How does it feel to actually play a big part in Pride now?

CW: I can't wait. It will be, I'm sure, very emotional for me. You know, it's so funny – every gay person at some point has hidden. I do know that for sure. No one realizes on the first day that they're gay, and no one comes out on that day. Everyone hides at some point, but to have hidden the way that I've hidden for the different reasons that I've hidden, to come full circle and celebrate it and stand up in hopes to facilitate ease and understanding and education, has been really magical for me.

I'm getting letters from young people that are literally saying, “I was going to kill myself last week and your book saved my life.” I can't tell you how many of those letters I've gotten already. So I

think it'll be pretty emotional for me. And hopefully pretty fun, too!

CA: Will it be different for you now to sing songs about male lovers, like “Back of the Bottom Drawer?”

CW: Not at all. I'll sing those songs just like that. If I were a concert violinist and an orchestra leader put a piece of music perfectly written in

front of me, I would play it as written. I wouldn't interpret it my way. I wouldn't put an inflection in it. And there are some country music songs that were written correctly, and I feel like “Back of the Bottom Drawer” was. “Single White Female” was just as it should have been, too.

I never felt I was being tricky in any song I ever recorded, although I didn't do a lot of videos with male leads in them. If you go over the body of my video work, I think I only had two men in my videos.

CA: On purpose?

CW: Actually, no. I think it was a subtle choice on my part. I never overtly

said, “I don't want a male lead.” I naturally gravitated toward scripts where I was alone in the video and we had a vignette with another man and woman. But it was never discussed. I never said, “I don't want that because I am gay.” But I'll sing songs exactly as recorded; it's not to say I won't do “Single White Female” at a Pride festival and sing “Looking for a Girl Like You.” I might do that. I do have a sense of humor.

CA: You said Emily Saliers from the Indigo Girls – and now a friend of yours – said you were a bad lesbian because you didn't know their hit “Closer to Fine.” Do you feel like a bad lesbian?

CW: (Laughs) I'm getting up to speed. I'm catching up. I went to Melissa Etheridge's birthday party this weekend, so I'm doing my homework. Before, I wouldn't even buy a k.d. lang record in Nashville because the kids at the record store, they knew me, and I'd go in there and they'd go, “Chely, sign this!” I was afraid for anyone to see me buy anything gay, that's how afraid I was of anyone thinking anything. And I should've been buying k.d. lang records! Not just because I'm gay, but because she's frickin' amazing!

CA: Do you think that your sexuality will define you as an artist now – that you'll be known as “Country music lesbian Chely Wright?”

CW: Probably for a long time. And if the history books say, “Chely Wright, first openly gay commercial country artist” – if that's what it has to be, I'd rather it say that than “Chely Wright, committed suicide at age 36.” That's where I was. It was going to be either or.

CA: What do you hope other people can learn from your situation?

CW: That you might think you don't know a gay person, but you probably have someone in your family – one of your really good friends perhaps, or a neighbor that you really adore – who is so afraid to lose your love and affection and friendship that they are hiding this very important part of themselves from you. That if you really knew the truth about that person and the steps they were going through to hold on to you, it would probably melt your heart.

You hear a lot: We're everywhere. Well, we really are. And for some reason there's been a bubble over country music and people have believed that's where you can go to escape anything gay, and it's just not true. We're there. We've been there.

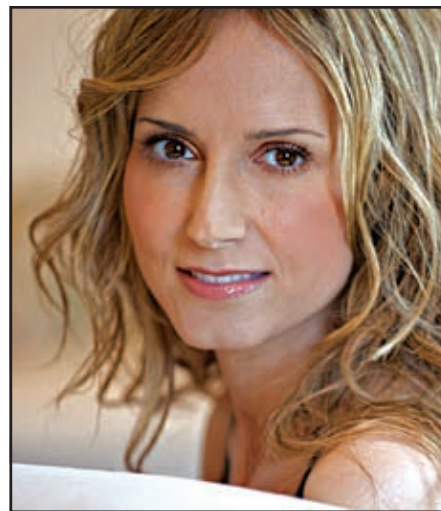


PHOTO: MICHAEL GRANBERRY & LAURA CROSTA

Chely Wright

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Cineasta de Puerto Rico es nuestro orgullo latino LGBT

Visión Latina



Por: Wilfred Labiosa*
Espero que todo/as hayan pasado un feliz junio de Orgullo LGBT, ¡pero la celebración sigue! Nos veremos en septiembre cuando la 7ma Celebración de Orgullo Latino LGBT se lleve a cabo en Boston.

Durante las celebraciones de Orgullo en Northampton, Boston y Providence, conocí a mucho/as de ustedes que leen esta columna y alguno/as sugirieron temas que quisieran ver en este espacio.

Decidí tomar una de las muchas recomendaciones que recibí. Entre estos es resaltar a personas en nuestra comunidad LGBT, así que lo voy hacer comenzando con esta columna.

Les presento a mi amiga, la cineasta Carmen Oquendo-Villar.

La conocí en 1990 cuando éramos estudiantes en la Universidad de Boston y desde entonces somos amigos.

Acaba de recibir la Beca Guggenheim. Las becas Guggenheim son otorgadas a hombres y mujeres que han demostrado una capacidad excepcional para un fructífero trabajo académico o para una excepcional habilidad creativa en las artes.

Desde el año 2001, sólo tres solicitantes puertorriqueños—incluyendo a la escritora Mayra Santos Febres—han recibido la beca en la competencia de América Latina y el Caribe.

Oquendo-Villar reside en Nueva York y Puerto Rico. Recibió su doctorado de Harvard en el año 2008 y es profesora auxiliar de Estudios Cinematográficos, Teoría de Medios y Producción de Cine en el State University of New York (SUNY).

Pero a pesar de todos estos logros, es más conocida como educadora y líder comunitaria en Estados Unidos y Latinoamérica. Utiliza su agilidad como cineasta en la producción de documentales sobre diferentes personalidades y temas de la comunidad LGBT. Nos presenta temas que nos pone a reflexionar y que otros/as no se atreven a cubrir.

Ha presentado sus documentales en festivales y organizaciones en España, Puerto Rico, Chile, Colombia, Cuba y en muchos Estados, entre otros lugares.

Oquendo-Villar trabaja el tema de género y sexualidad en sus películas *Boquita*(2005) y *Mizery*(2007), y las que están por completar, *La aguja*(2011) y *Diana de Santa Fe*(2012).

Este año estará en Puerto Rico finalizando *La aguja*, documental galardonado en 2009 con segundo lugar en la competencia de Documentales de HBO para obras en progreso.

El documental trata sobre industrias de belleza en Puerto Rico, específicamente la práctica y los ideales de belleza entre la comunidad transgénero en la isla.

La alarmante ola de crímenes de odio en Puerto Rico en contra de los miembros de la comunidad transgénero y LGBT le han conferido aún más urgencia al proyecto de ella, el cual ya es discutido en foros académicos en la isla e internacionalmente.

Ella siempre dice que se enamoró del medio por que le encanta ver rostros y siempre quiso divulgar el más allá de los rostros.

Su primer trabajo fue basado en la vida de la dominicana Boquita y su segunda obra se basó en la vida de la panameña Mizery, dos personalidades en la comunidad LGBT.

Estos dos documentales son extraordinarios, perfiles hechos con sutileza y pasión. Como parte de su beca, Oquendo-Villar completará un libro sobre el golpe de estado chileno de 1973.

El libro examinará el golpe como un evento mediático, con la figura del Gen. Augusto Pinochet como su principal icono político. El tomo se publicará en formato híbrido, con texto impreso y un componente multimedia de material de archivo y contenido generado por el usuario/lector. El componente multimedia se desarrollará en colaboración con el "Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics" de Nueva York, donde Oquendo-Villar es becaria.

A la vez, continúa su compromiso de educar al público general a través de Latinoamérica educando sobre la comunidad transgenerista.

Nunca pretende—y siempre lo enfatiza—que no es transgénero o que lo sabe todo. Pero sí sirve de puente entre la comunidad transgénero y el/la estudiante.

Siempre viene al salón con otros/as para que entre todo/as puedan educar a la comunidad en general de este importante segmento de nuestra comunidad. Su nuevo proyecto, *La aguja*, presenta la vida de José Quiñones, un hombre gay en Puerto Rico que fundó una clínica por debajo del radar para la cosmetología y le rinde servicios a la comunidad transgenerista local. La

cinta refleja las dificultades que enfrenta José, incluyendo su sufrimiento por la distancia entre él y su familia y su soledad.

La vida de Oquendo-Villar se asimila a todos los proyectos que produce. En su espacio, escribe y piensa en proyectos; en el ámbito público, es una artista que educa, una persona con mucho amor, alegría y cariño que lo comparte con su familia de sangre y con la familia que ha creado.

Verla en acción es increíble: se sumerge y no hay nada que la separe de su proyecto hasta que lo haya terminado.

Soy afortunado en conocerla y espero que ustedes conozcan un poco de ella cuando vean una de sus piezas artísticas, artículos, o libros. ¡Ella es Orgullo Latino LGBT! ¡Felicidades en tus trabajos y logros y sé que te veré con una nominación a un Oscar y estatuilla pronto!

Para ver un corto sobre *La Aguja*, visita www.somoslatinogslgbt.org o para ver *Boquita* o *Mizery* visita www.oquendovillar.com Su correo electrónico es coquendovillar@post.harvard.edu.

**Escrito en ambos idiomas por Wilfred Labiosa con información brindada por Carmen Oquendo-Villar. Editado por Natalia Muñoz. To read this story in English, please visit: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionjuly12010.*



PHOTO: TOMÁS SORONDO

Carmen Oquendo-Villar

this story in English, please visit: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionjuly12010.

Jacob's Pillow from page 4

Switzerland—a company devoted at the time exclusively to the repertory of George Balanchine—and she later danced with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Throughout the '80s, she led her own New York-based company and in 1987, Rudolf Nureyev asked Armitage to create a work for Paris Opera Ballet. Its success led to many European commissions and in 1990 Armitage chose to maintain her company to pursue work with major European ballet and opera companies. She has created dances for numerous companies including the White Oak Dance Project, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, Lyon Opera Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and most recently, Bern Ballet and Kansas City Ballet. She has worked on several feature films, including *The Golden Bowl* and *The White Countess* and has choreographed for pop icons Madonna and Michael Jackson.

The performance will take place at the Ted Shawn Theatre, July 14-17 at 8p.m., and July 17-18 at 2 p.m.

Free Pre-Show Talks with Jacob's Pillow Scholars-in-Residence are offered in Blake's Barn 30 minutes before every performance. A Post-Show talk will take place after the performance on July 15.

Tickets are \$58-63 and can be purchased online at jacobspillow.org, via phone at (413) 243.0745 or in person at the Jacob's Pillow Box Office.

Jacob's Pillow is located at 358 George Carter Road in Becket, MA, 01223 (10 minutes east on Route 20 from Mass Pike Exit 2). The Jacob's Pillow campus and theaters are handicapped-accessible.



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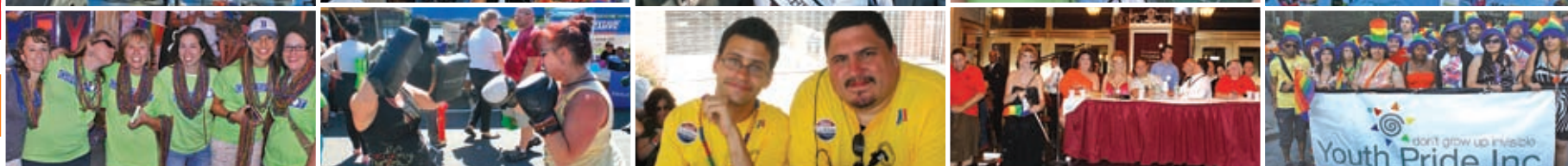
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Rulebook for closeted crossdressers tailored to each individual

Trans Opinions & More

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw/ TRT Columnist

There are many transgender people who are living openly out as trans, many who are living in stealth and many who are simply living in the closet.

I want to devote this column to those who are living in the closet, in particular about those who are male but have a need to express their feminine side now and then. Many of these people do not wish to change their bodies or to live full time as women.

As a matter of fact, they have no such thoughts and would never even consider changing genders. They are OK with being male for the greater part of their lives and they like to express their female side once in a while. These people are known in the community as cross dressers. You won't see most of them very much in public.

People cross dress for many reasons but the biggest one is that they feel relaxed and refreshed when they dress and express female. There's something in them that makes them feel a need to express in this way now and then. They truly enjoy their feminine



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

time but will gladly go back to their male persona when their femme time is up.

After a few hours of dressing they change and don their male clothes and cheerfully go back to their male lives. Dressing as a woman for brief periods is enough for them. Then they are refreshed, recharged

and ready to go back to being and expressing male!

Most of these cross dressers are married and may have wives who may have accepted their husband's desire to cross dress.

Usually there is not much understanding from her at first. There are fights and tears and some pretty intense times. Let's face it, it's hard for a wife to accept that her man likes to dress up as a woman now and then. Thoughts may run through her head such as "Is he gay? Does he want to become a woman? Am I not woman enough for him? Does this make me a lesbian? And so forth." To a straight woman with no knowledge of transgender people this can be very confusing and downright frighten-

ing for her.

It's a lot to throw at someone especially when it just suddenly appears without warning. The husband kept it so far deep down in his soul and suddenly it has to come out. It's confusing for him, too.

It's very helpful to meet other couples who are in similar situations. They meet, discuss questions trade thoughts and then they are on their way to deal with the issues with a new light. It usually does get easier after meeting and talking with other couples like themselves.

It can be a true test of the couple's love for each other. When I first came out in the early 2000s almost all of these couples ended up in divorce. It was just too much for their love to handle. Nowadays there are many couples who remain together and even grow closer to each other rather than further apart as they grow into this new part of their relationship. Once they get past the shock, the questions and finally the acceptance they really open up to each other and the relationship is taken to a new, more intense level. This is happening in the lives of unmarried couples as well.

There might be requests, rules and lines drawn that keep these relationships together. These folks are both in the closet and they wish to keep this part of their lives private.

Some of the rules might be "You can shave your legs only in the winter time. When summer comes you must let your leg hair grow so when you wear shorts no one will suspect anything" or "The children are coming this weekend so no trace of cross-dressing, please" or "Last weekend you dressed up so this weekend you have to take me somewhere nice." It's a give and take type of arrangement. I've seen this work for many couples when the husband is transgender.

After agreements and boundaries are explored and settled the couple begins their "new life" together and it often intensifies with trust, respect and love. One wife of a cross dresser will tell you that cross-dressing men actually make very good husbands -- they are attentive and loving and faithful and because of the very deep levels of communication that had to occur to get the couple this far, there is a very real deep bond between them.

I admire these couples and their work with the obstacles that they overcame to get where they are today. This is true love working at its best with give and take and understanding and loving and tears and joy and disagreements and sharing and going forward and deeper with their love and their lives. Bless these couples that make it work!

Ask a Transwoman: I dreamed the dream of being me

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist

Dear Lorelei,
Here's a question, and I hope it's not dumb: How old were you when you really knew you were in the wrong body? And, how did you go through the process, and live with that knowledge before transitioning?

—Linda Carragher Bourne

OK, so I doubt it's going to come as any surprise to you, Dear Readers, that I usually try to preserve the anonymity of the folks who write to me for this column. Even when they are perfectly willing to have their names associated with their questions, I often give them an alias because I want everyone to feel safe to ask the questions, especially questions that may not normally be OK to ask of a transperson.

If I can answer those questions, then hopefully another, shyer transperson won't have to. Plus the question can be answered with some degree of authenticity by a bona-fide transgender person, rather than by your friends at the bar.

This question, however, I decided to treat differently. First of all, it was posted quite publicly on my Facebook page. Secondly, it came from my mom. And I think that simple fact adds a whole new depth to what is possibly the second-most asked question that I get, not just as a columnist, but as a transgender female.

I'm betting many of you can guess what the first most asked question is ...

I'm telling you this is from my mom because it's wonderfully illustrative of how well many of

us keep our true gender identities hidden not just from the world, but also and often, from those close to us and even ourselves. (Also because I am incredibly lucky to have such a supportive family and it'll probably give my Mom an absolute thrill to see herself mentioned in my column!)

So, to the question, or rather the answer.

I have known, since as far back as I actually have memories, not necessarily that I was in the wrong body, but that there was some major discrepancy between the gender I was being labeled as and the gender I actually was. I can remember sneaking into my parent's room when I was 4 years old to try on my mom's pantyhose. I knew somehow that was not something boys did and learned quickly to be fairly secretive about it. It took me years to find the language and the ideas to express my true identity. But I knew even then that something was definitely off.

A brief caveat. This I've-known-since-birth thing is a common idea you will hear expressed by both trans and gay people and it often seems to hold true. It is certainly true for me. But, I would be remiss if I didn't at least mention that I have encountered any number of people who did not realize they were transgender until much later in life and I do not believe for even a second that this difference makes them any less authentic.

For me the processing and the "living with" of this self-knowledge were by far the most difficult part. I had perhaps some of the least gender oppressive parents you could ask for. They were pot-smoking hippies (sorry to out you Mom and Dad!), who taught me peace and love and all that stuff.

I have no doubt I could have had a Barbie if I'd been brave enough to ask. As it was, the first GI Joe action figure I asked my dad to buy for me was Scarlett, the bad-ass and beautiful, cross-bow wielding woman on the Joe Team!! I soooo wanted to be her!

I had wonderful, long, curly blonde hair as a little kid. The pictures of me from that time, even in a cute little red bowtie,

look very much like the little girl I actually was! My mom was a 1970s feminist with strong opinions and owned the classic, "Our Bodies, Ourselves" themed bookcase to match. And my dad, while so absurdly masculine that he actually would pick his teeth with a gigantic Buck Knife after finishing a meal that he had hunted, cleaned and cooked himself, was for all that one of the most soft-spoken and gentle people I have ever known. He loved to hunt and fish with his dog and his kid, but he rarely watched sports and he never imposed any kind of traditional roles on me.

But even for all that, society was enough. I was surrounded at school and in the media by what a boy was and what a girl was. And I had been labeled and branded "boy", so that's what I was expected to be.

I knew that I was not at all comfortable with that role, but it was the one I was expected to play. It took me years to figure out that I could re-audition for a role I was better suited for.

So I played the boy. I did not object outwardly when people called me by a boy name. I put on the pants I was given and dutifully checked "male" on the forms I had to fill out endlessly in school. I used the boy's restroom and the men's section in the department store to shop.

But on the school bus and in the classroom and walking through my neighborhood to get home, I daydreamed endlessly of being a girl, of magically trading places with some pretty girl. Of somehow, someday, being the girl I so desperately wanted to be.

And that was how I dealt with it. I dreamed about being me.

Slainte!

*Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009. She can be reached at loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.



Lorelei Erisis

Couch from page 2

three, virtue is the highest goal, a secure life the second and pleasure the least important. In childhood, a person should learn how to make a living; youth is the time for pleasure, and as years pass one should concentrate on living virtuously."

Isn't this part of the problem as we search for signs of a happy sex drive as we age? We are concentrating on the wrong things. Instead of putting our energy into virtue or virtuous endeavors, we are way too focused on pleasure.

With the assistance of Viagra, men don't take time to experience sex in a different way, which may include (wait for it)... *without penetration*. Go figure. For all of time beforehand, men have had to talk or caress or spend more time with their wives, almost like a lesbian relationship, with penetration not being the complete and total focus. That has all changed with Viagra ... but not necessarily for the best.

And now, pharmaceutical companies would like to sell women something to increase a drive that perhaps, is meant to go a bit slower in our declining years. Like a beautiful well-maintained older car: warm it up, don't rush it into gear and it purrs for years to come. This may very well be the way our bodies are meant to be in these periods, in order for us to focus on something else. Like virtues. Or purring.

No cream, lotion or pill can compensate for a mind that is sharp, excited and engaged. Take the wisdom of the *Kama Sutra* and apply it to your life. And make your own "Girls Gone Wild" fantasy into a reality. Purr, purr baby; purr, purr.

*Suzan Ambrose has enjoyed taking the car in for a tune-up and practicing the positions of the ancient texts when she's not writing diligently for The Rainbow Times. Questions or opinions on my columns? Let me know at: SuzanAmbrose@gmail.com. Catch Suzan live on her radio show "Queer Energy" Tuesdays from 5:30-8 p.m. on WMUA 91.1 FM, streaming live at www.wmua.org.



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Robitaille sets sight on R.I. governorship

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

John Robitaille is not a political novice. He ran for state representative in 2006 and came within four votes of winning. Robitaille, who lives in Portsmouth, is fighting to rescue a state that has fallen on hard times. High unemployment, high taxes and a major budget deficit are among the problems the new governor will have to tackle.

He is one of seven candidates hoping to become the next governor of Rhode Island. The former communications director for Gov. Don Carcieri is running in the Republican primary against former state Rep. Victor Moffitt.

Running for the highest office seemed like the right thing to do for Robitaille.

"I was born here," said Robitaille. "I love this state."

He was born in Central Falls and later lived in North Attleboro, Mass. He served as an officer in the United States Army and later worked in employee and labor relations for two large companies. He believes his ability to negotiate with different groups is a valuable asset.

Robitaille also founded and managed his own video production company for many years. The company produced "how-to" videos, product videos, and training videos, as well as corporate meetings and events for companies all over the world.

"I truly understand the economics of running a business and how to cut spending when we need to," Robitaille said. "Rhode Island has

been so uncompetitive for so many years that any attempts at economic development have fallen short. We compete against lower-tax states. The best economic development program we can have now is to make our taxes more competitive."

Robitaille holds the Democrat-dominated General Assembly responsible for the state's poor financial condition.

"It's the General Assembly that taxes and spends and that's why we are where we are," he said. "There's a lot of wasted spending. We need to reprioritize where we are. We can't raise taxes, we'll drive more people away."

Robitaille was drawn to the GOP during the early 1980s, when Ronald Reagan was president. He supported the party's ideas of smaller government and more freedom for citizens.

He would like Rhode Island to institute an immigration policy similar to Arizona's, but said there needs to be action taken at the federal level first.

"The federal government has failed us by not securing the borders," said Robitaille, explaining it was an issue of security more than economics.

Five of the gubernatorial candidates, including Attorney General Patrick Lynch, State Treasurer Frank Caprio and former U.S. Sen. Lincoln

Chafee have all pledged to sign a same-sex marriage bill into law if elected.

Robitaille does not support same-sex marriage, but does favor alternatives.

"I certainly would consider civil unions, domestic partnership arrangements, reciprocity of benefits, anything that would protect an individual's civil rights," he said.

Robitaille had mixed feelings about the possible expansion of Twin River and Newport Grand into full-blown casinos. The General Assembly approved a referendum allowing voters to decide the issue on the November ballot. The two slot parlors generate nearly \$300 million for the state. Legislators feared Massachusetts would build a casino of its own, which would drain money from the two businesses.

"I think it's a real shame that we've already become addicted to gambling in the state for revenues," Robitaille said, adding if the voters support the expansion of Twin River and Newport Grand, he would respect their decision.

Robitaille is willing to work with Democrats in the General Assembly, and remains optimistic more Republicans will be elected to serve in that body come November.

"If (the Democrats) still maintain the majority, which I'm pretty certain they will, there may be an opportunity to have enough balance to sustain a veto," Robitaille said, adding, however, "I won't compromise my values or my standards."



PHOTO: THE JOHN ROBITAILLE CAMPAIGN
John Robitaille

Letters from page 2

Dear Editor,
I was really interested in your columns and coverage of the Latin LGBT community. I liked Wilfred Labiosa's column and love that it is in Spanish. I was also taken by Mr. Lapon's story on the protests of Arizona's SB 1070. It was really nice to hear that Western Mass. is working towards immigrant rights and to keep us, members of the Hispanic community and full American citizens, from being ethnically/racially profiled. I wish that everyone in America would see this for what it is, an anti-Hispanic law that is reprehensible!
—Jason Martinez, Jamaica Plain

Creep from page 8

Oooh, counseling and transitional housing. Really racy stuff.
"Lots of people in this country mistakenly believe that this community will be satisfied when it redefines marriage," FRC claims. "That's not the case. Homosexuals and transgenders (sic) won't be happy until they sever every moral underpinning in America."
That's right. Because LGBT people have no morals and fantasize every night about living in some kind of lawless neo-sexual apocalyptic hellscape. You hear that, FRC? It's right here, in writing. It must be true. And it must be true for all LGBT people without exception. Feel free to use it in your next fundraising letter. Tell your members we said, "Boo!"

*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 and roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister.

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Courtesy: wolfevideo.com

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3. We Have to Stop Now - Season 1
4. The World Unseen
5. 8: The Mormon Proposition
6. Training Rules
7. Sometimes in Life
8. The Runaways
9. The L Word Final Season
10. The Baby Formula

.....

Gay Top 10 Sellers

1. Pornography: A Thriller
2. Boy
3. BOYCRAZY
4. Mr. Right
5. 8: The Mormon Proposition
6. The Big Gay Musical
7. The Butch Factor
8. A Single Man
9. Half-Life
10. Eating Out 3: All You Can Eat

The OutField: Hudson Taylor goes to the mat for gay rights



Dan Woog

By: Dan Woog*

Hudson Taylor – one of the top 197-pound college wrestlers in the country – chastises his University of Maryland teammates whenever they use anti-gay language.

He wrestled with a Human Rights Campaign sticker on his headgear, and donates each month to the organization.

How gay is he? Not at all. He and his girlfriend will be married next year, when she finishes law school.

Taylor is rarer in college sports than even openly gay athletes. He's a strong male supporter of LGBT civil rights, someone who talks the talk, walks the walk, and does it in a sport so misunderstood that wrestlers often feel compelled to flaunt their own masculinity – by putting down others.

"Wrestlers always get questions about grabbing each other," Taylor says. "It's not a sexual sport, but it looks like it. Some wrestlers think they need to show they're 'men.'"

So they use words that Taylor won't utter. "I hate that language," he says. After being elected captain sophomore year – a rare honor – he realized he no longer worried what others thought of him. "Being captain freed me to speak and act as I thought fit," Taylor says.

He called out his teammates when they used anti-gay terms. There was – and still is – some resentment. But, he says, "to be a successful team, everyone has to think of themselves as leaders. To be a leader, you have to be aware of differences – and respect those differences."

He traces his open-mindedness to his non-judgmental parents. That, says Taylor, allowed him to see others in "inclusive ways."

Religion is important, too. A relative was one of the first Christian missionaries in China. His mother went to a Bible college, and his sister attends one now.

"That helps me bridge the gap," Taylor says. "I talk with my parents about Bible verses, and about gay issues."

In high school Taylor recognized that people made "unnecessary divides" based on criteria like sexual orientation. But he also credits Blair Academy – a prestigious boarding institution – with exposing him to "lots of people with lots of different ideas."

On the Maryland wrestling team, Taylor says his greatest contribution was to promote "word consciousness. That's the root of so many problems. People don't realize how hurtful language can be. I speak out." His message: "How we speak dictates how we act. And how we act dictates who we are."

The coaching staff has been very supportive. When a gay sports website profiled him, his coaches asked if he wanted the interview cross-posted on the Maryland site. He decided against it – in part because life was already so hectic. The Outsports column swamped him with hundreds of e-mails.

"I heard so many amazing, powerful stories," he marvels. "Some of them made me cry. To me, my beliefs are not shocking; they're part of who I am. But I was shocked that people were so moved by my position. I heard from kids petrified about coming out to their family, or thinking about killing themselves. That stuff was real."

This season – as a senior – Taylor put the HRC logo on his headgear. It was a difficult decision, and did not sit well with teammates. With regret, he removed the sticker.

"At the end of the day, it's about our team," he says. "The crap I got took away from the message I wanted to send."

He found a much broader pulpit on Facebook. There, he says, "I can express exactly how I feel. I put up links and post videos. That's reached a lot of people."

Inevitably, people call Taylor a closet case. He doesn't care.

"To be vocal, I had to break away from what people think about me," he says. "If that's where they want to take me, that's their issue. This is about so much more than sexuality. It's about people. I'm completely confident with who I am. That's all that matters."

That confidence has taken Taylor far. This winter he won the ACC tournament, and placed fourth at the national championships.

"I wanted to win, of course, but it's a question of perspective," he says. "Coming so close and not reaching my goal, it's tough. But when I take a step back, I'm tremendously proud of what I accomplished."

Taylor is taking next year off. He hopes to coach at the college level, before heading to law school.

Politics could be in his future. Taylor says, "I'm not overly confrontational. But I am very firm in my beliefs. I think I can bridge a lot of gaps."

Oh, yeah. There's that little thing called a wedding coming up, too.

So how does a gay rights activist propose to his girlfriend?

Taylor did it after he and Lia Alexandra Mandaglio watched the movie "Milk." He gave her a copy of Martin Luther King's book "Why We Can't Wait" – signed by the author.

We could call that "really gay." But in Taylor Hudson's case, it's just really, really cool.

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

Worcester's gay-owned 86 Winter a delicious success with everyone

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

WORCESTER, MA—One of Worcester's more popular restaurants is 86 Winter American Bistro. Owners Bill Mignone and David Lemenager opened the restaurant six years ago and have watched it become a huge success with the city's GLBT community.

It was originally located at 86 Winter Street but later moved a block away, to 65 Water Street.

"It was a better location for us," Lemenager said.

Patrons can enjoy a range of delectable appetizers such as fried calamari, stuffed mushrooms, or scallops and bacon. The entrees include macaroni and cheese, homemade meatloaf, filet mignon, chicken cordon bleu, and chicken Marsala. There are also soups and salads on the menu. All the sauces and salad dressings are made on the premises.

At the bar, patrons can enjoy nachos, sandwiches and quesadillas.

"We have a great relationship with the gay community," Lemenager said. "We have a great gay clientele as well as a great straight clientele."

Mignone serves on the Worcester Pride Committee, while Lemenager is president of the board of directors of the AIDS Project Worcester.

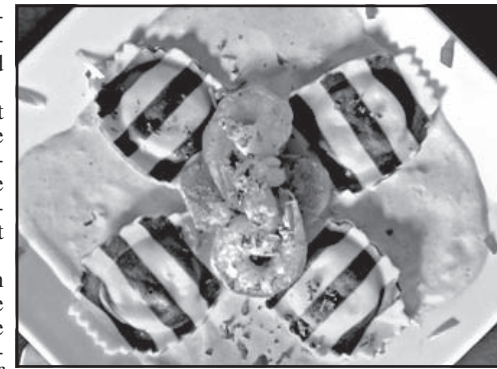
86 Winter also offers full-service catering and



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF 86 WINTER AMERICAN BISTRO

David Lemenager and Bill Mignone, 86 Winter American Bistro's owners

hosts functions for up to 50 people for business lunches and parties.



When the Democratic National Convention was held in Boston, 86 Winter hosted a function for Mass Equality. Several prominent political leaders attended that event, which Lemenager said was an honor.

Mignone and Lemenager have been together for 13 years and have been married for the past six.

"We take pride in everything that we do," Lemenager said. "We're always here, we're hands-on."

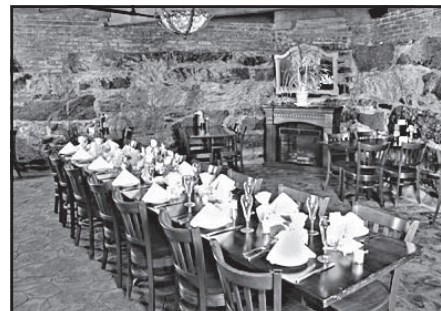
Both had experience in the restaurant business before they opened 86 Winter. Lemenager loves to cook and enjoyed the challenge.

"We took some of my recipes and have expanded it from there," Lemenager added.

Both men are Worcester natives and have a lot of affection for the city.

"There are some great people and great agencies (here)," Lemenager added.

86 Winter American Bistro is located at 65 Water St., Worcester, MA. The telephone number is (508) 459-5400.



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