

The Rainbow Times

Your LGBTQ News Source in Western MA, Northern CT and Southern VT

Year 1, Vol. 12 • July 19-Aug.1, 2007

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FREE!

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PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE**

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Opinions**No more Pride after surgery?**

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

I am, and we at The Rainbow Times are avid supporters of the LGBTQ community as a whole. We continue to pride ourselves to be inclusive. However, not too long ago something truly bothered me.

I was at a certain trans event that we fully support. We always want to know what we can do to help our diverse community. But, at this particular place I met someone who seemed different to me. She alerted me to the fact that she was a trans woman. We chatted for a long time. At some point she told me about her former life, and I listened as she explained her former job duties, and how she exacerbated her masculinity then to hide the obvious conflict that she had within.

I felt very bad that and started sharing with her that something similar happens to the gay/lesbian community. Before someone comes out, that person usually dates people from the opposite sex to try to prove to themselves and others that everything is ok, even when they are full of turmoil. I remember trying to do the same when I was trying to hide who I was, because I was trying to please other people, I explained.

She nodded subtly, as she said, "but now this is totally different for me because I am fully and biologically a woman, because I've had all of my surgeries done." I could've never been able to tell that she had ever been a male before. When I asked her if she had enjoyed going to the Pride Festivities, she said that she didn't have to go to Pride anymore. You can imagine my shock, well at least I know that I was shocked. I asked her why would she not be a part of Pride anymore? She proudly said, "Now I am a woman and not part of that struggle anymore." I was totally astounded. My face dropped, and I realized that she never believed in our struggle.

I say, once a lesbian, always a lesbian. Even if you are not a member of the LGBT community, we need people's support, everyone's support, for this is about human rights, civil rights and about what is right, period!

Needless to say, I was highly disappointed. I must say that she was the only one out of a big group who expressed herself in that way.

Back to School Supplement?**Early August!****Be a part of this important supplement.****FMI: 413-204-8959****Love, Rights...and the Rest of It**By JM the JP*
TRT Columnist

Summer is here. Kids are out of school and local farmers' markets will soon have more than plants and lettuce to offer. We are in high season. How fortunate we are to live in an area with an endless array of day trips to meet our needs and desires and where we can choose to "vacation" without spending large sums of money and overnight costs for hotels.

Love is in the air when we can smell and see flowers in bloom. We simultaneously crave the heat of the sun and the coolness of ocean or river waters. Lovers and families commune around the grill. Cold beverages of every sort are popular.

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

We all have a duty to represent people for who they are and not for their sexuality. I am proud to be a reader of your newspaper or magazine. I still haven't figured that one out yet. But what I do know is that I simply admire your work. You've taken a stance on LGBT issues and you've stayed with it.

I've never seen a paper like yours before. We go all the way from our home every two weeks to pick it up. Until recently we didn't know that you even had coverage in Hartford and downtown Springfield. But what I like the most is how clean your paper is of the other garbage that I see around full of sex, sex and more sex. Don't think I don't like sex, of course I do. What male wouldn't? But I also enjoy the other aspects of life and your papers stands from the rest in that it is respectable, clean and family oriented, no pun intended. I like that about *The Rainbow Times*. Keep up the good work.

J. Harren
Hartford, CT

Dear Editor:

Who is Jack/ie Kennedy? Recently, I didn't care for his story about sinners and everyone going to hell. It was a bit too out there. Although he or she hit on some great points, it was a bit strong and opinionated. I wonder is this a real Kennedy in disguise?

J. Lopez, Springfield, MA

Dear Editor:

Is the Chez Est Club only for men?

S. Logan
West Springfield

JM the JP

Daytrips I have experienced in the summer include: NYC for a matinee play (hint: drive to New Haven, park at the train station, take Metro North to Grand Central Terminal); Rhode Island beaches (yes, there are crowds, but it's nothing like the Cape Cod bumper to bumper

EDITOR'S RESPONSE: No, The Chez Est is an LGBT bar. All people are welcome at the club!

Dear Editor:

I am writing in reference to the article on same sex marriages. It makes me very angry in today's society when the government thinks it should vote on how people should their lives. Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us to love one & another. He doesn't say to change that person & then love him/her.

Our Heavenly Father has created each of us in His own image & He doesn't make junk!!!! Even God gives each of us our own free will, to make choices for ourselves!

Why does man (the government) think that he is more powerful than God & try to make laws on whom people should marry? This is so very wrong!!!! The government should stick to making laws & signing bills on the acts of the criminals of our society, instead of trying to dictate whom one should marry & chose to have a life with!

I say the government should live & let live. Letting each person make their own personal choices in what is best for themselves!

These people also deserve to have the same civil rights & opportunities as any other heterosexual couple. They are not criminals! By the way I am a straight, caucasian, catholic female, just for the record!

Gidget O'Hara
Easthampton, MA

traffic); The Berkshires for Tanglewood, Jacob's Pillow and theatre (not all performances are costly/check web sites); and MassMOCA in North Adams.

Locally, there are college museums, botanical gardens, and summer theatre companies. Nearly every weekend, there is a town fair, free concert or food festival somewhere in western Massachusetts, southern Vermont or northern Connecticut. There are many natural "swimming holes" in Franklin and Hampshire counties.

There are scenic parks for picnics and sports. Before the summer ends, take at least one day to explore the advantages of living here. Celebrate your pleasure principle. Plan a romantic no-cost or low-cost day with a loved one.

If you are inclined, feel free to send me a description of your beautiful summer day—real or imagined—so that I may share it with our readers.

* J.M. Sorrell is a Justice of the Peace. Her commitment to justice and equal rights ranks up there with her romantic nature and well-honed pleasure principle.

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King St. Boiz tell all: Getting real

In an exclusive interview with TRT, The King St. Boiz, Northampton's own drag king troupe, sat down and told us the real deal of it all. Haven't heard of Daddy K, Ivory, LuckE, Buzz D, Tomi Boi, and Mistress Mona D'Luxe? Don't worry, you will! Find out the intimate truths about this troupe, how it all started, the challenges they faced, what their partners think of their venture, where they have been and where they are going. But, most importantly, find out how you can get more of the 'boiz'.

How did the idea of the King St. Boiz start and when did the group officially form? How many performances have you given so far?

DADDY K: I knew I wanted to get together a group of good [drag king] performers that would put Northampton and Western MA on the map. There really wasn't anything like us around here. After two open auditions, in September of 2006, the King St. Boiz officially came together. This is my extended family. These are my friends. Their partners are my friends. I just wanted us to be a good portrayal of drag king troupe. So far, we have had five shows.

How did the public react to you being the first drag king group in the area? What challenges did you face?

IVORY: When I started back performing in drag in 1999 [as a solo artist], there was never any respect from the drag queens and from even the people introducing us [drag kings]. The queens were would always be introduced as she but when I would go out, even though I was in drag, I would still be referred to as a



The King St. Boiz: (Top left to right) Daddy K, Mistress Mona D'Luxe, and Ivory. (Bottom left to right) LuckE, Tomi Boi, and Buzz D. The King St. Boiz will perform at Divas on July 20th at 8 p.m. Photo: Jill Cunningham

she, there just wasn't respect in that sense. Now that we are here, it has gotten a lot better. Since the group has come together, the reception and respect level from the other drag queens and the host introducing us is completely different. Performing as a solo drag artist is very different than performing as a group. A group of us coming together and performing well together is what is gaining us a lot of respect in many ways. Since we have started this drag king troupe there have been more people coming out trying to do drag and it's been amazing. I think one of our main purposes is to make it seem ok and get more respect from the drag queens and the whole community as performing artists.

DADDY K: At first, people did not really have any faith in us. At the first show,

loose credibility.

There are five kings and Mistress Mona D'Luxe who is the MC. Describe for me your character personalities. If you could choose three words to describe your character what would they be?

MISTRESS MONA D'LUXE: My character is over-the-top outrageous, which is just the opposite of what my normal demeanor is. Three words that I would use to describe her is sweet, hot, b#@%\$.

BZZZ D: Buzz D is goofy and out there. I have never done this before so my stage personality is still in the works. So, the three words would be: work in progress.

IVORY: I am definitely cocky. I like to show my body, dance and have a lot of sex appeal. I would say that I am cocky, smooth, and energetic.

LUCKE: My character is a womanizer. At one show a girl told me, you could turn me into a lesbian! I love the ladies. Really, we are the opposite of what our partners allow. LuckE is shy, reserved, and sexy.

DADDY K: I am a flamboyant straight guy who is kind of bi in a way. I try to be hot and smooth for the ladies but there is this other side that comes out. I try to hide that I am gay but it sort of comes out.

[See King St. Boiz on p.14](#)

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LGBT Health

Journey to Wellness: Complimentary Therapy

By: Winifred Tannetta*
Special for TRT

Massage, Reiki, Hypnotherapy, Cranial Sacral, Chiropractics, and Acupuncture ... Many of us are becoming familiar with these methods of body work and holistic practices as the field of complimentary and alternative therapies grows, gaining recognition. While there are differences in the way holistic modalities are applied, they share a common ground to balance the body, mind and spirit. Practitioners work together with clients in order to promote an environment where positive change is more likely to occur and lend

assistance in achieving the wellness goals of individual clients.

Regardless of the holistic modality chosen, complimentary therapies are meant to work in conjunction with conventional medicine under the supervision of your primary care physician.

Ongoing studies are proving the effectiveness of a variety of complimentary methods such as massage, chiropractic, and hypnosis; to name just a few. Many hospitals now offer complimentary services to their patients as part of the course of care, such as "HypoNbirthing" classes for women. Hospice and many cancer support organizations offer Reiki to

patients and their caregivers as a means of support, and to promote relaxation and a sense of wellbeing.

When looking for a Holistic Practitioner, ask about their education, training and experience. Ask for a consultation to learn more which will help you to make an informed decision with your doctor as to which method best suits your needs. Most holistic modalities provide certification or licensing and are offered in a professional setting.

Complimentary therapies engage the individual to be an active participant in their wellness process for a wide range of issues: recovery or prevention of chronic

conditions, recovery from injuries and trauma, enhancing and strengthening the immune system, reducing stress and more. Many individuals, empowered by working towards their wellness goals, attest to the noticeable benefits as a result of regular treatment.

*Winifred Tannetta is the Proprietress of AwenTree, a visionary shop featuring magickal gifts and tools for transformation: Massage, Reiki, Tarot, Workshops and Classes. She is a Certified Hypnotherapist, Reiki Master Teacher and a Board Member of COVR (Coalition of Visionary Resources). Contact info: 413-527-3331 awentre@yahoo.com

Gay groups oppose surgeon general nominee from Kentucky

By Kevin Freking/AP Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush's nominee for surgeon general faces a contentious confirmation hearing because of his writings about homosexuality and health.

In advance of the Senate hearing last week, gay rights groups, the American Public Health Association and 35 members of the House were lining up in opposition to Dr. James W. Holsinger's nomination. The Kentucky doctor garnered the support of a prominent former surgeon general, Dr. C. Everett Koop, as well as the American College of Physicians.

Holsinger wrote a paper in 1991 for a United Methodist Church committee that gay groups and others interpret as saying that homosexuals face a greater risk of disease and that homosexuality runs counter to anatomical truths.

In the paper, which focuses extensively on human anatomy and the reproductive system, Holsinger said the "varied sexual practices of homosexual men have resulted in a diverse and expanded concept of sexually transmitted disease and associated trauma."

Health and Human Services officials said Holsinger was asked more than 17 years ago to compile a survey of peer-reviewed scientific data on health issues

facing homosexuals.

"Since then, the science has deepened with continued research on these issues. Dr. Holsinger remains focused on addressing the health of all in need, including gay and lesbian populations, consistent with sound science and the best medical practices,"

said Health and Human Services spokeswoman Christina Pearson.

If confirmed, Holsinger would succeed Dr. Richard Carmona, whose term expired last July. Carmona accused the Bush administration on Tuesday of muzzling him on several hot-button health issues, such as abstinence-only education and embryonic stem cell research. He also said the administration quashed or delayed important health reports for political reasons.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., chairman of the Senate health committee, said Holsinger's record "appears to guarantee a polarizing and divisive nomination process."

Kennedy also responded to Carmona's allegations of political interference. He demanded that Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt provide documents that would show various political appointees' interaction with the surgeon general's office. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., also demanded documents associated with reports Carmona was preparing on issues such as global health and prisoner health.

Maria Kemplin, a former co-worker of Holsinger's, wrote Sen. Mitch

McConnell, R-Ky., in support of the nomination. Holsinger does not discriminate and "is able to see across divisive issues and relate with integrity to people, no matter their life circumstances," said Kemplin, who described herself as a liberal Democrat and member of gay and women's rights groups.

The American Public Health Association, which represents a broad array of health officials and health educators, said Wednesday that it cannot support a nominee with discredited views on sexuality.

"While we have no doubt that Dr. Holsinger has made positive contributions throughout his medical and public health career, we believe his previously expressed views on sexuality are inconsistent with mainstream medicine and public health practice," said Dr. Gorges Benjamin, executive director of the association.

Holsinger is a professor from the University of Kentucky's College of Public Health. He also worked for 26 years in a variety of positions at the Veterans Affairs Department, including stints as chief of staff or director at several VA medical centers.

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Marriage, Rights and a Sense of Humor

By J. Mary Sorrell*

TRT Columnist

Over the last 3+ years, same-sex marriage in Massachusetts has created an emotional, intellectual, and spiritual journey for me that I never would have imagined prior to 2004. I have experienced personal suffering and profound joy, and I have laughed and cried with our community as we have traversed through too many Constitutional Conventions to defend just one aspect of our civil rights—marriage.

To those of you who think we have sold out or assimilated into the heterosexual community—I respect the concern because not everyone wants to integrate into this norm, nor do we want to lose the unique qualities that have us challenging mainstream gender standards and unconventional ways to love.

The good news is: the civil right to marry has not cost us our identities. The infinite spectrum of lifestyles in our communities is still alive and kicking—even in the context of how and why people get

Here is a partial list of reasons we marry:

1. Although we are 85 years old and our kids from previous heterosexual marriages are in their 50s and 60s, we feel their stigma that we are living in sin. We want them to hold their heads high and tell everyone their moms are married.
2. I'm not out to my parents, so when they see the wedding announcement in the paper, I will be coming out and they may see how normal we are.
3. F*@! the patriarchal institution. We have to do this for the health insurance.
4. We are sick of giving countless wedding gifts to our heterosexual friends and family members. This is payback time. Engagement party, bridal shower, wedding, honeymoon...
5. We met 5 minutes ago, and we are in love. How COOL that we can do this! Should we wait until after graduation?
6. Now everything will be different. We have been in a life partnership for 35 years, but something has been missing.
7. We love the tasting meetings with the caterers.
8. My parents will pay for it.
9. Because we can.
10. None of your business.

married. (P.S. I knew lesbian couples with Volvo wagons and twins more than 10 years ago, so you would be hard pressed to convince me that our new civil right to marry is causing this phenomenon.)

non. Could be the drinking water, no? Please see the partial list of reason we marry.

There are rights and perquisites that we can not take for granted with the right to

marry; however, have we considered the price? Committed non-breeders who marry are in danger of additional pressure from families of origin to bear and raise children. Strangers may approach you on the street when you are simply walking with a member of the same sex and ask you, "Are you married?" because it is vogue. It's a buzz kill at group sex parties. Finally, it creates the potential for a "Star-Bellied Snetch" conflict (read the Dr. Seuss book).

Seriously, love in all of its forms is a gift. The right to marry in Massachusetts has created a ripple effect that is unprecedented in our community's struggle to be recognized and respected as valued members of society. This serves all of us, unmarried and married, because a safer, more affirming mainstream society surrounds us now. Time will tell more.

* J. Mary Sorrell is a Justice of the Peace. She continues to be astonished by the blessing of serving our communities in this capacity. JM believes in true love while also feeling the humor of our political and lifestyle diversity.

Wedding Trends for 2007: Special preparation

By: Lisa Watts*

Special for TRT Wedding Guide

Here is a look at some of the most popular wedding trends for 2007. Many couples are choosing to forgo the standard sit-down meal in favor of a cocktail reception. Cocktail receptions often feature elaborate appetizer displays and butler-passed hors d'oeuvres. Also there is no assigned seating, which allows guests to mingle more. You can make your cocktail reception special by serving signature drinks and keeping guests entertained with live music that sets the mood.

More couples are also choosing to fly off to an exotic location and have a destination wedding. The most popular wedding locations right now are Hawaii, Las

Vegas and Italy. There are a few benefits of the destination wedding. A smaller guest list lends itself for the intimacy of your closest friends. It is easy to incorporate your honeymoon right into the wedding. And with the help of a travel agent or wedding planner, this type of wedding can be almost completely stress-free.

Then there is the "green" wedding. Eco-conscious couples are spending a lot of time and money planning weddings that reflect their environmentally friendly lifestyles. They're using recycled paper for invitations, place cards, and programs; creating centerpieces with pesticide-free flowers and potted plants; and serving organic and vegetarian meals made with locally grown ingredients. They are also requesting charitable dona-



tions made to environmental organizations in lieu of wedding presents.

Not all of the current wedding trends require a big undertaking. If you want to incorporate a trendy detail into your reception, seat your guests at large square tables instead of traditional rounds. A square-shaped table not only facilitates conversation better than a rectangular or round table, but it also gives a room a clean modern look. Wedding planners and designers love square tables because they are great canvases for printed table runners, interesting floral arrangements, and rows of elegant pillar candles.

*Lisa Watts is the Owner of Cold Spring Events and will help you plan your special wedding day. She can be contacted at 413-323-6612 or via e-mail at lisa@coldspringevents.com

Keep it small and intimate

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LGBT marriage time capsule

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Photography tips: Memories and Photos

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Haven't found a ring yet?

p. 6

Answers to 'Why bother getting married?'

By: The Rainbow Times' staff

It is no surprise that although same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, and civil unions in VT, CT and NJ, that there are still strong opponents to the issue. Unfortunately, you may have been born into those families who are adversaries of same-sex marriage. Once you announce your desire to marry your partner, you may find yourself in the position to justify to others why you would bother to get married. Here are some answers to that question.

- We've entered into a meaningful relationship that is too meaningful to deny or stay silent about it.
- It's a celebration of our lives together.
- We are formalizing our relationship to the outside world.
- I want to publicly express my ultimate commitment and responsibility to my partner.
- Why did you bother to get married?



(This is a favorite since it forces the other person to look at this question from a different perspective.)

• We want children and marriage is the first step to build our family. Like we were always taught, first comes love, second comes marriage, third comes the baby in the baby carriage."

• My relationship is as significant as any other marriage and now is my time to show my family and friends just how much my partner means to me."

• There is social recognition for married couples and I want that recognition of my relationship too."

• This has nothing to do with you, but it is rather about personal happiness for me."

• I want to be protected under the law."

Hopefully you will not be asked that question by your family, but many of us have been asked that question! Now, you are prepared for it, if it should happen.

A glimpse of our past: An LGBT time capsule

B: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

Whenever we talk about any civil right, including marriage, it is important to be educated about where we have been and where we are going with these issues. It is important to not get caught up in a sense of pseudo security and recognition at a global level just because we happen to live in a Commonwealth that recognizes our unions.

We live in a country and world for that matter, that is filled with hatred, division, ignorance, pain and hurt revolving around all LGBT related issues and yet,

it remains astonishing that before the concept of political power became involved, same-sex couples went on with their daily lives practically unaffected by the mainstream community.

While no one can deny the fact that we have made current LGBT advances, have we simply begun to revert back to the way things always were and the way that things were intended to be?

SECOND CENTURY AD: Iamblichus writes the novel *Babyloniaca*, which includes the characters of Berenice, the queen of Egypt, and the female lover she married, Mesopotamia. At the same time, Lucia

writes *Dialogues of the Courtesans*, in which Leana describes a woman of (where else?) Lesbos who is married to a woman from Corinth.

DURING THE ROMAN EMPIRE: Male soldiers were often wedded to one another prior to battle.

1855: Edwin Denig publishes a paper documenting a Crow "woman chief" who has taken four wives.

THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY: In New England, "boston Marriages" are common. Women choose other women as life partners, and together work toward a Feminist vision of social justice.

THE 1920's: in Harlem, black lesbians in butch/femme couples marry each other in large wedding ceremonies that include bridesmaids and attendants. Couples obtain marriage licenses by masculinizing a first name or having a gay male surrogate apply for the license. The licenses are placed on file with the NYC Marriage Bureau, and the marriages are often common knowledge among Harlem heterosexuals.

1960's: "Covenant" services are conducted for some gay and lesbian couples by clergy involved in the Council of Religion and the Homosexual.

1975: Two gay men in Phoenix, Arizona legally obtain a marriage license and are wed in a ceremony at the local Church of Christian fellowship. A superior court judge, citing the Bible, later voids the marriage. Soon afterward, the Arizona

House of Representatives votes thirty-seven to three to pass an emergency measure specifically banning same-sex marriage.

1976: Two Chicago women, Nancy Davis and Toby Schneiter, are arrested for the fourth time for staging sit-ins at city hall, insisting upon their right to a marriage license. They spend a year in the state penitentiary for their final conviction.

1984: The Unitarian Church votes to recognize and approve ceremonies celebrating the union of gay and lesbian couples.

OCTOBER 10, 1987: One thousand gay and lesbian couples exchange vows in a mass wedding held on the steps of the Internal Revenue Service building in Washington, D.C.

OCTOBER 1, 1989: Denmark legalizes same-sex marriages.

JUNE 13, 1994: The annual wedding cover of The New Yorker magazine features two men posed in front of a cake, topped with two grooms.

FEBRUARY 12, 1998: First National freedom to Marry Day. Lesbians, gay men and straight people participate in events across the country calling for an end to discrimination in civil marriage.

And, the fight continues.

* The historical data used in this article was taken from *The Essential Guide to Lesbian and Gay Weddings*, written by Tess Ayers and Paul Brown, 1999.

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Charity in lieu of gifts, or extravagant fantasies

There are couples who would rather have guests make donations to a charity than spend the money on wedding gifts they don't need. They may have all of the worldly possessions they want, or they may just feel that donations are more in keeping with the spirit of their particular union celebration.

In this case it is acceptable to include a separate card along with the invitation that informs the guest of the specific charity or foundation. For example, in lieu of gifts please make contributions in honor of our ceremony of commitment to the (name of organization and address).

Make arrangements with a representative at the charity to handle the collection



of checks; if possible, list the contact person by name on the enclosure card you send and set up a record keeping procedure by which you are kept up-to-date with who has sent donations. This way, you can acknowledge the gesture with a personal thank you note.

Don't even think about saying the "W" word

By: Rachel Lapine

TRT Special for Wedding Guide

Some people in the LGBT community may not want to "wed" their life partner because of the overwhelmingly political debate surrounding this issue. Others may feel that they want recognition of their commitment, but because of how tainted the word marriage has become, they steer far from it. Other individuals may desire the fundamental rights and protections of marriage under the law but have a problem calling their ceremony a "marriage."

Now, more than ever there are several alternative titles to give to your special day. Non-traditional terms to weddings are as follows:

1. Lifetime commitment ceremony
2. Permanent partnership ceremony
3. Affirmation ceremony
4. Celebration of our lives together
5. Ceremony of the Heart



6. Life Partnership ceremony
7. Holy Union
8. Civil Union
9. Relationship blessing
10. Covenant of Love

There are many alternative phrases that you can use to substitute "wedding." If you do not see one here that you like, be creative! Try not to get hung up on the political issue revolving around same-sex marriage. Afterall, regardless of that, we all deserve to love someone while being protected under the law.

For those who want extravagant gifts for your wedding, here is a list of ten things to choose from:

1. A signed David Hockney (either print or a painting is acceptable).
2. A personal trainer to come to your house for the rest of your life.
3. A year's worth of fresh flowers delivered daily.
4. Two seats on a space shuttle.
5. Five years worth of groceries—shopped for, delivered, and put away.
6. Bette Midler to sing at your next birthday party.
7. Coupons that say things like "cut me

TRT congratulates Austin and Hubbard on their engagement

Austin J. Austin and Zak Lolita Hubbard are engaged to be married.

As a recent industrial design graduate from Hampshire College, Hubbard works with Austin, a writer and graphic designer graduate of Smith College, on their new business project.

Longtime Valley resident Austin and Rhode Island native, Hubbard will marry in Northampton, MA on October 31, 2007, surrounded by their loving families and friends. They, their two cats, and five

some slack" that you can give to your friends and that actually work.

8. An industrial ice cream maker, and a dairy farm for the source material.

9. Really great personal stationery—and an assistant to answer all of your correspondence.

10. Tickets to the ballet, opera, or theater—in Paris.

But if you want something else, you can find more choices in The Essential Guide to Lesbian & Gay Weddings by Tess Ayers & Paul Brown.



Austin and Lolita

orchids will remain in the Valley after their wedding, delightedly.

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Benefits of keeping it small and intimate

By: Christian Foyer*
Special for TRT Wedding Guide

When planning your wedding, keep in mind that the LGBT community faces different obstacles, which can actually be benefits in disguise compared to traditional heterosexual weddings.

You have probably heard the expres-

ried, it is common that their guest list may have very well exceeded 150+ people. However, with the LGBT community, many family members may be estranged to you, including siblings and/or parents. But, don't worry, that does mean that you cannot have an over the top wedding!

Choose to invite people to your wedding that love and support your relation-

worry. The fact that they are there to celebrate your same-sex wedding means that they are open, understanding and loving people. They will get along just fine and since there is not an overwhelming audience, they too will have time to get to know each other. In addition, you will also be able to mingle with them easier!

Less people at your ceremony/reception equates to less stress for you; especially if you know everyone intimately. You most likely won't have to deal with distant aunts or uncles that you haven't spoken to in 10 years.

A smaller guest list means that you can have open seating and allow people to choose where they sit. This cuts down on your planning time.

With a smaller wedding and reception attendance, you can spend more money per guest on meals, appetizers, parting gifts, and drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). You can feed your guests better with more per person.

A small wedding list also allows you to have your special day at virtually any location since you will not have to worry about accommodating for hundreds of guests. Also, if you choose to hold your celebration at a get away destination such as Hawaii, if you have few guests, you may even fly your guest list there complimentary!



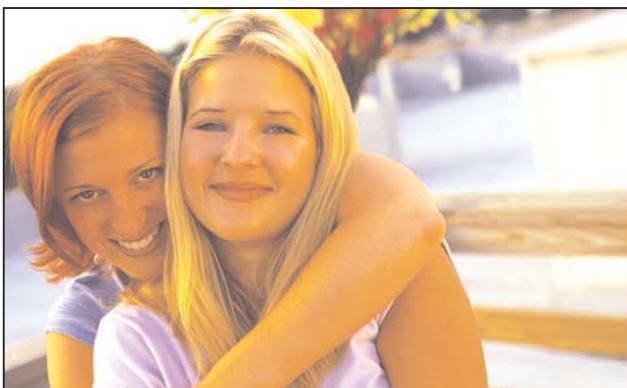
In intimate settings, your guests will also have an up close and personal view of your ceremony and reception, thus engaging everyone.

On a queer special wedding note:

The Bad news is that your parents/family probably won't become as fully involved as they did in your sibling's wedding.

The Good News is that you probably won't have to deal with a controlling mother who is trying to relive her own wedding!

*Christian Foyer is an intimate gathering wedding planner out of Springfield, Massachusetts. He may be contacted at sunshine818_2000@yahoo.com.



sion "friends are the family we choose." The reality is that if you have ever had a sister or brother, cousin, etc., get mar-

riage, even if that means inviting only 15 people to your celebration. If those 15 people do not know each other, do not



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Lesbian Paradise: The Highlands Inn

BETHLEHEM, NH—Nestled within the great White Mountains, lies a utopia that you will not want to pass by. The Highlands Inn in Bethlehem, New Hampshire is a romantic and relaxing getaway for all to enjoy.

The resort is also a perfect place for those looking to tie the knot. According to Grace (owner), at least over 100 couples a year, from all over the country, do their honeymoon at the resort.

"As of this year New Hampshire approved civil unions, so we have had a lots of ceremonies from here too," said Grace. "We've been doing ceremonies since 1984 and have had tons of commitment ceremonies through the years."

'Reverend' Tori Spelling marries gay couple

NEW YORK (AP)—"Yep, that's right. ... Reverend Tori Spelling! I did it last week online and my official certificate is in the mail. I'm so proud," the 34-year-old actress said in a posting Monday on the MySpace.com site she shares with her husband, Dean McDermott.

Spelling officiated at a same-sex union last weekend at Chateau La Rue, the bed-and-breakfast that she and McDermott run in California, on their Oxygen network unscripted series, "Tori & Dean: Inn Love," her spokeswoman, Meghan Prophet, said Tuesday.

"I was so honored when the couple asked me to officiate. We did it on the front steps of the Chateau as 40 of their friends looked on seated in a loungelike atmosphere," Spelling wrote.

For those couples who want to get married in Canada, *The Highlands Inn's* proximity to Canada makes this choice a perfect one. The resort owners have established working relationships with officiant in nearby Quebec towns such as a Unitarian-Universalist minister, an attorney, and an official of the Civil Marriage office of the Quebec Ministry of Justice. Any one of these contacts will be able to help you through the process of getting married in Canada.

"The Highlands Inn is the ideal place for couples to stay while getting Vermont civil union certification," said Grace. "The Inn is only 20 minutes from St. Johnsbury, VT, where many of our

guests go for their civil union. We also have tons of couples from Massachusetts come in and celebrate their honeymoon here."

To add more beauty to your wedding, ceremony or civil union, the resort has special *Honeymoon Package* that include a room with private bath, a fresh floral arrangement, a basket full of treats and surprises, breakfast in your room one morning, and champagne with two commemorative champagne glasses! The Deluxe Honeymoon Package includes everything in the Special Package plus one hour of massage.

"With either of our honeymoon packages, we'll order you a festive cake made

especially for you by one of our local gourmet bakers. Cakes start at \$25," said Grace.

In the summer, guests enjoy the 54-foot pool with its large sundeck, adjacent gazebo, and barbecue area. There is also an outdoor spa adjacent to the pool.

swimming pool or snowshoes."

"This place is really nice and we are having a great time," said Jessica & Sharon Terrigan, who tied the knot a few months ago and spent their honeymoon at The Highlands Inn. "It's really great especially if you want to escape the hustle and bustle of city life."

It is no surprise that this cozy and enchanting Inn has won the Out & About Editor's Choice Award every year since 1997. Book your stay now, because with the Women's Concert Series, you'll have to book ahead of time. For more information, call Grace at 1-877-537-2466 or 603-869-3978 or visit the Highlands Inn online at www.highlandsinn-nh.com/.



Photo: officialtorispelling.com

Spelling and McDermott, who were married in May 2006, will reprise their innkeeper duties for the show's second season, which premieres Aug. 14.

"It was so beautiful as I united Tony and Dex as life partners in love. They wrote their own beautiful vows and there was so much love surrounding them that there wasn't a dry eye in the driveway," wrote Spelling, adding that she was "beyond nervous."

"I've done live theater and presented at

the Emmys and this by far was my scariest moment simply because they had bestowed such an honor upon me and I didn't want to let them down."

Spelling and McDermott took their 4-month-old son, Liam, out for a spin on the dance floor at the wedding reception. "The three of us swayed and smiled to Madonna," she said. "It was a magical evening of pure love."

Spelling starred on the long-running '90s TV series "Beverly Hills, 90210," produced by her father, Aaron Spelling, who died in June 2006.



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"Our custom work can be done long distance. Using my Computer Aided Design (CAD) program, I can create a rendering of the piece and e-mail it to my client," said Fisher. "I can show an infinite number of views of the piece so that my client can see how the piece will look from every angle. I can also 'weigh' the piece so that I can know how much precious metal will be needed and give an extremely close estimate of the final cost to the client. We will make changes in the computer model until the client is happy with the design. If our client has his/her own stones, they can be sent to us via UPS insured and we will be happy to use them, or we will acquire any gem that is wished for," she said.



"River Pebbles" Ring

According to Fisher, her designs are indirectly inspired from various artistic collections and time periods such as the Byzantine Collection derived from the medieval ages, the Italian Circus Collection from early 20th century Italy and also by nature.

"Our River Pebbles Collection is obviously nature inspired but also whispers

of the medieval sensibility," said Fisher.

Fisher's passion for creating jewelry is more than apparent. She relates metals and jewelry to the infinite, emotional world of generations.

"I love making rings because of their sculptural aspect," she said. A piece of jewelry relates to this world—my jewelry is wearable, relates to the material as

well as the spiritual, relates to times past as well as the present," said Fisher. "Because it stands alone, I feel the concept of a piece of jewelry is easy to grasp. For example, its main purpose as a ring, or a necklace, or earrings is immediately apparent."

Fisher noted that jewelry moves from one person to the next—it is given, coveted, and then eventually given again. It moves through the generations.

"My jewelry is created with *tat in mind*," she said. "In design and creation it will remain a thing of beauty today for many tomorrows."

As Rona Fisher Jewelry Design is dedicated to customer satisfaction and involvement, within a few weeks a new, highly interactive and engaging website will be up and running, explained Fisher.

"Our visitors will be able to buy directly online. We will be inviting our visitors to have a say in our future designs," said Fisher. "There will be a 'rate our new designs' page and I will be posting renderings of new ideas (jewelry not yet made, but pieces we are considering making), and we will be asking our visitors opinions of these pieces!"

[See Rona on p. 7](#)



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Rona continued from p. 6

In addition, online visitors can request jewelry that they would like to see made as a source of brainstorming together, according to Fisher. Similar ideas will be compiled and considered for upcoming lines.

Through Fisher's new website, www.ronafisher.com and/or www.gayandlesbianweddingbands.com, gift cards and incentives will be offered for repeat customers.

As a lesbian herself, Fisher expressed her pledge and importance of working with the LGBT community.

"We especially want to know what our sisters and brothers in the gay community would like to see for their wedding bands," said Fisher. "We love working with 'family.' It makes everything much more fun! Thanks to daytime TV and the media, [LGBT] couples are also being handed down the family diamonds, just like the straight couples. It is an affirmation to what we do."

Currently, Rona Fisher Jewelry Designs operates from downtown Philadelphia, PA, where she and her life partner, Emily Sims work and reside.

For more information about Rona and/or her designs, please visit either www.ronafisher.com, www.gayandlesbianweddingbands.com, e-mail your questions to: info@ronafisher.com or call 215-627-3848.

All that is left are memories and photos

*By Lynne Graves**
Photography special for TRT

Everyone wants photos of their wedding day. But let's face it, few of us really want to stand there and be photographed. I have heard the experience of being in front of a camera comparable to that of a visit to the dentist. That is where an editorial/lifestyle photographer can be such an important consideration when planning your wedding day.

The best compliment I have received from a client was "we didn't notice you there, but when we got your photographs, we realized that you were everywhere!"

My biggest tip for couples is to not plan to do a lot of group photos because by the time you get to photos of the two



Photo by: Lynne Graves

of you, you will be burnt out, and those are the photos you will really want.

Consider just two group photos of each side of your family, or even one large group photo. By keeping it simple, you can enjoy your party and all the great food you are paying for!

Consider a photographer that documents your day in an editorial fashion which will include all the special details of the day without being obtrusive.

The last thing I recommend is that the couple takes a few moments alone after the ceremony just to take it all in before entertaining friends and family. The day goes by so quickly and all you have left are memories and photographs.

**Lynne Graves is the owner of Lynne Graves, lifestyle photographer. For more information or to contact Lynne, call 413-335-6985 or visit lynnegraves.com.*

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LGBT Friendly & Welcoming Churches

Generally, denominations such as the "United Church of Christ and the "Unitarian Universalist Association" are welcoming and affirming to the LGBTQ community. However, other individual churches within other specific denominations may also be welcoming and affirming.

Listed below are some churches that are LGBTQ friendly in Western MA, Northern CT and Southern VT.

In Western Massachusetts:

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Amherst, MA; First Congregational UCC, Amherst, MA; North Congregational Church, Amherst, MA; South Congregational, Amherst, MA; First Congregational Church, Ashfield, MA; Belchertown United Church of Christ, Belchertown, MA; First Congregational Church, Chicopee, MA; Village Congregational Church, Cummington, MA; The First Church of Deerfield, Deerfield, MA; Feeding Hills UCC, Feeding Hills, MA; UU Meeting of South Berkshire, Great Barrington, MA; All Souls UU Church, Greenfield, MA; Haydenville Congregational Church, Haydenville, MA; First Church in Jamaica Plain UU, Jamaica Plain, MA; Central Congregational Church, Jamaica Plain, MA; Church on the Hill Lenox UCC, Lenox, MA; First Parish in Lexington, Lexington, MA; Union Church of Christ, Ludlow, MA; First Churches, Northampton, MA; St. John's Episcopal Church, Northampton, MA; Edwards Church, UCC, Northampton, MA; First Church of Christ, Northampton, MA; Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence, Northampton, MA; First Parish of Northfield Unitarian, Northfield, MA; First Universalist Church, Orange, MA; St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Pittsfield, MA; South Congregational Church, Pittsfield, MA ; UMC of

Holyoke, South Hadley and Granby, South Hadley, MA; First Church of Christ Congregational, Springfield, MA; South Congregational, Springfield, MA; St. John's Congregational Church, Springfield, MA; UU Church of Pittsfield, Pittsfield, MA; UU Society of Greater Springfield, MA; Westhampton Congregational, Westhampton, MA

Northern CT

East Hartford First Congregational UCC, East Hartford, CT; East Hartford New Hope Christian Church UCC, East Hartford, CT; Enfield Congregational Church, Enfield, CT; Unitarian Society of New Haven, Hamden CT; Hartford Asylum Hill Congregational UCC, Hartford, CT; Hartford Faith Congregational UCC, Hartford, CT; Hartford Liberty Christian Center International UCC, Hartford, CT; Hartford Immanuel Congregational Church UCC, Hartford, CT; Unitarian Society of Hartford, Hartford; Hartford First Church of Christ UCC, Hartford, CT; Hartford Faith Congregation UCC, Hartford, CT; UU Society, New Britain CT ; First Universalist Society in New Haven, New Haven CT; West Hartford First Korean UCC, West Hartford, CT; UU Society, Manchester, CT; The Universalist Church of West Hartford, West Hartford, CT

Southern VT

Bennington Second Congregational Church, Bennington, VT; North Bennington Congregational Church UCC, North Bennington, VT; All Souls Church Unitarian Universalist, Brattleboro, VT; UU Fellowship of Bennington, Bennington, VT; Brattleboro Centre Congregational UCC, Brattleboro, VT; Brattleboro First Congregational UCC, Brattleboro, VT; Guilford Community Church UCC, Brattleboro, VT

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The Ogunkuit Inn; 17 Glenn Ave.;
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The Highlands Inn; Bethlehem, NH, 877-
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Among the Cedars: Start an Outer Cape get-away in the depths of a hidden forest

By J. Stevenson/Special to TRT

As the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges emerge from the horizon, travelers bound for Cape Cod feel a sudden lurch in their hopes—Hyannis and Provincetown, three miles ahead! the highway signs promise.

But that anticipation is usually felt by thousands, causing cars to inch their way on to the Northeast's most famous peninsula. For those traveling all the way to the fingertips of Cape Cod's flexing arm of surf and sand, perhaps to 'P-town,' the little hamlet that never sleeps, three miles to the bridge is actually followed by another 50.

The beauty of a trek 'down Cape,' however, is that the major throughway, Route 6, serves as a central artery from one end of Cape Cod to the other, and stopping for impromptu exploration (without getting lost) is easier than it first might seem.

Tired of hypocrites, but things are changing

By Jackie Kennedy

Ok, so one of the themes for this article is hypocrisy. I've touched on it before, but since it's so prevalent in this "society," I must write about it again. As you know by now, according to the news one of **Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign** co-chairs was busted in Florida for trying to pick up an undercover male police officer. The article further states: "**State Rep. Bob Allen (R), an opponent of LGBT rights in Florida, was charged with offering the cop \$20 for oral sex in a washroom** at Veteran's Memorial Park in Titusville. Hmm! What do I say about that?

I'll say here we go again with the same conservative married heterosexuals who claim that same-sex marriage is damnation, and that will be the demise of the marriage institution. Hello!! The demise of it is the hypocrisy of your lives, or should I call them "lifestyles." I mean, you choose to be heterosexual, but then you flip-flop to the other team when it's convenient and secluded. What's with that? At least queers are mostly open about their sexuality and stay on that side. Should we make up a word for conservative heterosexuals who are truly gay or bi and stay in the closet while condemning the LGBT community? Maybe **homosexuals**? I don't know anymore!

Did you hear about **Tori Spelling**? She's now available for weddings. She officiated at a same-sex union in California recently and was very proud of it. I'm proud of her and her husband for not letting bias or the media get to them. It's one of the best things she's done and we're proud of her for it. I bet lots of people will want Spelling to officiate their weddings.

I give **Lucas Silveira** from **The Clicks** a thumbs-up for his courage to admit that

Cape Cod is divided into three sections—the Upper Cape, Lower Cape, and Outer Cape, which includes the towns of Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown. It's here that Route 6 gives way to those sand dunes and quaint little villages we hear so much about, as wells as hidden gems that are perfect for starting a get-away a little early.

Forget the mini-golf, whale watching, and fried clams (however, return to the clams later.... that's a must), and even set aside the fantastic shopping, dining, and nightlife that the area offers.

Instead, picture yourself, and perhaps your betrothed, strolling under a canopy of cedars and maples. Tea-colored water stirs gently on either side of you, and the faint sound of the surf crashing on a shore in the distance stops your racing mind.

This is the Atlantic White Cedar Trail, found just off of Route 6 at Marconi

he is a transgender. He is the lead-man of the rock band **The Clicks** and has been signed by a high profile label. It's not about sexuality people, it's about talent and the guy has talent. Even when he's refused to take hormone therapy, he knows he's a man. I was always taught that a man knows he's a man and that has nothing to do with biology. Amen!

Pride left with a big bang, especially in the **True Colors Tour**'s last night. **Cindy Lauper and Rosie O'Donnell** were the heroines of the show and the struggle that night. They both conjured statements that were meant to empower LGBT people when they said (according to an Advocate.com exclusive by Corey Scholibo): "**Stand up for yourself, gay people. The '60s are back.**" Thank you for the fight, because it is our fight, that of human kind. I am proud to join this fight, even if I were not a member of this community. Why can't other people?

Now, let's tune to **LOGO** to see the historical LGBT presidential candidates' debate. That's going to be a turning point for many people because of the buying power that this community has and we all know that politicians love the power of \$\$\$\$. Isn't anybody else paying attention? (yells)

Shows you don't want to miss!

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' ON LGBT ISSUES; LOGO; August 9, 90-minute show, 9 p.m. EST; Check out what your candidate has on the agenda for LGBT rights and issues.

Hey, Paula, Bravo (30 min); 10:00 PM; July 19; NEW; Paula Abdul, the heir-apparent to the Anna Nicole reality-TV legacy, continues on her new reality show, which costars her hairdressing BFF Daniel, and the four Chihuahuas she refers to as her children.



The White Cedar Trail,
Wellfleet, Mass.
Photo by: Mark Archer

Point in Wellfleet. The trail is an easy walk, under two miles, and showcases one of the lesser known aspects of the Outer Cape's natural beauty: in addition to miles of beach, there are also several pockets of lush forestry and fresh-water ecosystems.

The trail begins as a simple, sandy path in the seaside woods. Gentle, rolling hills descend into mossy pools, where hikers can walk on water with the help of a boardwalk maintained by the Cape Cod National Seashore. The sunlight only peeks through the dense trees, and gives the entire stroll a magical, romantic feel.

The White Cedar Trail also goes through a metamorphosis each season. In the summer, vibrant greens, blues, and yellows are predominant, while in the fall the trees take on a deep brown hue. Finally, as winter approaches, the white cedars live up to their name, growing a striking, cold-weather coat that turns the forest into a sparkling wonderland.

As the path draws to an end, it opens up to a spectacular view of Marconi Point, where Guglielmo Marconi first made transatlantic, wireless communication a reality in 1903.

The White Cedar Trail is family and pet-friendly, as well as a respite from the

DEGRASSI: TNG, The N (30 min); July 20; 9 p.m. NEW; The hit teen soap returns to finish out the sixth season. Featured LGBT characters include live-in boyfriends Marco and Dylan, as well as ex-couple Alex and Paige.

THE BEST YEARS, The N (1 hr); 9:30 p.m.; NEW; This new drama follows the inevitably interesting life of a college freshman attending a prestigious university in Boston. Providing a dash of gay culture is Lee Campbell; the owner of the local hotspot where the gang hangs out.

hustle and flow of traffic. It's also only 20- to 30-minutes away from the heart of Provincetown, an acceptable distance to those fried clams, and the vibrant culture of Commercial Street.

To pause for a breath, to get out of the car, to reset tired brains and weary eyes – these are the draws of the White Cedar Trail, and an apt start to a successful adventure.

* J. Stevenson is a travel, culture, and business writer based in Massachusetts, and a Cape Cod native. Her fiance proposed in December, at a bend in the boardwalk of the White Cedar Trail. www.writerjax.com.

10 Ways to be an Ally & Friend

1. Be a listener.
2. Be open-minded.
3. Be willing to talk.
4. Be inclusive and invite LGBT friends to hang out with your friends and family.
5. Don't assume that all your friends and co-workers are straight. Someone close to you could be looking for support in their coming-out process. Not making assumptions will give them the space they need.
6. Homophobic comments and jokes are harmful. Let your friends, family and co-workers know that you find them offensive.
7. Confront your own prejudices and homophobia, even if it is uncomfortable to do so.
8. Defend your LGBT friends against discrimination.
9. Believe that all people, regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation, should be treated with dignity and respect.
10. If you see LGBT people being misrepresented in the media, contact us at glaad.org.

King St. Boiz from p. 3

Three words to sum it up are flamboyant, homo, thug.

Tomi Boi: I'm an angry, bad, country boi but then soft at heart. I would say I am shy, complex, and versatile.

Q: What was that very first performance as the King St. Boiz like? What kinds of performances did you give?

Daddy K: At first, people did not really have any faith in us. At the first show, I think people were thinking that we would not get a turn-out but we packed the house from the very beginning and surprised everyone. As a group, we do everything. We perform rock, country, pop, and music from the past. We always have a group performing on stage and we incorporate at least 3 members of the group at all times. The show brought in people from [the ages of] 18 through their 60's. It wasn't just a young crowd. That's what we wanted. I think we sparked people's curiosity from the beginning.

Tomi Boi: I was really nervous at my

first show because I have never seen a king do country, so I was really worried about the reception.

Buzz: When we get into character, we all take it very seriously. I hope that the transgender community finds that supportive.

Do you all bind and pack for each show?

LUCKE: We all bind but some of us have to bind extra. Binding is a pain in the butt, like finding someone to bind you, not binding the right way the first time so re-binding. At times, you have to bind like four times before it is right.

Buzz D: There are times that I go home and the next day, I have bruises all over from the binding. It is painful.

DADDY K: We all have to pack.

LUCKE: Packing is not bad at all. It's the binding that is really bad.

KING ST. BOIZ: We are bound for about 6-7 hours per performance; from the beginning until after we are home.

Q: What is the rest of the preparation like for these performances? Is it a difficult process?

IVORY: There are still people out there

that think that drag kings do not take enough preparation time, that you wear everyday clothing, you don't really perform, you are nothing like the queens. Getting ready for us is a whole process.

DADDY K: We are the first kings up here to use real facial hair. When we get hair cuts, we save the hair and use it as part of our costuming.

LUCKE: We buy spirit gum from the party store and that is our glue. We cut it and put it on with the hair in the same direction that the hair would normally grow. Some people use eyeliner underneath. It takes us at least an hour and a half to two hours just to do our facial hair and binding. That is excluding costumes.

IVORY: We spend hours every week rehearsing together. It is a complicated process because we have to coordinate everything as a group, not as an individual character.

Q: How long are your shows?

DADDY K: 90 minutes with a half hour intermission. During the intermission, we involve and interact with the audience. For example, during the last show, we

walked around with a construction belt on filled with whipped cream and played a game like 'what king will make you cream' and then they [the audience] would by a shot of cream from us. You work up a big sweat we are all performing at least 4 numbers.

Q: How do your partners/wives react to your performances? Are they supportive of it all?

IVORY: Our wives know that at the end of the day, we are going home with them and we would never do anything to disrespect them or disrespect our relationship.

Q: Will the King St. Boiz perform for private functions?

DADDY K: We would definitely consider it and talk about it. We would be open to going to other areas to perform, including CT and beyond. We want to perform at different venues and keep growing.

The King St. Boiz will be performing on July 20th at 8 p.m. at Diva's.

To learn more about the King St. Boiz, visit www.myspace.com/kingsboiz or e-mail Northampton's own drag king troupe at kingsboiz@gmail.com.

TRT PRIDE Calendar

SENIOR CITIZEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE; Mondays at 12:30 p.m. - Canal Lanes, Route 5, Southampton.

SOCIAL GROUP FOR LESBIANS

We always meet on the first and third Friday's of the month. For information call 413-687-2065

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC) is NOW available without a prescription at all Tapestry Health Services sites. Call (413) 586-2539.

CAFE & CONVERSATION: Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.; at the Northampton Council on Aging, NCOA; 240 Main St., Suite 1 Northampton Phone: 587-1228

MATURE LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP; Group for women 55+ meets monthly at the Northampton Council on Aging at 240 Main St., at 6 p.m., the second Monday of each month.

DISCUSSION GROUP FOR LESBIANS 40+ meets every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Stonewall Center at UMass. Topics chosen by group consensus the previous week. This is a warm and welcoming group of intelligent women. Information email to: JBGreenzie@aol.com

OLDER LESBIAN DISCUSSION GROUPS; Amherst/NoHo Area. New members accepted on space-available basis. If enough interest, new groups may form. FMI: 413-247-3257 or 413-253-3049.

MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP; Any male 18 or older; an opportunity for men to share their experiences, thoughts, and feelings about life's journey. Support group not a therapy group. Free. Every Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brattleboro, VT. FMI: 802-258-3914.

REACH! FOR A FREE DANCE PERFORMANCE; Jul 18, 2007 7:00 p.m.; Bishop Allen Drive parking lot behind Harvest Cooperative

Supermarket, 581 Mass. Ave., Central Square Fifteen aspiring teen dancers from Boston, Cambridge and area neighborhoods dance side by side with professionals at this public performance by Boston University's four-week Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship Dance Program, REACHI! This free 45-minute high-energy performance will showcase the teens' original choreography in an eclectic program of modern, improvisation, jazz, hip-hop, contemporary, and ethnic dance set to Latin, hip-hop, jazz, classical, contemporary and world music. Rain date: July 25, 7 p.m. Bring lawn chairs.

HOTTEST LATIN NIGHT; Every 3rd Saturday of each month, The Chez is proud to host Latin Night. Started in 2003, your hostess, Miss Chez Est Latina, Lady Tatiana has taken this night to new heights. With more and more people each month, we are proud to offer the strongest Latin Night in New England. At midnight Lady Tatiana takes to the stage and puts on a show including live vocals from the amazing Wanda, hot Latin dancers, and special guest performers. Always a packed house. If you have a flare for lots of hot Latin boys and a packed dance floor, this is not a party to miss. FMI: 458 Wethersfield, Ave., Hartford, CT; 860-525-3243.

VT BEAR FILM FEST; Saturday, August 25, 2007. Yo ho ho! There be pirates amongst us! Search for Gray Beard's treasure, WOOF it up at the "Bears Gone Wild" Carnivale and enjoy a day full of short, feature and documentary films. FMI: www.vtbearfilm.com

KING ST. BOIZ; July 20th, Diva's Night Club @ 7 p.m.; Back by Popular Demand. The Boiz are HOT, don't miss their show! With the cut out of the ad on page 9, you get \$2.00 off admission. Check it out! Go support NoHo's Boiz!

HARRASSMENT? DISCRIMINATION? Do you know of any businesses in Northampton or surrounding areas that are giving you a

hard time because you're gay and/or don't cater to you? If you have a story, we want to tell it. Contact The Rainbow Times, 413-204-8959

SPIRITUALITY AT THE MENSPACE; July 20; Open discussion of men's spirituality/practice of techniques. Come with an open mind and willingness to share.

EMPIRE CITY MOTORCYCLE CLUB BBQ; July 21; 5:00pm, Tree Frog Farm, Guilford. The Empire City Motorcycle Club invites the Men's Program to a barbecue at Tree Frog Farm in Guilford . They'll provide the grilled goodies; bring a dish to share. Not a Men's Program event.

CONNECTIONS MAILING FUN; July 24; 6 p.m. at the APSV office, 67 Main Street , 4th Floor, Brattleboro . Fold, stuff, seal, stamp, laugh. Pizza provided!

BOOK CLUB; 7 p.m.; July 26; at the Minspace; July's book is *CALL ME BY YOUR NAME*, by Andre Aciman. Please note that even if you have not finished the book, you are still welcome to attend the discussion. Call Curtis for more information, 254-2400.

LEXINGTON ARTISAN MARKET; Jul 28; 10:00 a.m.; 130 Waltham Street; Lexington, MA 02421

BIKING and BBQ; July 29; 11a.m.; Biking 2 p.m. BBQ, at Brad Banks' in Peterborough, NH. FMI, contact Brad at goldnwolf@surfglobal.net or call the Men's Program at 802-254-4444. PLEASE, NO CALLS TO BRAD. Thanks! Not a Men's Program. sponsored event.

NON-PROFIT OR ORGANIZATION W/FREE EVENTS 4 ALL? Send us your event and we will publish them for free! If you are a for-profit business, we also have affordable options for you! cALL 413-204-8959!

FREE AND ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING; Call the Aids Project of Southern VT at 254-4444. Meeting arrangements also available.

Things You Can Do For Transgender Equality

1. Look at your favorite organization's policies and ensure that transgender people are welcome to join your country club, your work union or your book group.
2. Volunteer to help get a transgender-supportive candidate elected.
3. Ask your local film festival to include films inclusive of transgender issues.
4. Work to pass a non-discrimination policy in your workplace. Slightly less than one-third of Americans live in a jurisdiction with laws that ban employment discrimination based on gender identity and expression.
5. Submit an op-ed to your local paper about the transgender community. This is an effective way to express opinions and distribute information on transgender issues from a variety of voices.
6. Plan or attend a Day of Remembrance Event every November 20. This is a yearly opportunity to remember those lost to hate-motivated violence directed towards the transgender community, and also a time to encourage people to take action to make the world safer.
7. Start or attend a transgender support or education group in your neighborhood. These groups are often a vital way that transgender people connect with one another.
8. Encourage fair, accurate and inclusive media coverage of transgender issues. Many people learn about transgender people from watching television or reading stories in the newspaper. If you see transgender people being misrepresented in the media, contact glaad.org.

Submit your non-profit calendar event* to calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com

*Certain restrictions apply. Small for-profit events/groups, 35 words or less, are considered for a small fee. Large/for-profit events are not considered. All sub-

Presidential Candidates' First Ever Gay Debate

The leading Democratic presidential contenders will participate in a historical forum on LGBT issues on August 9, sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign and LOGO, a cable channel aimed at the LGBT community.

This is the first time the leading candidates for the presidency will hold a televised debate devoted solely to LGBT issues.

The 90-minute event, televised on LOGO in front of a live audience, will be held in Los Angeles and broadcast on the gay network TV LOGO at 9:00 pm ET (6:00 pm PT) and through live streaming video at LOGOonline.com. On the panel

questioning the Democrats will be Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese and singer Melissa Etheridge. The candidates will appear one at a time to field questions on same-sex marriage, HIV/AIDS, hate crimes, relationship recognition, marriage equality, workplace fairness, the military, and other important issues.

Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, John Edwards, Chris Dodd and Dennis



HILLARY R. CLINTON
Photo: hillaryclinton.com

NY Assembly Passes Marriage Bill

The New York Assembly has passed legislation to legalize marriage for same-sex couples by a bipartisan vote of 85–61. The Marriage Equality Bill now heads to the senate for a vote.

Approval of the bill by the Assembly marks an important strategic and symbolic victory because only one other state's legislature, California, has approved such a bill. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger later vetoed the bill. New York is now one step closer to becoming the second state in the nation, after Massachusetts, to extend marriage to same-sex couples — and the first to do so through a legislative process.

In April, Governor Elliott Spitzer made good on his pre-election promise and introduced the Marriage Equality Bill. It

came about after New York's highest court ruled against Lambda Legal's plaintiffs in our marriage equality case. The court said that New York is not required under its constitution to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The responsibility to grant marriage equality now rests squarely in the hands of the state senate.

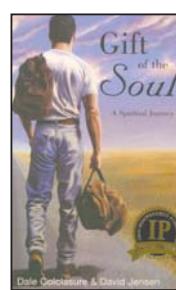


Free Gay inspirational novel sweeps across the world

Boulder CO—When authors Dale Colclasure and David Jensen were asked the question, "Why are you giving your book away?" Both responded simultaneously, "Why not?" The two authors have launched a website, named after their book entitled, GIFT OF THE SOUL (www.GiftOfTheSoul.com) where readers can download the entire book as a PDF file for FREE.

Colclasure and Jensen, award-winning authors, columnists and public speakers, both strongly believe in giving back to society. "There is such a shortage of inspirational material for the gay and lesbian community and we feel strongly about making this type of material accessible to anyone and everyone who wants it," states Jensen.

Colclasure follows up with, "In today's



world, we are constantly confronted with negativity, threats of terrorism and fear. This book is uplifting and inspirational and helps counterbalance with positive messages and feel-good exercises. Now, more than ever, the world needs this kind of book."

In just a short period of time, the word of mouth site is quickly becoming one of the most popular destinations for gays, lesbians, bisexual, transgender and queer

Kucinich have confirmed they will participate. Gov. Bill Richardson has not responded to the invitation and Sen. Joe Biden declined the invitation due to scheduling problems. Sen. Mike Gravel has been invited to take part as well. The program is sponsored by the HRC and LOGO.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich have not yet said whether they'll attend.

Former U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel of Alaska was not invited to participate because he did not meet a \$100,000 fundraising threshold, HRC spokesman Brad Luna said.

Gay Buying Power to be \$835 Billion by 2011

A new economic impact study says that 2011 LGBT buying power in the US will exceed \$835-billion per year. "Corporate America is waking up to the enormous opportunity of marketing to gays and lesbians," said market research firm Packaged Facts which prepared the study in collaboration with Witeck-Combs Communications, an LGBT marketing and public relations firm. The report, The Gay and Lesbian Market in the U.S. says that this year the buying power of gays and lesbians will reach \$660 billion. The study said that it is estimated there are about 15.3 million gays and lesbians in the country.

"What we're finding since our last report two years ago is a greater openness among gays and lesbians to share their consumer habits, leisure and media pursuits, and personal/social attitudes," said Don Montuori, the publisher of Packaged

Luna called the forum "a historic opportunity for us," noting it was the first time major presidential candidates had agreed to address gay issues before a television audience.

The LGBT vote is considered a decisive electoral force and according to exit poll data make up approximately 4 percent of the voting population.

In the Democratic field, only Kucinich and Gravel support marriage rights for gay men and lesbians. The major contenders oppose same-sex marriage but support same-sex civil unions that confer most of the same legal rights.

Facts.

Last year Witeck and business partner Wes Combs co-authored Business Inside Out, considered the first-ever book on marketing insights, practical tips and strategies targeting the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender market.

The Night Owl

Central & Western, MA	Sin City
Blu	350 Worthington Street Springfield, MA
105 Water Street Worcester, Massachusetts	Connecticut
Club Car	Triangles
64 Water Street Worcester, MA	66 Sugar Hollow Road Danbury, Connecticut
DIVA'S	Chez Est
492 Pleasant St. Northampton, MA	458 Wethersfield Ave. Hartford, CT
Polo Club	Polo Club
678 Maple Avenue Hartford, CT	678 Maple Avenue Hartford, CT
Club Xstatic	168 York Street Cafè
240 Chestnut St. Springfield, MA	168 York Street New Haven, CT
Hob Knob	Bar
234 Chestnut Street Springfield, MA	254 Crown Street New Haven, CT
The Pub	Gotham Citi Cafè
382 Dwight Street Springfield, MA	Church & Crown Streets New Haven, CT
MB	Partners Cafè
40 Grafton Street Worcester, MA	

TRT's Back to school Supplement coming soon!

ATTN: Colleges and businesses that cater to students. Promote your services/organization! Call TRT at 413.204.8959 for more info.

Increase the visibility of Latina lesbians and bisexuals!

Participate in an interview based research study

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For more details call 860-933-8082 or e-mail katie.acosta@uconn.edu

Other Trans News

Trans leader of *The Cliks* hopes to make a musical not social statement

By: Rebecca Louie/For AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Lucas Silveira wears his heart on his tattoo sleeve.

The frontman of Toronto rock band *The Cliks* bares a turbulent tapestry on his arm: a dragon leaping through flames and waves, two guns bearing wide wings, and the word "Survivor."

"This is all to commemorate what I went through," says Silveira, who is transgender. He notes that transgender people are more likely to commit suicide than others—and he knows the pain involved: "I went to that place, and I know where that comes from. I felt so lucky that I got through it that this was to commemorate the entire ordeal."

Silveira is the first out transgender artist to be signed to a high profile label, Tommy Boy's gay-friendly imprint Silver Label. These days he is trying to build a career as he rebuilds his life as a biological female that identifies as male.

The Cliks were featured on the recent gay-oriented "True Colors Tour," playing alongside Cyndi Lauper, Erasure and Debbie Harry. This spring they released "Snakehouse," an emotional, guitar-driven album. Their single "Oh Yeah" spent several weeks atop a musical countdown on Logo, the gay-themed cable network.

At first glance the singer, who declines to give his age, looks like a petite tomboy with stylish, cropped locks and thick,

lush eyelashes. While shopping for sneakers in downtown Manhattan ("I love shoes, man," he gushes), salesmen offer him women's sizes even though he asks for men's. Silveira knows he looks more female than male; on his records he sounds like it too. He sacrificed the male attributes hormones offer to maintain his singing voice. Instead, he underwent a double mastectomy to feel more comfortable in his skin.

"People are like, 'How opportunistic of you. Is this a gimmick? Do you think it's stylish to be this way?'" he says of skeptics. "And I am like, 'Yeah, I am really, really into having a double mastectomy for fashion.'"

In recent months, the transgender community has gotten a surge of exposure on television ("All My Children," "Ugly Betty") and in film (2005's award-winning "Transamerica" and documentaries like "Alexis Arquette: She's My Brother"). These works have banked on the characters' transgender experience to draw audiences. However, *The Cliks'* work is more vague. They deliver the standard rock fare of emotional songs that express trials that are not transgender so much as they are human.

"I think that authenticity is reflected in their particular single and I can only theorize that is why it has caught on," says Brian Graden, president of Logo and of

entertainment at MTV Networks Music Group. "I don't think it's because of any hook of being transgender."

Born in Toronto as Lillia, Silveira spent much of his childhood on the small Portuguese island Pico. He moved back to Toronto's suburbs when he was ten, thriving on pop and then heavy metal. With paper route funds he bought an electric guitar. Struggling with male inclinations, Silveira entered what he dubs his "über feminine" phase, donning heels, nylons and skirts in an attempt to fit in.

By his early twenties he was a singer/songwriter, doing open mics and solo acoustic gigs and identifying as a lesbian. Back in Toronto, he named his band Lillia and supported his art with government grants and dog walking. Then two years ago, a six-year relationship ended, Silveira's grandmother died, his father had a stroke and a friend was rediagnosed with cancer. Then, his band-members quit.

"I fell apart and I started looking in," remembers Silveira. And what he found was his true gender identity. "It started coming in dreams and one day I just woke up horrified because I just saw the answer. I had known since I was a kid, but sometimes when the truth is there it's too scary to deal with and you suppress it. I was like, 'Oh my god, it's sink or swim.'"

Silveira dived right in—and his music flourished. He formed a new band called *The Cliks* with drummer Morgan Doctor and bassist Jordan B. Wright. The songs he wrote became harder, louder, and to Silveira, more authentic.

"I just felt I didn't have to suppress another part of who I was," says the self-taught musician. "My identity as a female hinged on the fact that I would be tame and feminine and subdued. Coming to terms with the fact that I was trans made me feel more liberated to go to the core of my songwriting and what I loved about music."

Rosie Lopez, then head of A&R at Tommy Boy Entertainment, heard the

shift. An earlier Lillia album left her unmoved but when *The Cliks'* record—which includes a cover of Justin Timberlake's "Cry Me A River"—arrived, she signed them. Since the April release of "Snakehouse" Lopez, now vice-president estimates they have shipped 5,000 albums and scanned about 1,200 copies. The label keeps the band touring to connect them with fans. It's the music, Lopez insists, not Silveira's gender, that will draw in the most dedicated listeners.

"No one is going to run out and buy this album because of that. That's the reaction audience. If we try to make this a marketing angle then that is all it is over going to be," she says of Silveira's transgender status.

Interestingly, some of the band's biggest supporters aren't even aware of Silveira's identity. Willobee, the operations manager and program director of Albany, N.Y.'s alternative rock station WEQX, saw the band perform at the SXSW festival in Austin, Texas this spring. He then began playing them on the radio and added them to the lineup of the station's upcoming concert.

"When I saw them I was like, wow, they got something here," says Willobee. "I didn't know about the transgender thing until two weeks ago! I don't know if the whole gender identity is going to help or hurt them. ... For me, it doesn't matter. We are a radio station and all people can hear is the music."

Silveira understands that he is a pioneer, and that eventually the novelty of his gender will wear off.

"As a human being I feel a responsibility to myself to be who I am," he says. "I can't take on this, 'You are the poster child for trans men or trans people' thing because people in the trans world are totally different. To me, it's just about acceptance, about things that are different, and being able to normalize that. If I can be out in the world and have people treat me like everybody else, that would be cool."

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

KING ST BOIZ

Friday, July 20th
Diva's Nightclub

Showtime 8:00pm Doors 7:00pm
\$7 21+ \$12 18+
www.myspace.com/kingstboiz

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