

The Rainbow Times

Your LGBT News in Western MA, the Capital District of NY, Northern CT, & Southern VT

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Photo by: Michael Brandt

Opinions

It is politics as usual

By: Nicole Lashomb/ TRT Editor-in-Chief

Recently, Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton hit the stage together as they addressed thousands of enthusiastic attendees at a joint rally in Unity, New Hampshire to promote their united political front against Republican Sen. John McCain.

I could not believe my eyes. Sen. Obama and Sen. Clinton, once opponents, turned proponents, praised each other's successes, strengths, and preservation. The one message that was more than apparent was that of unification.

Seeking to turn the page on the historically bitter Democratic primary season, both parties emphatically stated that though one chapter had come to an end, another was

just beginning. That chapter begins with defeating Republican contender, Sen. John McCain in November.

Recent polls had indicated that as many as 24% of Clinton supporters would not vote for Obama in a general election and would instead vote Republican. If that were the case and Clinton supporters backed McCain instead of Obama, then the electorate vote could be tipped, thus leading to a Republican victory.

In the joint rally, Clinton urged her supporters to back Sen. Obama. She said, "To anyone who voted for me and is now considering not voting or voting for Sen. (John) McCain, I strongly urge you to reconsider." She continued to say that

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C'mon Out – Just Ask! Advice column

By: Tetty Gorfine/ TRT Columnist

Hello and help!

I've been searching the internet high and low. My boyfriend just told me that he wants to be a girl! I can't believe it and I'm so upset. How can ever get through this? I love HIM very much but I don't think I can love him as a girl. Please help.

—Marcia

Dear Marcia:

I am so sorry for how difficult this news is for you. Partners of transsexual people go through so much loss and confusion. You count on a relationship looking a certain way, and then, in a moment everything changes. And, as with any major change, there comes a whole array of emotions.

Please give yourself plenty of time to sit with this. The worst time for any of us to make any big decision is when we're upset. You will need a lot of time to adjust and figure out what is right for you.

In my experience, some couples make it through this transition and others do not. There is no right or wrong here. I would recommend that you get as much support and education as possible. There are great books such as *True Selves*, and anything by Leslie Feinburg or Kate Bornstein. There are many others too, this is just a beginning. Depending on where you live, see if there's a support group for transgender people and their families. And, there is always the internet where there are many educational forums and chat rooms.

You are not alone in this. Try letting love guide this process. Stay open to yourself and your feelings and listen deeply to your partner.

The best of luck to you and your partner Marcia.

Dear Tetty:

I've been in relationship with my partner for 2 years. We've moved in together 6 months ago. Things have been great. He



TETTY GORFINE

and I have so much in common. We do everything together and share the same friends. But, lately, he's been wanting to go out with his friends alone. They are my friends now too and I don't understand why I can't come. He says he still loves me but needs space. I think he's being selfish, trying to keep our friends for himself. What should I do?

—At wits end!

Dear At Wits End:

Are you sure your boyfriend wants to keep his friends to himself? Have you asked him to explain what he's looking for? Now, I must say that when people move in with each other, things do shift. After moving in, people begin to spend a great deal more time together. This may be very enjoyable and certainly we want it to. But, we humans have many different kinds of needs. There are needs for intimacy which is why we all really want to have a relationship. And, people usually have needs for time alone, time with others, and time for other interests. Don't you?

Needing space does not mean the relationship is in danger or that anything is wrong. It may very well be a natural progression of your relationship.

Talk with your partner. Tell him your fears of his needing more space. See if his desire for space is about his needs or a rejection of you. I am sure if you find out that it's about him, not you, it will become easier for you.

C'mon Out! Submit your questions to Tetty Gorfine, Director of LifeCourse Counseling Center. Simply go to www.life-course.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.

The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something

By: Suzan Ambrose/ TRT Columnist



I've never been in jail. At least not if we don't count the time I was (mistakenly!) booked, searched, fingerprinted and thrown into a cell for something I didn't do, for about an hour. But, strangely enough, I was reminded of that experience as I sat down to write in my new office space.

I was drawn to the view beyond my windows ... big sky, a meandering stream, corn fields. I was in writer's heaven ... and it was then that I noticed the bars. The window bars, of course, as they crisscrossed through the pane ... right through my perfect view. I almost didn't get up to open that window, since I had opened some

already to allow air in. But to no avail ... I couldn't just sit there complacent. I didn't want to look out through bars at this

delicious slice of nature. Not today or ever. Is this how it must feel to an inmate? Always inside looking out, through the bars, always a little separated from "others," desperate to look/be beyond? And, is it any different for those who don't often leave the confines of their homes, afraid to let their kids (or themselves) play outdoors, so "let's just safely watch the world from in here?" Nice windows ... with bars, no matter how nicely curtained while restraining our lives. Maybe there isn't that much difference between window bars, the jail-house variety, or the ones we put up inside ourselves to shut people out.

Is this so different from gay people who experience internalized homophobia? You know, Dr. Jekyll is the outside face, but you know there's another part of you. The Mr. Hyde, the side nobody knows about, that is despised? Or as Joan Jett sings; "I hate myself for loving you" ... or just ourselves, maybe. Something most LGBT people will admit to knowing a little about.

Wikipedia defines internalized homophobia as: A prejudice carried by individuals

See Couch on Page 12

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I just read the article in the latest edition of TTT "Love, Rights...and the Rest of It...Yahoo!" by J.M. Sorell. In the article she talks about Rhode Island and New York being the only states that recognize out of state marriages. Unfortunately, that is not 100% true. Yes, it is true that because of the court case *Martinez v. Monroe County, Governor Patterson issued an executive memorandum that all State agencies must recognize same sex marriages from other states and Canada (in terms of benefits like pension and the like) but as of right now, it only applies to State workers. In other words, same sex couples who are married do not automatically gain legal recognition in New York unless one of the individuals in the marriage is a state worker. All other married couples who want to be recognized by NY are out of luck if neither individual works for the State.*

I found this out when I went to a recent legal clinic at the Albany CDGLCC. Due to the court case *Gonzales vs. Greene*, same sex marriages in MA do not 'count' if they are not legal in your home state (the legal lingo is "comity" which means marriages that are legal elsewhere have to be upheld equally same sex or not). You can go ahead and go through the marriage process in MA, but it isn't valid in NY, nor is it valid in Massachusetts either. Massachusetts will not consider same sex marriages valid if the home state of the couple does not recognize same sex marriage as legal. This is what is meant by the 'residency requirement' many articles about the subject are talking about when discussing Massachusetts. In actuality, you can get married in Massachusetts if you're not a resident, but like I just mentioned, the marriage won't be valid (in Massachusetts unless the couple is a resident of Rhode Island or has already been married in California where same sex marriages are legal).

See more Letters to the Editor on Page 7

The Rainbow Times

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Western Mass Youth Pride Prom Empowers, Inspires

By: Alex Morse/TRT Special

On Saturday May 31st, Holyoke was home to one of the biggest and most powerful events for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender young people Western Massachusetts has ever seen. More than 300 young people from throughout the region packed the *Holiday Inn* in Holyoke in honor of the *2nd Annual Western Massachusetts Youth Pride Prom*.

Organized by the Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force, the Western Mass Youth Pride Prom strived to create a safe, fun, and respectful space for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender young people. Pride Proms are geared toward LGBT young people, a community that is often unwelcome at traditional high school proms. While high school environments are slowly becoming more welcoming for LGBT individuals, LGBT youth continue to be harassed for their sexual orientation and/or gender expression. The *Western Mass Youth Pride Prom*, and the efforts of the *Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force* in general, combat forces of oppression such as heterosexism and homophobia by means of education and empowerment.

This year's Western Mass Youth Pride Prom achieved an unprecedented level of success. With an incredible amount of young people, a new and larger location, and a more prom-like atmosphere, LGBT young people were assured of a safe, fun, and respectful environment absent of the societal pressures that often hinder their individuality and self-expression. Unlike last year's Prom, which was held at Open Square, this year's Prom took place at the *Holiday Inn*, a space often utilized for other high school Proms. Attendees enjoyed music, food, prom photos, rainbow corsages, and a drag performance by *Ruby Blaze*, this year's Miss Gay Latina in Connecticut.

Community agencies and programs were also in attendance. Those present included *Tapestry Health Systems*, the *Gateway to College Program* from *Holyoke*



Jossie Valentin, emcee, and Alex Morse, Prom organizer at the Prom.

All photos on pages 3 & 8 by: Myriam Quiñones.

Community College, and programs providing information for students on starting LGBT student groups at high schools and colleges.

This year's Pride Prom also enjoyed the support of Holyoke Mayor Michael Sullivan, who issued a city proclamation declaring Saturday May 31st "Youth Pride Day" in Holyoke, in honor of the 2nd Annual Western Mass Youth Pride Prom. Attendees were greeted by the proclamation as they entered the dance hall, all of whom appreciated the mayor's symbolic gesture.

Organizers of the Prom were adamant about making this year's Youth Pride Prom as inclusive as possible. Not only did the Task force invite Gay-Straight Alliances and LGBT organizations from across Western Massachusetts, they invited youth groups, schools, and community programs that rarely have the traditional Prom experience. LGBT students and their straight allies came not only from schools like *Holyoke High School* and other neighboring school districts, but also from the *Holyoke Street School* and *Westover Job Corps of Chicopee*, alternative programs for high-school and college-age young people.

According to Alex Morse, co-coordinator of the *Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force* and co-

organizer of the Pride Prom, it was important to have the event in the Holyoke area. "LGBT young people are everywhere, there is this unfounded perception that only places like Northampton are progressive enough to have these types of events," said Morse.

Amaad Rivera, a Springfield native, and now the *Racial Wealth Divide Initiative Leader at United for a Fair Economy*, called this year's Pride Prom "the most inclusive LGBT event he has ever been to," citing the racial and economic diversity of those in attendance. He also praised Prom organizers for making the Prom free for everyone.

The *Western Mass Youth Pride Prom* provided momentum to the mission of the *BAGLY Prom* (Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth), an annual LGBT prom at Boston City Hall. The Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force recognized a growing need for youth pride events in Western Mass—citing the lack of transportation and organization for youth to attend events in the Boston area.

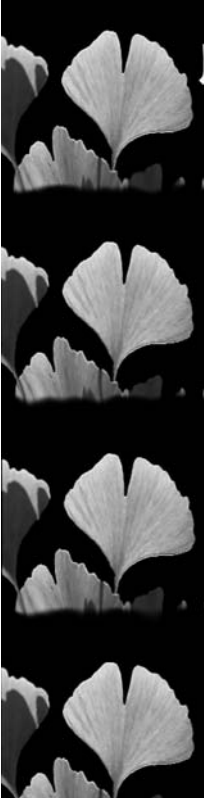
Organizers of *2nd Annual Western Mass Youth Pride Prom* enjoyed an influx of donations from non-profit organizations and community agencies in Western Massachusetts and across the state. Donors



Jenny Navasky and Vivianne Vallente, Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force members, and Prom chairpersons.

included: *The Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth*; *Baystate Medical Center*; *Parents, Friends, and Family of Lesbians and Gays in Boston*; *Tapestry Health Systems*; the *Holyoke High School Gay-Straight Alliance*; *Holyoke Youth Pride Empowerment at Girls Incorporated* in Holyoke; *Valley Psychiatric Services*; and the *Holyoke Health Center*. The organizations providing money cited the need for

See Prom & more Photos on Page 8



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In 'The Name of God'

Mormon church enters Calif. gay marriage fight

By: Jennifer Dobner/AP Writer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is asking California members to join the effort to amend that state's constitution to define marriage as being between a man and a woman.

A letter sent to Mormon bishops and signed by church president Thomas S. Monson and his two top counselors calls on Mormons to donate "means and time" to the ballot measure. A note on the letter dated June 20 says it should be read during church services on June 29, but the letter was published Saturday on several Web sites.

Church spokesman Scott Trotter said Monday that the letter was authentic. He declined further comment, saying the letter explains the church's reasons for getting involved.

The LDS church will work with a coalition of churches and other conservative groups that put the California Marriage Protection Act on the Nov. 4 ballot to assure its passage, the letter states.

In May, California's Supreme Court over-

turned a voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage, saying gays could not be denied marriage licenses.

"The church's teachings and position on this moral issue are unequivocal. Marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of

God and the formation of families is central to the Creator's plan for His children," the four-paragraph letter states.

"This initiative will hurt so many people," said executive director W. Olin Thomas said. "The California law affects civil marriage; it has no effect on any religious institution or official."

God and the formation of families is central to the Creator's plan for His children," the four-paragraph letter states.

"We ask that you do all you can to support the proposed constitutional amendment by donating of your means and time to ensure that marriage in California is legally defined as being between a man and a woman," church leaders say in the letter. "Our best efforts are required to preserve the sacred institution of marriage."

California Mormons—there are more than 750,000, according to a church

almanac—have heard and heeded similar calls from their leaders before.

In 2000, a letter from the pulpit asked members to give time and money in support of Proposition 22, a ballot measure prohibiting California from legally recog-

nizing gay marriages performed outside the state. It passed but was later struck down by the courts.

The LDS church also fought same-sex marriage legislation in other states during the 1990s. As recently as 2006, it signed a letter to Congress seeking an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman.

The latest letter is a disappointment to members of Affirmation, an international support group for gay, lesbian and trans-

gender Mormons. Last month, Affirmation called on the church not to meddle in California politics.

"This initiative will hurt so many people," said executive director W. Olin Thomas. "The California law affects civil marriage; it has no effect on any religious institution or official."

Affirmation leaders are scheduled to meet with the head of LDS Family Services, a church social services agency, in August to begin a conversation meant to bridge the divide between Mormonism and gay members hurt by church teachings that homosexuality is a sin.

It will be the first meeting between any arm of the church and Affirmation, which was formed in secret in the 1970s by students at the church-owned Brigham Young University in Provo.

"We're not going to let this stand in the way," Affirmation spokesman David Melson said. "The church has said they are open to finding new avenues and new solutions to minister to gay members, and we are taking them at their word."

Reception of Transwomen: Does gender and sexual orientation matter?

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw/TRT Columnist

This past Saturday evening I went to a service awards hosted by my company. I have worked 15 years at my job and I, along with others, were being recognized for our service to the company. I have been working there as a male for 14 and 1/2 years and now 7 months as a female and so when I say recognized I mean recognized in a couple of different ways!

There were three plants present at this function My plant knows me and has seen me everyday for 7 months now. There was no problem with them. The other plants have never seen me as female. Some may know me from phone calls and emails but have never met me in person. Others may



DEJA NICOLE GREENLAW

not know me at all but may have heard about me through the company grapevine. It was interesting how people dealt with me.

Most of the females were okay with me and accepted me with no discomfort. Most of the males were a bit uncomfortable with me. Oh, they were pleasant but they were very brief with me. It was like "Hi Deja," and then they went quickly off to somewhere else. They were not unfriendly, but certainly not friendly either.

Usually the discomfort is caused by

Transphobia, Homophobia, religious views or simply someone not being used to dealing with an LGBT person. I assume that lesbians and gays who come out at work would face the same general feelings as I did.

I would think that gay men would have the almost exact reactions as I did, females would be mostly ok, males were mostly not ok. Lesbians may find it different. I'm not so sure that most females would be ok with them as they would with a Transwoman like I am or a gay man, and I don't know about how males with deal with them. Then you bring a Transman (female-to-male Transgender) and I think that they would find it perhaps even harder. No Kermie, it sure ain't easy being green at work!

When you are out at work it's easy to feel like you are on the "outside" a lot of the times. Sometimes it's hard to deal with the work environment. One of my friends is helping to start "safe places" in her compa-

ny. By safe space I mean LGBT friendly.

At these safe spaces there would be no assumptions or judgments. The safe spaces would be a haven from an LGBT person being asked "When are you going to get serious and marry?" and the inquirer just assuming that everyone in the world is straight or "Why don't you go out with so and so?" These types of questions put the LGBT person in an uncomfortable place. The safe space will prevent all of that. The LGBT person could come to this safe space and talk about their weekend, their plans, or their anything without giving it a second thought. LGBT folk would know where these safe spaces are because my friend and others put a safe space sticker on their cubicle or office or work area. The sticker would symbolize that this area is a safe space. This is a great idea!

So although it is so wonderful to be out at work we still have uncomfortable situations that we have to deal with. It is getting

better, but we still have a long ways to go. We are pioneers and we may have to take a hit or two along the way but we must be strong and keep it going for our younger LGBT brothers and sisters. Yes, someday we shall overcome!

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MassMatch: Finding you the right one, not just anyone

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

Looking for love? Look no further. *MassMatch*, a personalized matchmaking service located in Amherst Mass., seeks to find you the right one, not just anyone, at a cost-effective rate according to the company's founder.

"*Mass Match* is a personal, private and very affordable dating and matchmaking service serving folks in Western MA and neighboring communities," said Lanie Delphin, founder, *MassMatch*, Amherst Mass. "We will be starting our seventh year in August. My mission has been to provide a way for compatible singles to meet without over-charging them and also without posting their personal information all over the Internet."

No amateur to the matchmaking scene, *MassMatch* has been in operation since 2001. Delphin understands what it means to be on both sides of the match making coin.

"My husband and I met through a dating service and we know firsthand how important they can be," she said. "Over half the adult population is single but there seems to be [too] few good ways in our culture for compatible singles to meet."



Before *MassMatch* was found, Delphin said that she has always had a sixth sense for helping people find their ideal match, personally and professionally.

"I've always been a bit of a matchmaker and informally I have matched friends and acquaintances even before I founded *Mass Match*," said Delphin. "I also was a job coach/counselor and previously matched people to jobs."

According to Delphin, *MassMatch* offers different types of matchmaking plans. However, Meet the Matchmaker Plan is the most popular amongst clients and is the most sensible for the majority of people.

"I do all the matching personally and the more I know about clients the better," said Delphin. "Clients breeze through the online form and then we sit down and go over it together carefully when we meet so I can

really get to know them and their preferences. Then, they answer five more fun questions about themselves and I proceed to match them with people who make sense."

Delphin said that she officially meets with each client once, however, she is available to be contacted as much or as little as a client prefers via phone or email.

Delphin credits her match making successes to primary personality characteristics such as being a good listener, having a strong sense of intuition and genuinely caring about people and their happiness. She also claims that she has been behind the matchmaking success of many happy couples.

"I have had countless successful matches within the heterosexual population and some short and long term relationships

amongst lesbians," said Delphin. "One lesbian couple that I know of is now together for the long haul and has happily moved to Boston."

Delphin has recently expanded her clientele to include the gay male population. She encourages gay men to sign up to receive a 50 percent discount off of the regular fee as she builds the data base.

"We are getting some really nice men," she said. "Right now I don't have matches for the trans community but I do welcome, lesbians, gays and bisexuals."

The Meet the Matchmaker Plan carries a one time fee of \$278, a price that many services cannot beat, according to Delphin.

"That is a fraction of the charge of what other services charge," she said. "Most of the money goes back into advertising to get everyone the most matches. We are less costly than Internet Dating or even answering a few personal ads. Membership is for a year theoretically, but longer if need be."

For more information about *MassMatch* or to find that special someone that you have been looking for, visit www.mass-match.com, e-mail the matchmaker, Lanie Delphin, at massmatch@comcast.net, or call 413-665-3218.

ATTENTION: Homeowners If You Have a Roofing Problem, DON'T PANIC

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Queer Reviews

'Minutes' Man: Director Robert Gaston on the making of '2 Minutes Later'

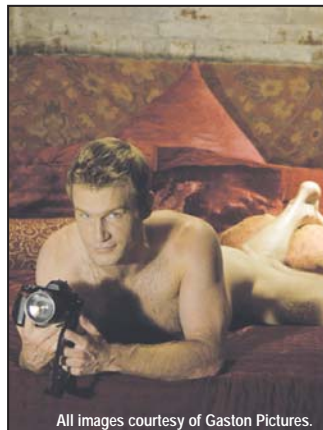
By: Ginger Harris*/TRT Special

To say that director-writer-producer Robert Gaston has his hands full is an understatement.

A seasoned veteran of film and television and founder of Philadelphia-based *Gaston Pictures*, the accomplished Gaston released his first feature film, *OpenCam*, in 2005, following extensive production work on major network programs such as *King of the Hill* and *Sex and the City*. His latest project—a murder mystery complete with plot twists, suspense and lots of skin—*2 Minutes Later* (2ML), is available on DVD now and stars Jessica Graham and Michael Molina as “the new queer crime-fighting duo.” Loaded with bonus features, it’s a thrilling and sexy whodunit that’ll keep audiences guessing until the very end.

When high-profile photographer Kyle Dalmar vanishes, a chance meeting between his gay identical twin, Michael Dalmar (Molina), and bombshell lesbian detective Abigail Marks (Graham) sets the stage for an unforgettable partnership and an intricate game of masked identity and seduction. The ensuing investigation sets the pair on a dark trail of evidence that coils through smoky bars and photo shoots, pushing them closer to Dalmar, each other, and the shocking truth behind the photog’s bizarre disappearance.

2 Minutes Later is a refreshing take on a classic buddy story that manages to craft a



All images courtesy of Gaston Pictures.

platonic co-ed partnership that holds its own. In an exclusive interview, talented director Gaston elaborates on his travels, the trials of indie film production and his commitment to quality storytelling.

GINGER HARRIS: Timing is everything for our savvy sleuths in this thriller. Other than the increment between the twins’ birth, how is *2 Minutes Later* the ideal title for this film?

ROBERT GASTON: *2 Minutes Later* is also the timing of a rather significant photo sequence in the film. Beyond that I think

the title refers to the frequency of life’s uncertainties. Things change fast, much is out of our control, and there is much we need to adapt to, such as our attitudes, ideas and perceptions.

GH: Logo Online has expressed interest in seeing a TV series based on *2ML*. With your extensive background in television production, what are your thoughts on developing the partnership between Dalmar and Marks through a series?

RG: I’m very excited by the possibility of continuing the story of Abigail and Michael. The possibilities are endless. Both flawed characters possess a balance of humor and sex appeal with more than their fair share of baggage. It would be thrilling to put them on cases that push their buttons and force them to confront a few demons while in a procedural series structure. I also think it’s interesting that *2ML* is probably one of the few gender combinations where sexual tension doesn’t come into play. I love that we see a woman in touch with her masculine side and a man in touch with his feminine side; it’s a cool twist to a familiar genre. To me, *2ML* has a buddy combination that warrants representation in entertainment.

GH: You spent 2004 roaming the globe, and directed your first feature-length film *OpenCam* in D.C. the following year. How did your travels influence what you brought to that film, and to *2ML*?

RG: After spending nine years in Los Angeles working in the entertainment industry, I found myself somewhat depleted creatively. Taking a year off and budget traveling—experiencing rich cultural diversity—helped me to prioritize and opened my mind up to future possibilities. When I returned, directing *OpenCam* fell into place quite naturally. Developing the production company in my hometown of Philadelphia felt like the logical next step. I think it’s important for all of us to occasionally step back and reassess; I’m happy I had the opportunity to do just that.

GH: What’s the most exciting development that has stemmed from the many kudos *2ML* has received from film festivals and critics?

RG: For me the most exciting element is having the ability to meet other filmmakers and like-minded indie professionals who inspire and encourage on a daily basis. It’s a rich pool of knowledge and resources to



ROBERT GASTON

draw upon.

GH: Much has been made of the combination of lesbian and gay interests in *2ML*. Is this a theme you wish to explore in future Gaston productions?

RG: The projects I made last year all incorporated both gay and lesbian characters: *2ML*, *Will You...*, Houston Bernard’s music video *Say Goodbye*. However, it’s not necessarily a mission to include both gay men and women—it’s more important for me to create a good story with well-developed characters. All of my projects do explore a certain kind of sexual awakening. As a gay man, I tend to put gay characters on that journey. Currently, I am far more concerned with expressing a strong viewpoint than I am with an individual’s sexual preference.

GH: You’ve remarked that you would like to revisit the thriller genre at some point. Do you see your subsequent projects taking on a different tone, romantic or otherwise?

RG: Socially Registered, my [next] feature film, is a dark comedy set against the rich milieu of suburban Philadelphia. I tend to take a very mainstream approach to my writing but bend it with non-typical characters that hopefully provide the audience with a fresh twist. I’m going a step further with *Socially Registered*. Along with some non-typical characters, I’m incorporating significant lessons I’ve learned into their journey. If I’m going to bust my ass this hard, I want to do a little bit more than entertain.

* Ginger Harris is an intern with New York City-based Line/Byline Communications. She can be reached at ginger.harris@sju.edu

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Donna Summer: The Queen is back

Nearly two decades since Donna Summer's last studio album, the "Lady of the Night" has officially returned. Her new CD, *Crayons*, colors all genres of music: R&B, soul, club and the classic Summer sound that's branded as the soundtrack of our lives. It's been a long wait, but the diva doesn't disappoint: The five-time Grammy winner explodes on tracks like "Stamp Your Feet," and reclaims her throne with "The Queen is Back." In a one-on-one chat, "Hot Stuff" Summer discusses why she loves to love her gay fans, and offers advice on how to battle a Barbra Streisand drag queen.

Q: What can your gay fans expect from this album?

A: They can expect some surprises. I know because I've had some input back that they're happy with the surprises they got.

Q: You were one of the first artists to have an intense and noticeable gay following. At what point in your career did you realize you had this legion of gay fans?

A: From the beginning, my whole scene broke out in the gay clubs. I don't know if I would have a career if it hadn't been in some ways for the way "Love To Love You Baby" started off and everybody jumped on it. It was really in the gay clubs the song took off—they really embraced that new sound. I have to give credit where credit is due.

Q: Is there anything challenging about having such an aggressive gay following?

A: I think gay people in general—gay men especially—are very right-and-left-

brained: They use all the parts of their brain, which I don't think the average guy does. I think they're able to look at something, whether it's your clothing or whatever, and see it from both sides and have a very accurate opinion. That opinion sometimes can be brutal! [Laughs] At the same time, it's an asset.

Q: You're always credited as the "Queen of Disco," but you have a powerhouse voice that's still evident on *Crayons*. Do you ever feel underrated as a vocalist?

A: You know, I don't think about what other people think about me—not to sound arrogant, I don't mean it to sound that way. I don't know, I don't really think about it that much. [Laughs]

Q: How did "The Queen is Back" come about?

A: I had that title for quite some time—it kept coming to me. I asked E. Kidd, who I was writing with, if he thought that would be too pretentious or people would take it the wrong way, like they thought I was arrogant or something. He said, "No, it's fun, do it." We sat down and started writing what my career has been to other people and to me. We loved the results!

Q: Is it true people thought you were a drag queen when you first started out?

A: [Laughs] Oh yeah! It's very funny, but it's true. Somebody was doing a drag act of me, only we didn't know they were doing that drag act. They were promoting themselves in the newspapers as me, and I wasn't living in the United States yet, so I didn't know. They were using my music in



DONNA SUMMER

Photo by Michael Brandt

their act, people would come see them and think that I was actually that person. I think that's kind of how the rumor got started. We tracked it down and put an end to it.

Q: As a Christian, how do you reconcile your religious beliefs with your acceptance of the gay community?

A: I don't think I have to reconcile them. I just accept people for who they are. The Bible says you got to love everybody; it doesn't make any exceptions, so I don't make any exceptions.

Q: What are your thoughts on gay marriage?

A: I don't really have an opinion on it, to

tell you the truth. I think people have to do what they feel they have to do. Not being gay myself, I don't have the same frame of reference—do you know what I'm saying? I don't know what it is to feel like you can never be married or any of that because I am married, I have kids and I have all those things. It's uncharted ground for me personally; I can't even make a comment on it.

Q: How would you react to having a gay child?

A: I would love my child, there's no question about it. Love is everything. You have to accept what's real, and you have to be in truth. So you love people for who they are and for their good qualities. That's the bottom line, and that's how I was raised, by the way.

Q: If one of your oldies like "Love to Love You Baby" comes on the radio, do you turn it off or turn it up?

A: I don't necessarily turn it off; it's a part of my life. It's something I'm not running from. If it's on, it's on—I just listen. I don't necessarily blast it! [Laughs] It's part of what I've done in my life—that's the way it is.

Q: Finally, if a Barbra Streisand drag queen battled a Donna Summer drag queen, what advice would you give the Donna drag queen?

A: Go for the nose! [Laughs]

Crayons (Burgundy Records/Sony BMG) is out now. For more info, log onto donna-summer.com.

Letters to the Editor from Page 2

The "good news" is the legality argument is still under negotiations. In a recent article in the Capital District's newsweekly the *Metroland*, an NYCLU staff attorney was quoted stating the changes in New York are supposed to apply to all agencies whether privately or State-run, but this is a point that is not 100% clear. According to the attorney, while many private employers are following suit and "doing the right thing" many are not, which makes it more difficult for married same sex couples to have their marriages recognized as legal in the private sector.

Anyhow, I just wanted to bring this information to the editor's attention so that readers of TRT don't get prematurely excited about automatically being recognized in NY, when it's not 100% settled yet. My partner and I had been looking forward to getting married in MA, until we found out the legal details. Maybe a marriage in Canada will carry more clout in NY, who knows (how

ironic you have to go out of the country to have a marriage hold more weight). The jury for *Martinez v. Monroe County* is 'out' for now, but the fallout of the decision is still being debated. The only suggestion that can be given at this point is to fight for your rights and VOTE in November. Make your voices heard!

We're not there yet...but we're getting closer....

E. Massimo, Albany, NY

Dear Editor:

I just tried two weeks ago to ask a question about the new column *Comon Out Just Ask* and it's not a very user friendly environment. I tried to sign up, but it asks for personal information before I could even get to the question I had. I felt a bit uneasy giving out so much information just to have my question answered. If it had been easier I know that I had a great question to ask. Well, I'll ask it here. What do you do when two people love each other a lot, and stay together, but share no common interests? It seems like my gf and

I just don't do anything together and I see so many other couples doing stuff together, holding hands, going out to the movies, just plain 'ole enjoying each other's companies. We don't have that and lots of our friends say it's ok, but I don't feel it is. They talk about not being dependent on one another, but we're not. I'd actually like to have more time with her. Or, is it that relationships are now so detached and independent that nothing that a couple does or almost nothing can be done together? Can you tell me what you think?

L. Mossell, Northampton, MA

Dear Editor,

We love the Times in Williamstown. Thanks

for thinking of us out here!

N. Lundenberg, Williamstown, MA

Dear Editor,

The George Michael q&a was lame. I would have loved to have him answer more questions than just a few. I loved his hot pic too. J. Flack, Schenectady, NY

Dear Editor,

I disagree with what the *Controversial Couch* writer says, but we (my friends and friends of friends) are always talking about how much sex we have. Maybe it has something to do with chemistry or menopause.

J. Ferrero, Easthampton, MA

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Queer Music Reviews

Folk legend Ferron's new album a 'boulder' return to her roots

By: **Ginger Harris***/TRT Special

Stroking the auditory senses of discerning, self-doubting critics is nothing new to folk singer Ferron. Of her 1984 album *Shadows on a Dime*, *Rolling Stone* magazine described the singer's distinct blend of twangy vocals and cunning lyrics as "cowgirl meets Yeats...a thing of beauty."

But that generous review should come as no surprise to fans of Ferron. Beginning as early as 1977 with her self-titled *Lucy Records* debut, the Canadian artist has proved herself an organic wordsmith with an appreciation for sparse and mellow instrumentation who's capable of turning out stunning, sweeping verse that figuratively—and, often, literally—soothes the soul.

Part Ojibwa and Cree Indian and a native of Vancouver, Ferron fled a turbulent childhood at age 15, striking out on her own with a shopping bag containing only the bare necessities: a toothbrush, a change of clothes, and a Leonard Cohen album with "no record player." Yet 14 albums and decades of inspired performances later, Ferron has become a seminal fixture in feminist music, and over the course of her three-decade career has earned the admiration of such subsequent performers as Ani

DiFranco and the Indigo Girls, just a few of the artists who lend their talents to her new album *Boulder*, available now.

Produced by New York-based indie artist Bitch, who contributes to nearly all of the album's 12 tracks, *Boulder* brims with the brightness of a fresh and powerful collaboration between two poets—and to make matters more authentic, the pair forged the concept album in the remote forests of Michigan that Ferron calls home where Bitch's *RV* doubled as a recording studio. As a result, the record retains a starkly autobiographical feel, with Ferron's smoky vocals penetrating and, at times, haunting the listener.

Boulder begins with "Souvenir," a sparsely arranged address to a lover that's captivating in its simplicity. "Trade your wanderlust for my little bitty fire," Ferron beckons, "'cause I've been waiting for you

to remember me."

"Never Your Own" and "Our Purpose Here" feature Amy Ray and Emily Sailer of the Indigo Girls providing backup, mandolin and guitar assistance, and melding subtle bluegrass harmonies into gentle, romantic storytelling, while "Girl On A Road" brings Ferron's trademark poeticism to new heights, with renowned folk singer Ani DiFranco laying down underlying vocals.

Intricate string harmonies and

spirited vocals from

Ferron and

Bitch continue

to draw listeners

deeper down

with "The

untamed frontier

that likely also resound

in the forests surrounding the makeshift studio

in which it was recorded. The album

picks up pace with the track "Misty Mountain," however—it's hypnotic drum-

beats and erratic female warbling offering a starkly indigenous texture.

"Shady Gate" pushes the album toward its conclusion, and also shows Ferron and her guitar at their rudimentary best. This song's lyrics seem to come from an immensely personal place, giving audiences a glimpse into one family's inner workings and detailing a poignant exchange between mother and daughter that doesn't mask either generation's inability to answer the questions of the other; rather, it brings to light the sublime connection between the experienced and the inquisitive and reminds that each individual is always in the midst of her own search for answers. The mother remarks, "Maybe the sun will shine/Or maybe it won't at all/But whatever is coming for you/You get to have it all."

All in all, Ferron's *Boulder* is a compelling work not to be overlooked. In such turbulent times as the present, everyone needs a subtle reminder of the ebb and flow of the journey that is existence, and with her sonic donation, the insightful Ferron contributes her peace.

Ferron and Bitch will tour in support of *Boulder* through 2008. For more information, visit www.ferrononline.com

* *Ginger Harris is an intern with New York City-based Line/Byline Communications. She can be reached at ginger.harris@sju.edu.*



Photo by: Robert Portillo

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Prom from Page 3

more services for LGBT young people as their prime reason for supporting the event.

For now, members of the *Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force* are brainstorming ways to document the success of the Prom and thank the more than twenty adult chaperones that helped decorate the space and monitor the Prom throughout the night. The Task Force will be meeting soon to evaluate their goals, and begin working on future events. According to Viviana Valiente, co-coordinator of the *Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force* and Prom organizer, "the Task Force hopes to have some type of fundraiser or event in Holyoke this summer, bringing adults and youth together to work on issues of importance to the LGBT community."

For more information on the *Western Mass Youth Pride Prom*, to join the *Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force*, or to be involved in the planning of next year's



Pride Prom, please contact Alex Morse at (413) 537-3005 or by email at alex.b.morse@gmail.com



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Juvenile detention centers in NY different for transgender youth

By: William Kates/AP Writer

SYRACUSE, New York (AP)—Transgender youth in New York's juvenile detention centers are now allowed to wear whatever uniform they choose, be called by whatever name they want and ask for special housing under a new anti-discrimination policy drawing praise from advocacy groups.

"New York is way ahead of the curve," said Roberta Sklar, a spokeswoman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "When you have a system like the New York Office of Children and Family Services putting out a clear nondiscrimination policy, it should be seen as a model for similar kinds of agencies all over the country."

The policy went into effect March 17, the day Gov. David Paterson was sworn into office. Last month, Paterson directed all state agencies to recognize same-sex marriages legally performed elsewhere as valid in New York.

Paterson spokesman Errol Cockfield said the policy reflects the state's intent to be "tolerant, responsive and respectful" of gender identity and gender expression issues.

The new policy prohibits staff from asking residents about their sexual orientation or gender identity and says any disclosure must be voluntary. It also directs staff to talk to youth who decide to reveal their gender identity.

"Staff should never just move on; talk about what it means for this youth to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning," the 14-page policy states.

Under the policy, transgender youth may request placement based on gender identity. Those requests will be heard by a special committee composed of behavioral health and medical services experts as well as administrators. OCFS spokesman Ed Borges said the agency's center in Red Hook, in New York City, has housed a number of transgender youth in the past because its staff has earned a reputation for tolerance.

Transgender youth are provided private sleeping quarters and are allowed to shower privately. They are also allowed to shave body parts, use makeup or grow their hair



long.

The policy directs staff to learn and use the words gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender in an appropriate context when talking with youth.

While all residents may ask

to be called by a preferred first name rather than their legal one, the policy says males who believe they are female must be called "she" and females who believe they are male must be referred to as "he." Staff must use the preferred name and pronoun in any documents they file.

All residents must wear a uniform, but the policy allows transgender youth to wear a uniform of the opposite sex, including underwear of their choice. Each facility must have underwear for both sexes. Borges said OCFS spent about \$4,500 to stock its facilities.

Like housing requests, most clothing requests will be referred to the special committee to ensure their legitimacy, he said.

So far, only one housing request has been made, though the youth ended up being sent to an adult jail, Borges said.

The policy shift stemmed from a 2006 lawsuit brought by a 15-year-old who was born male but dressed and identified herself as female. She had been taking prescribed feminizing hormones for nearly three years when she was arrested and placed in an OCFS facility.

In a civil complaint alleging sex and disability discrimination, the girl said OCFS staff took away her hormones and would only call her by her male name. The state paid \$25,000 to settle the case and agreed to change its policies.

It developed initial guidelines but found them wanting, said Mishi Faruqee, co-chairwoman of the group that created the new guidelines. The initial guidelines were revised after a new OCFS commissioner was appointed last year, Faruqee said.

The agency will start train its staff about the new guidelines this month, Borges said.

Queertations: Say what?!

By: Rex Wockner

"I'm 66. If they had let me get married 10 years ago, I would have been 20 pounds lighter and I wouldn't have needed airbrushing."

—Veteran lesbian activist **Robin Tyler** as she married Diane Olson, granddaughter of former California Gov. Culbert Levy Olson, June 16 in Beverly Hills, to the Los Angeles Times. Tyler and Olson, 54, have been together 15 years.

"(We're) going to wait until it's legal everywhere, because otherwise, I said to Kelli, we'll be going around touring the country on the marriage tour every state by state. Once it gets to be at the federal level, once every state recognizes the marriages of every other state, I think that'll be the time we would do it."

—**Rosie O'Donnell** on getting married, to the Associated Press, June 5.

"Congratulations to all of us: May equality live long and prosper."

—**George Takei**, who played Sulu on the original Star Trek, as he and partner Brad Altman picked up a marriage license June 17 in West Hollywood.

"The tipping point has finally been reached, and there's no going back. Gay marriage as an issue, as a hot button, as a nasty right-wing political weapon will soon vanish into the dustbin of history. ... While the brutal Bush regime tried to clamp down and convince everyone that clinging to homophobia and Biblical literalism was actually a nice way to live, all it did was create a nasty little speed bump."

—San Francisco Chronicle columnist **Mark Morford**, June 11.

"I had a gay kid say to me the other day: 'Men and women on death row can marry people on the outside. They're allowed to get married. And gays want the same rights as people on death row.' I thought that was pretty good thinking. ... It's just an interesting thing that gays don't have the same rights as people on death row."

—Newspaper columnist **Liz Smith** in an article published by The Women on the Web, wowowow.com, May 28.

"I'm totally off the States now. The reaction to 9/11 and then George Bush—really, they've got very blobby as a nation. Now they (the Americans) are whiny victims whose language is entirely taken from two TV shows—Friends and Sex And The City—and there's nothing sexy about them anymore. And that kind of semi-blindness about the rest of the world, which was attractive when America was exciting, is really unattractive now."

—Gay actor **Rupert Everett** to Britain's Radio Times, June issue.

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Queer Accomplishments

Holyoke student recipient of Point Foundation's 2008 scholarship

By: Grisel M. Ocasio/TRT Publisher

This year, thousands of applicants sought to become one of the very few selected Scholars of the Point Foundation (Point), the nation's largest scholarship-granting

organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students of merit. The 2008 Scholar Class is composed of a diverse group of 27 undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate recipients. From the 27 Scholars, 5 were from Massachusetts, one was Holyoke's own Alex Morse.

"Winning a Point Foundation Scholarship is an incredible honor and privilege," said Morse. "Throughout my time working on behalf of the LGBT community, the hope of recognition is never my purpose, rather it is equality, it is about making sure other people are afforded the rights they deserve—not only legal equality, but social equality, the right to feel safe, respected, and included in a society that often discriminates against people for unnecessary reasons."

Morse, who came out as a sophomore in high school, was one of the first openly gay students at Holyoke High School. According to the Point Foundation's website, in an effort to help other students like him, "Alex started a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) at his school, which soon became one of the most influential student groups on campus. As president of the GSA, Alex planned his school's first school-wide assembly on issues important to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer community (GLBTQ) and organized the school's first faculty training on GLBTQ issues. Outside of school, Alex founded the Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force and organized the 1st Annual Western Massachusetts Youth Pride Prom, an alternative prom for GLBTQ students and their allies."

This year, too, Morse was the co-coordinator of the Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force and co-organizer of the Pride Prom Second Annual Western Massachusetts Youth Pride Prom. This year's Pride Prom had the support of Holyoke Mayor Michael Sullivan, who issued a city proclamation declaring Saturday May 31st "Youth Pride Day" in



ALEX MORSE

Holyoke, in honor of the 2nd Annual Western Mass Youth Pride Prom.

It is exactly this type of work, the passion and action behind his statements what has made Morse today a 2008 Point Foundation Scholar. Attending Brown University, his Alma Mater, and his intent to pursue a double major could place him in a very advantageous position to bring about change to the communities that he represents.

"I plan on double majoring in Urban Studies and Africana Studies," said Morse. "I have a deep interest in exploring issues pertinent to urban centers, places that are usually touched by society's most complex and troubling problems. I think our political system continually fails the people that need it the most."

Continuing his work in Holyoke and other underrepresented areas is what Morse plans consistently include, even when he still vaguely knows what path to follow after graduation.

"For the past year or so, I have thought of going to law school, studying constitutional and civil rights law, in the hope of becoming an advocate for people who are

unable to stand up for themselves," said Morse. "I want to do community organizing in low-income communities, immigrant communities, and in the LGBT community. I have thought about being an educator (teacher), or a school administrator. I think schools are a hotbed of racism and homophobia, and I also think schools can either make it or break it, they can either create socially-conscious individuals or incredibly bigoted ones, and I would like to play a role in making the former a reality."

His views about the LGBT community, race and poverty reflect the views of a young man who has had a lot of experience dealing with friends who are not Caucasian, who are not privileged, and who do not have a voice. Seemingly, his innate desire to experience the realities that the members of these unprivileged groups feel has made him reach some real-life determinations.

"For years, the 'gay' rights movement has been dominated by upper class white people, mostly men, who have been dictating the goals of our movement," said Morse. "It is not an inclusive movement. We must begin to recognize the diversity of the LGBT community in order to represent all people. Identities such as race and socio-economic status play a vital role in the lives of LGBT people, and our leaders fail to reflect or represent this fact."

His own experiences in Holyoke and his close knowledge of other cultures, especially the Puerto Rican culture, makes Morse an insider to the complex world of LGBT Latinos. Morse said that "in order to become a more effective advocate for the LGBT community," he had to recognize these differences "or else I would be a poor leader."

See Point Foundation on page 15

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Queer Cinema You Can't Miss!

Mamma Mia! (G)

Genre: Comedy, Musical, Romance

Rating: PG-13; Distribution: Wide Release

Director: Phyllida Lloyd; Starring: Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgard, Julie Walters; Release Date: 07/18/08

Notes: Special Screening at the 2008 Outfest Film Festival

Synopsis: Bride-to-be Sophie (Amanda Seyfried), on a quest to find her real father, invites three men to her wedding—all who could have possibly impregnated her mother (Streep). One of the men, a British banker (Firth), is gay.

The Women (L)

Genre: Comedy, Drama

Rating: PG-13; Distribution: Wide Release

Director: Diane English

Distributor: Picturehouse Entertainment

Starring: Meg Ryan, Annette Bening, Eva Mendes, Jada Pinkett Smith, Debra Messing
Release Date: 09/08/08

Synopsis: In this remake of George Cukor's 1939 film of the same title, Mary (Ryan) a wealthy New Yorker, leaves her cheating husband and bonds with other society women at a resort. Among her support group is Alex (Pinkett Smith), who is an out lesbian.

Be Like Others (L,G,B,T)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated

Distribution: Limited Release

Release Date: 00/00/00

Notes: Premiered at 2008 Sundance Film Festival; Synopsis: In a country where homosexuality remains an offense punishable by death, this documentary shows that many young gay men and women in Iran are opting to undergo gender reassignment surgery, which is their only legal option under their country's interpretation of Islamic law. This film explores a culture in which shame and fear have led many to take extreme measures in an attempt to find acceptance.

NOTICE: The Hob Knob Club, in Springfield, will be closed for repairs for the next three months.

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Q-lebrities

True Colors Tour rocks the Boston Pavilion

By: Jessica Bouchard/TRT Arts Reviewer

Cindy Lauper rocked the house at the second annual True Colors Tour which kicked off in Boston May 31st, 2008 at the Ban of America Pavilion. The theme of political involvement was evident as Cindy dramatically mounted a roll away arm of the statue of liberty during her performance. Cindy's attitude reflected the mood of the entire tour and she stressed important issues and the inclusion of all communities.

She performed hits "She Bop", "I Drove All Night", and "Time After Time" to name a few and mingled in the audience without missing a beat. The audience quickly remembered how many hits this eighties diva has produced over the years. Cindy made Rosie's childhood dream come true by having Rosie rock out the drums for "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" and performed an electrifying duet with Lucas Silveira from The Clinks. "Money Changed Everything."

The opening act of the show was Kat Deluna who turned up the heat with her R&B style Latina-pop beats which got the audience moving. The excitement was pumped up another notch by the Clinks, featuring sexy transgender lead vocalist Lucas Silveira. Lucas rocked the audience with "Eyes in the Back of My Head" and "Oh, Yeah." This heart pounding performance proved to be one of the show's highlights.

Regina Spektor changed the flow with her unique, quirky sound. Regina truly uses her voice as an instrument and integrates her skill as a pianist into her songs. The genre change from the rocking out of the Clinks to Regina's more whimsical, laid back style seemed to make some of the audience ants, however, overall her performance was delightful and added a different flavor to the concert.

Cindy Lauper popped in to introduce Rosie O'Donnell and disclosed to the audience she would never tell anyone who to vote for, but urged everyone to vote and get



their voice heard. Rosie's routine was serious, yet filled with humor. Rosie captivated

the audience with her charismatic storytelling. Her focus was on family, especially on her mother who passed away when she was a child and on being a mother herself. While the topic of her mother was saddening, the incorporation of her children proved to be uplifting. Her stories were moving, where the audience could laugh or become teary within the same routine.

After Cindy's performance, the finale/encore was a heartfelt rendition of "Everyday People" and "True Colors" which were performed by the entire cast and was truly a sight to see. Over sized balloons bounced like giant rainbow beach balls above the audience. The atmosphere was heartwarming and the refrain to "Your True Colors" seemed to embrace each concert goer and acted as an affirmation to the theme of inclusion of all identities and all people.

For more information about the True Colors Tour, please visit, www.truecolorstour.com.

Couch from p. 2

that causes severe discomfort with or disapproval of one's own sexual orientation and often results in the pitting [of] deeply held religious or social beliefs against strong sexual and emotional desire. If that doesn't make you feel like you're in a prison confine of the mind, I don't know what would.

It became clearer to me in my adult years that I also suffered from some form of internalized homophobia. I had been through those early years of feeling guilty and afraid, not being able (or wanting) to effectively hide who I was. I can remember the pain when writing my deepest,

darkest feelings in my journal, and praying to the only god I knew about, HeWhoHatesAllThoseGay, to help release me from this struggle. I can still see the darkened room in which I sat, frantic, desperate for some understanding; Confessing with pen and paper my thoughts, fears, hopes and loves, all by the flickering light of a solitary candle.

What I remember most about that time is the shame and insecurity. That, perhaps, somewhere deep down inside, I was nothing more than what they (church, family, society) had all I told me. I was: a real monster.

It is any wonder then that walking down the street with a girlfriend's hand in mind

or (gasp!) kissing her in public was not something I could ever do then (At least not without a stop at a bar ... and with a few brew skis to help with the courage)?

It's still sometimes hard, even now; Even in oh-so friendly Gay Northampton or Provincetown; Even in wedding-bell-bliss MA, VT or NY where gays and lesbians can gleefully do the two-step down the aisle. Oh, let freedom ring-a-ding-ding! But internalized homophobia lives on, even when one thinks they have broken free of those chains.

Being able to do these simple, beautiful, natural acts of caring in public is something many of us have grappled with throughout our lives. We may be "out" in other aspects of our lives, but not at work or just not at our parent's home (No public displays of affection allowed here goes sailing through my mind). Or maybe, we're not out at all. We do our best to come to terms with the

bars in our own private cell.

With all the Pride celebrations this time of the year, it may be shocking for some in our younger community to understand just how far we've come as a whole, in freeing ourselves from the "chain gangs" of internalized homophobia. "Are you kidding?" they may retort. "Society can kiss my nose ring!" Again, we've come so far. And yet, too many continue to struggle against the restraints.

Still, the (prison) walls are coming down all around us, and with each decade that passes, I see hope for acceptance of queer folk in a way I once never thought possible.

It is probable, isn't it, that the bars of internalized homophobia are, indeed, only a mirage? And that there truly is an oasis of freedom ... when we are ready to see beyond and through.

* Suzan Ambrose can be heard live on her call-in talk radio show, *The Naked Truth*,

Monday evenings at 8 pm. (rebroadcast at 2 am Tuesdays), on 103.3FM, Northampton, MA. & streaming on the web at www.valleyfreeradio.org.

Got feedback for Suz? Topics you'd like to see written about? Email: suz@nakedtruthshow.com or visit the site: www.nakedtruthshow.com



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Deep Inside Hollywood: Projects for Rihanna, Mos Def, and Portia de Rossi



By: Romeo San Vicente*

Rihanna Enters Black Widow Web

It was inevitable that pop sensation Rihanna would wind up in movies. The question was when. Now the hip-hop princess has taken on a starring role in the cast of *Mama Black Widow*, based on the 1969 fictional memoir by acclaimed African-American writer Iceberg Slim. Brian J. White (who already played a gay man once in *The Family Stone*) will star as Otis Tilson, described in the book as a "tragic homosexual queen, whose underworld life took him into the company of other outcasts." The film will also star Kerry Washington, Anthony Anderson, rapper-turned-actor Mos Def, and singer Macy Gray, and will be directed by Darren Grant (*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*). And if she's half as charismatic reciting dialogue as she is singing, Rihanna can expect to need an "Umbrella" to protect her from the downpour of future offers.

The Return of Keith Haring's Universe

The late Keith Haring's pop paintings of



MOS DEF

© Touchstone Pictures

wiggly, exuberant humans and radiant crawling infants have become the most recognizable images to come out of the contemporary art world since Andy Warhol's soup cans. Sadly, his death at a young age from AIDS only robbed the world of his brand of joyful artistry. Fortunately, a lovingly created documentary of his life now exists. *The Universe of Keith Haring* explores the baby-faced, glasses-wearing

street artist's rise from graffiti in subway stations to gallery fame to mainstream commercial juggernaut in the 1980s. The friends he made along the way - Grace Jones, Yoko Ono, Madonna, David LaChapelle, and Andy Warhol himself - are all on hand in the film, some in archival footage with Haring, to remember and praise an artist whose time ended too soon. Currently making the film-festival rounds, it should have a theatrical and DVD release in the near future.

Portia de Rossi Pilots *Butch and Fay*

Portia de Rossi's life before coming out professionally was one of living openly while discussing nothing, inhabiting the Hollywood glass closet. But in post-public-disclosure interviews, the acclaimed comic actress (*Arrested Development*) discussed that complicated life and its subsequent difficulties. Now she's turning elements of that past into a sitcom. Called—for now, anyway—*Butch and Fay*, the pilot de Rossi is shopping around Hollywood concerns two actors, one gay and one lesbian, who marry in order to further their careers. And lesbian director and former *Married with Children* star Amanda Bearse will take the pilot's helm. No word on whether or not de

Rossi will star herself, but it couldn't hurt the show's chances of making it to the networks. Here's hoping we hear more about it soon.

Living Proof's Swelling Cast Roster

Producers Renee Zellweger, Craig Zadan, and Neil Meron went to their personal e-mail address books to wrangle the rest of the cast of Lifetime's *Living Proof*, the TV movie starring Harry Connick Jr. as UCLA doctor Dennis Slamon, the man who developed the breast cancer drug Herceptin. Fortunately, those e-mails had a positive impact, as Angie Harmon, Amanda Bynes, Bernadette Peters, Swoosie Kurtz, Regina King, Jennifer Coolidge, Trudie Styler, Tammy Blanchard, Paula Cale, and John Benjamin Hickey all signed on to the film. Shot around New Orleans, the film's mission is breast-cancer awareness, and, with a broad range of female-centric casting like this, it should accomplish that goal easily. Look for its premiere this October.

*Romeo San Vicente obviously inspired the character named "Butch" - minus the closeted part. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi planning dream wedding

By: Derrik J. Lang/AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi have set a wedding date, and to hear the talk show host tell it, the ceremony is going to be something special.

DeGeneres, who won her fourth consecutive Daytime Emmy for talk show host Friday night, told reporters backstage at the Kodak Theatre that she and de Rossi are planning their "dream wedding."

"Yes, we have set a wedding date," said DeGeneres. "How do I feel about it? I obviously feel like it's long overdue. I think someday people will look back on this like women not having the right to vote and segregation and anything else that seems ridiculous that we don't all have the same rights."

While the day is on the calendar, DeGeneres did not say when or where it would take place.



DeGeneres said she plans to fly the de Rossi family in from Australia and that "incredible people" would sing at the ceremony. She said she would show "a tiny bit" of the nuptials on her talk show—and joked that she would use her latest Daytime Emmy as a wedding-cake topper.

"Planning a wedding is very stressful," said DeGeneres. "It's crazy. My gardener is now invited."

The marriage became possible after the California Supreme Court in a ruling last month overturned the state's bans on same-sex marriage.

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Gay Travel

Out of Town: Fire Island versus Provincetown



By: Andrew Collins*

The Northeast's two premier gay vacation destinations both evolved in isolated, tip-of-the-universe communities within an afternoon's drive of major cities, but that's where their similarities end. Cape Cod's Provincetown and Long Island's Fire Island are strikingly different breeds of the same general species. It's not uncommon to find gay folks who love both towns, sometimes for different reasons, but most queer summer-resort habits have developed a clear preference for one or the other.

Somewhat complicating comparisons is the fact that Fire Island's GLBT communities, Cherry Grove and the Pines, themselves enjoy a good-natured rivalry. The two villages are separated both geographically—by a cruisy swath of sand and forest—and philosophically—by a vast gulf of attitude. Cherry Grove is the senior of the two villages, catering to an eclectic crowd: retirees, dykes with tikes, campy queens, artists, and a highly diverse bunch in terms of race, age, and style—everyone seems to fit in well in this low-keyed enclave. Houses here are generally funkier and more affordable than those in the Pines, which was developed more recently and has a mostly male, more upscale following. Domiciles in the Pines tend to be angular, sleek, and palatial; the crowd at Pines restaurants and bars is closer in style and attitude to the buffed, bronzed, and somewhat affluent bunch you might see wandering around Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. You'll find elements of both these populations in Provincetown, but without such obvious divisions.

If truly getting away from civilization is your intent, either community on Fire Island is a better choice than the whole of Provincetown. The Pines and Cherry Grove are accessible only by boat and are without streets or automobiles; they're also nearly devoid of heteros (which can be fun for a few days but can feel a little Twilight

Zonish after a week or two). Provincetown is equally remote (it's at the tip of Cape Cod) but easier to get to, as you can drive here or take a high-speed ferry directly from Boston. Also, even during its summer peak, it's still only about 50 percent gay, drawing a mix to its handful of museums, scads of shops, dozens of restaurants, and stunningly beautiful swath of Cape Cod National Seashore.

If you're traveling with your lover or with friends, you'll find that both destinations have plenty going for them, but that on Fire Island your day may revolve more closely around those in your party - there simply aren't many places to wander off and do your own thing. It's a good place to read, lie in the sun, and relax. In Provincetown, it's not unheard of for a group of friends to arrive together and see each other only three or four more times during the rest of their stay. This is a decent-size town with numerous distractions and plenty of chances to meet new friends. For these reasons, if you're traveling alone, Provincetown may be your better choice.

Because it has only a few hundred hotel rooms (most of which command more than \$200 nightly), Fire Island draws fewer short-term visitors than it does weekly, monthly, or seasonal guests. If you're an outsider, you may find it somewhat difficult to crack such an established, cliquy social scene; on the other hand, newcomers, especially by summer's end, are often welcomed enthusiastically by the regulars who've by now grown a little weary of the island's insularity. Provincetown has more than 50 gay-oriented guest houses and inns, and therefore has a steady turnover of visitors—you rarely see the same folks in the same bars every night.

Both towns have plenty of dance clubs and bars, but, again, on Fire Island you may have a more difficult time meeting other singles. This is very much a couples destination, although Cherry Grove has several bars that keep busy all day, all season long. The Pines has just a couple of nightlife spots, but they're extremely popular and downright packed on weekends. If you do



Photo by: Andrew Collins

happen to meet somebody interesting, the odds that either of you have a single, private bedroom are rather slim, given how many visitors share rooms or crash with friends. This is one more reason Fire Island is a better destination if you're bringing your own friend or lover, rather than seeking a new one. Because rooms are on average cheaper in Provincetown, there's a better chance that you'll meet somebody with a single room—in fact, P'town has a number of accommodations that fit modest budgets, even during the summer high season. Also, Provincetown has two great lesbian bars, and a couple others with a mixed following or occasional women's nights. Fire Island's nightlife is decidedly more male-oriented, especially in the Pines. Lesbians will definitely find more to do on Provincetown in terms of socializing and bar-hopping.

Both Fire Island and Provincetown can be visited as day trips from their closest big cities—New York City and Boston, respectively. However, some fairly ambitious planning is needed. To visit Fire Island in a day from New York, you either need to drive or take the Long Island Railroad to the town of Sayville (about 90 minutes), and then take a 30-minute ferry ride to either the Pines or Cherry Grove. During the summer high season, the last ferries from Cherry Grove and the Pines return to Sayville as late as 2 a.m. on weekends (but earlier on weekdays). The Long Island Railroad has return train service to New York City leaving as late as 12:30 in the morning. Ideally, give yourself a couple of nights to enjoy a visit to Fire Island. You'll

save money on hotels if you come during the week rather than on weekends, but you'll also find Fire Island nightlife options quieter on weekdays.

To get from Boston to Provincetown, you can drive, but it's a pretty long haul - two-and-a-half hours without traffic, and easily up to four hours on busy weekends in during the summer high season. A much simpler and quicker option is to take the 90-minute high-speed ferry from Boston, which docks right at the main wharf in Provincetown, just steps from shops, restaurants, and nightlife. Two different companies, Bay State Cruise Company and Boston Harbor Cruises, offer this service, but only from May through October. The earliest boats leave Boston at 8 a.m., and the last boats back to Boston depart from Provincetown at 8:30 p.m.

Finally, although both communities enjoy maximum crowds from about Memorial Day through Labor Day, Provincetown continues to draw a significant number of visitors through the late fall, and even into the barren but broodingly romantic winter months. Provincetown also hosts a wide range of events and theme weeks from spring through fall. Single Women's Weekend and Women of Color & Allies Weekend are both in May, and Women's Week takes place in October. Meet Your Man in Provincetown Weekend occurs each November, and Provincetown Summer Bear Week draws plenty of guys in the middle of July. The town also has a playwright's festival (early April), JazzFest (early August), Circuit Party Week (early July), Carnival (late August), Tennessee Williams Theater Festival (late September), and Fantasia Fair (mid-October)—there seems to be a lot to do out here. Fire Island is a ghost town from mid-October through April, and you'll find the most activity and the liveliest bars and nightclubs in July and August. Despite the increased crowds of summer, Fire Island and Provincetown both offer significantly cooler climates than mainland New York or Massachusetts. When the mercury rises above 90 degrees, these breezy and scenic getaways offer the perfect retreat from city life.

*Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

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Taste of the Nation: Benefit for the fight against hunger

By: Nicole Lashomb & Suzan Ambrose
TRT Editor & Reviewer, respectively

Recently, over three hundred patrons gathered at the Apollo Grill, Easthampton Mass. to show their support for the 20th annual *Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation*, a culinary benefit held to bring awareness to the issue of global hunger and to help raise funds for local food programs, according to the event Chairwoman.

"One out of three kids are food insecure right here in our own back yard," said Ann Sullivan-Walsh, *Taste of the Nation*, Event Chairwoman and Marketing Director, Whole Foods Market, Amherst, Mass. "It doesn't mean that they are hungry everyday, but that they may have to do without food on occasion. That's not just a problem. That's criminal. That's a crisis."

Share Our Strength, a non-profit agency dedicated to ending childhood hunger, is the brainchild of Billy and Deborah Shore, who were inspired to do something in 1984 after learning about the famine in Ethiopia, according to the organization's website. Since that time, thousands of people from all walks of life have joined together to



Michaelangelo Wescott, Owner/Chef of the Gypsy Apple in Shelburne Falls spices up the flavor of the Taste. Photo by: Suzan Seymour

bring awareness to the issue of hunger.

"Share Our Strength has a plan to eliminate childhood hunger in the next 20 years, and they are going to do it by helping to fund great organizations," said Sullivan-

Walsh. "40 percent of families [that need or could use these services] don't even take advantage of this program. So, if we could change that, it would make a big difference."

According to Sullivan-Walsh, 100 percent of the ticket sale proceeds go to fighting hunger. *Project Bread* and *The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts* are two local beneficiaries of this event. Three to four percent of proceeds from all Taste events across the country go into a fund to feed hungry people internationally through programs, such as OxFam.

Area chef and Side Street Cafe owner, Pat Shannon, returned this year to participate in the fight against hunger.

"It's been about two years since the last one I did, but I keep coming back," he said. "It's great!"

Shannon, with B.K. Kennedy, served "Duck Puck", a duck confit with braised vegetables and pear and apricot chutney.

Restaurant chefs/owners Michelangelo Wescott and Aime Aubin from Gypsy Apple in Shelburne Falls were first time participants this year. They offered the

attendees sake brined tea smoked pork with green bean & fermented black bean vinaigrette.

Uncle Bobby, from *Zoccos*, an Italian restaurant located in Windsor Conn., offered a visual performance as he displayed five different ways to serve bruschetta.

Each year, *The Taste of the Nation* takes on a different theme, according to Sullivan-Walsh. This year celebrated the life of Andy Warhol in Pop Goes the Warhol! Bananas greeted attendees as they entered and silver balloons lined the ceiling, reminiscent of Warhol's famous works. A silent auction and dancing followed dinner.

Share Our Strength's The Taste of the Nation 2008 was presented by American Express. Other sponsors included SYSCO, Brown-Forman, S.Pellegrino, and The National Pork Board.

For more information or to find out how you can help fight hunger, visit www.strength.org, or contact Ann Sullivan-Walsh at 413-586-9932.

Point Foundation from p. 10

"An LGBT identity is not a major identity for many people of color and the poor, and I think as a society we like to appropriate people into categories," explained Morse. "I have recognized the complex relationship between race and sexuality through several close friendships, Latino friends who struggle to come out to highly religious families, and in a culture that values masculinity."

His views are merely about equality, and he voices them unabashedly.

"It's about respecting people for who they are, and at the same time, striving to be as inclusive as possible," said Morse. "Throughout my work, I continually call for LGBT rights and equality, and more so, I recognize the intersectionality of identities such as sexual orientation with identities of race and socio-economic status. By standing up for what I believe in, and empowering others to do the same, I am confident I can help make this world a more equitable place for all people."

The Rainbow Times' founders and staff proudly congratulate Alex Morse for his past, this great present accomplishment, and for the many more to come.

Since its inception in 2001, The Point Foundation has expanded into an organization with a staff of 16 full-time and part-time

employees and an annual budget of \$3.5 million. The scholarships cover tuition, books, supplies, room and board, transportation and living expenses, and are set up with the individual college to meet the needs of the Point Scholar. The average scholarship award per scholar is \$13,600. The average total program expense that includes scholarship funding, mentoring and leadership training is \$34,000 per year per scholar.

To see the list of the twenty-seven 2008 Point Scholars, visit: www.pointfoundation.org/scholars-08.html or to donate or learn more about The Point Foundation, the National LGBT Scholarship Fund, please visit: www.pointfoundation.org/

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Presented by Samuel Lurie of Transgender Awareness Training and Advocacy

Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Location: Holyoke Health Center, 230 Maple Street, Holyoke, MA
1st Floor Conference Room

Time: Registration begins at 8:30am, training is 9am - 4pm
Box lunches will be provided.



Presentation Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, attendees will be able to:

- Explain basic transgender terminology, language and concepts
- Identify and explain differences between the *three separate continuums* of gender identity, sexual orientation and physical/biological sex.
- Distinguish between gay/lesbian-oriented services and transgender-targeted services
- Understand current therapeutic standards of care and approaches to supporting transgender clients
- Identify at least three barriers to services and three solutions to making services available
- Incorporate basic knowledge of transgender issues, concepts and concerns into their current professional work
- Refer to resources for supervision, materials and guidance in working with this population

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If you have any questions, please contact
James Fritts, Proyecto CALOR Project Manager, at James.Fritts@hhcinc.org; (413) 420-2141



Proyecto CALOR at the Holyoke Health Center is funded by the Office of Minority Health under the Technical Assistance and Capacity Development Demonstration Program for HIV/AIDS-related Services in Minority Communities program, contract #61ACMP050015-01-01.

LGBT Announcements

TRT PRIDE Calendar from MA, NY, CT & VT!

(MA) (MA) **UNITY** is a Transgender support group which meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Baystate Hospital 3300 Main Street in Springfield, MA. FMI: Deja 860-604-6343 or Keri 413-364-1749.

(MA) **SOCIAL GROUP FOR LESBIANS**; We always meet on the first and third Friday's of the month. For information call 413-687-2065

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

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

(MA) **DISCUSSION GROUP FOR LESBIANS 40+** meets every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Stonewall Center at UMass. This is a warm and welcoming group of intelligent women. Information email to: JBGreenize@aol.com

(MA) **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.

(VT) **MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP**; Any male 18 or older; Support group not a therapy group. Free. Every Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brattleboro, VT. FMI: 802-258-3914.

(MA) **JOIN EMAIL GROUP FOR LGBT PARENTS** in the Pioneer Valley area at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lgbt_parents_pioneer_valley/ for exchanging information, chatting about our families, and organizing get-togethers and play-dates.

(MA, NY, CT & VT) **DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE YOU ARE QUEER?** Call *The Rainbow Times*, 413-204-8959; 518-391-2617.

(NY) **Bisexual Brunch**; First and third Sundays of the month, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(NY) **Bagel Bunch**; Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m.; Older gay men's social and discussion group. Bruegger's, Hannaford Plaza, Central Ave., Albany.

(NY) **Capital Pride Singers**; Mondays @ 7 p.m.; LGBT/LGBTaffirming; mixed chorus; St. Andrew's, Episcopal Church, 10 No. Main St., Albany, 12203; FMI: 435-4636.

(NY) **Capital District Prime Timers**; Provides social, cultural, and recreational opportunities for mature gay and bisexual men. 21+. FMI: jallison2@nycap.rr.com or CDPOT 595 New Loudon Rd #202 Latham NY 12110

(NY) **Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Men Support Group**; Mondays; 7 p.m.; Support group for GBT men; CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138 or qdiamond@cdglcc.org.

(NY) **Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Support Group**; every other Tuesday; 7 p.m.; Meet at CDGLCC at 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Youth Group**; Friday nights; 7 p.m.; 332 Hudson Ave. in Albany; Group offers peer support to LGBT& questioning individuals ages 13-19. A supportive environment for LGBTQ youth and their straight allies. FMI: Q Diamond (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Confidential HIV Testing**; first Wednesday of each month; 6-8:30 p.m.; Provided by Project H.O.P.E., a program of the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York. Testing offered at the CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: 518-462-6138.

LGBTQ TEA DANCE AT DANCE NORTHAMPTON. Second Sunday of every month; 3-6 PM; \$8 (includes lesson at 3:00) FMI: www.dancenorthampton.com.

(NY) **OUT DANCING** (for the LGBTQ community); every Wednesday evening; 7 to 8 p.m.; Saratoga SAVOY, 7 Wells St, Saratoga Springs, NY. For more information: 518-587-5132. <http://saratogasavoy.homestead.com/files/outdancing.html>

(CT) Every Sunday; **ALL LGBT YOUTH to the Rainbow Room**; at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective; from 3-6 p.m.; 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT; for LGBT youth and allies. 21 & younger.

(MA) **TransForming Families** - Transgender Support Group; Parents, partners, children and their transgender loved ones. Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m. in Hadley. FMI: www.transformingfamilies.org or 413-522-0522

(MA) **Free Breast Cancer Services**; Cooley Dickinson; Women can select therapy services such as acupuncture, aromatherapy, therapeutic touch, healing music, healing touch, Reiki, Reiki, Peggy Huddleston's Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster™, self-hypnosis/guided imagery and therapeutic massage by CD employees that hold certifications in these therapy techniques. FMI 413-582-2424.

(MA) **EAST COAST FEMALE-TO-MALE GROUP (ECFTMG)**; 2nd Sunday of every month from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. FMI: 413.584.7616 or email: betpower@yahoo.com.

(VT) Third Sunday of Every Month; in Brattleboro, **Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary**, including transpeople of all genders and sexual orientations. FMI: Benjamin Robin: robin@benjamin-robin.net

(NY) **Ask-A-Lawyer Legal Clinic**: Serving the LGBT community Geri Pomerantz, Esq. and Anne Reynolds Copps, Esq.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.; FREE legal consultations to the LGBT community. Appointment only. FMI: 518.432.4188.

(NY) **ONGOING**: First and third Sundays of the month, 11 - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(NY) **Capital Pride Singers** LGBT and affirming mixed chorus. Rehearsals on Monday's, 7 PM, Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State St., Albany. FMI: 518-435-4636.

(NY) **ONGOING**: First and third Sundays of the month, 11 - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(CT) **Living Soulfully: A Monthly Men's Gathering**; Meets on 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:30-9:00pm at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective. FMI: HGLHC at 860-2787-4163.

(CT) **RainbowRoom** is open every Sunday from 3:00pm-6:00pm and is located at 1841 Broad St., Hartford. RainbowRoom is an affirming and safe place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning teens and young adults 13 to 21. RainbowRoom is a drop-in center located in an intimate, informal space with room for a variety of activities.

(NY) June 25; **Lesbian Midweek Meet & Greet**; 6-8pm; Midtown Tap and Tea Room; 289 New Scotland Ave, Albany NY; \$5 for cost of Appetizers \$ cash Bar with drink specials. Join us for our FIRST Lesbian Cocktail Hour at the Midtown Tap and Tea Room. Delicious appetizers, great drinks and wine, good conversation in a very classy, contemporary social setting. Meet and make new friends and reminisce with old. FMI: proudmary73@gmail.com to RSVP.

(NY) June 26; CDGLCC Executive Director Welcoming Reception; 6pm; CDGLCC; 332

Hudson Ave, Albany
Join the Board of Directors and community members as we officially welcome Nora Yates as the new Executive Director of the Capital District Gay & Lesbian Community Council! Coffee and desserts provided, but please RSVP. FMI: Q Diamond at qdiamond@cdglcc.org or call the Center at 518.462.6138.

(VT) June 27; **Big PRIDE DANCE**; 9pm to 1am at the American Legion, Brattleboro VT. Finish off Pride Month in style with a great dance party, with CJ the DJ, raffle prizes, and your community, \$5 admission, cash bar, refreshments. Sponsored by Queer Community Project and the Men's Program.

(NY) June 27; Progressions Concert Series featuring Erin McKeown; 8pm; WAMC - The Linda; Please check out the website for more details: www.wamcarts.org/artsched.html#mckeown

(VT) June 28; **MGM SUMMER POTLUCK PARTY**: 1pm, John and McKim's in Chesterfield NH. This popular yearly event is always well attended. Grill provided. Please bring a dish to share, a chair to sit in, and a towel if you plan to hot tub. FMI: call 603-363-8159. Not a Men's Program event.

(CT) June 28; 8:30 - 1:00am; Happy 16th Anniversary Women after Hours! Music by DJ Raine; \$15 Admission. The Holiday Inn 363 Roberts St. East Hartford CT. FMI: 860-528-9611. Come enjoy dancing and socializing as we have done for 16 years! We are supporting the Central CT Women's Gathering in August at Harkness Park by collecting donations for an auction to benefit two women who are in dire financial need due to health issues. All donations will be graciously received at this dance on June 28. Donations could be gift certificates/movie passes/small gift baskets/wine/etc.

(NY) July 1; **Free Movie Tuesday - That's Dancing**; 2980 Route 66, Chatham, NY; 8:30pm; Free! Projected on the big screen outdoors, under the tent. A retrospective documentary from 1985 featuring dance footage taken from films from the 1930s to today. Virtually every form of dance ever captured on film is included. Rated G. Refreshments such as freshly popped popcorn, chips, candy, soda and water for sale.

(MA) July 2; **The Deadly Nightshade**: raucous, feminist, folk/country/jug band from the '70s returns to its roots in the Valley. 7:30 p.m.; sliding scale \$12-\$20, I.M.A. Big Barn, 165 Cape Street, Hwy 112, Goshen, (413) 268-3074.

(NY) Fridays, July 4, 18 and 25; **Swing Dance Fridays**; 2980 Route 66, Chatham, NY; 7:00pm; \$10 general admission / \$8 PS/21 members. Swing Dance Season Pass \$50 general admission / \$40 PS/21 members. Evenings begin at 7:00 with a half hour dance instruction to disks, followed by live music and dancing at 7:30. Free light refreshments.

(VT) July 5; **Brad's PIRATE: PARTY** in Peterborough, NH, starting at 5pm. RSVP required. Email goldnwolf@surglobal.net. Contact Alex or Howie at 254-4444 if you want to RSVP but do not have a computer.

(NY) July 8; **Free Movie Tuesday - Dirty Dancing**; 2980 Route 66, Chatham, NY; 8:30pm; Free! Projected on the big screen outdoors, under the tent. Rated PG-13. Light refreshments for sale.

(VT) July 10; **CORE GROUP**; 6pm Potluck; 6:30pm Group Discussion, at the Menspace. Help guide the Men's Program.

(VT) **BOOK CLUB**; 7pm; 139 Main Street, Ste #606B. The book club is A STONE BOAT, by Andrew Solomon. Call Curtis for more information, 802-254-2400.

(NY) July 11 & July 12; **Parsons Dance**; 2980 Route 66, Chatham, NY; 8:30pm; Friday, \$35 gen-

eral admission / \$30 PS/21 members; Saturday \$40 general admission / \$35 PS/21 members.

(VT) July 12; **MEN'S PROGRAM PICNIC**; 11am - 3pm, the Burrington Pavilion at Townshend Dam. One of our most popular events!

(MA) July 13; **"TRANSCEND" MEETING**; 7:00 - 8:30 pm; South Congregational Church, Pittsfield, MA. Monthly support/social group meeting for the Trans community. Sponsored by BSCC. FMI: 413-822-7268.

(MA) July 14; **Second annual "Film Fest"** of films by and about women will be presented; Koussevitsky Arts Center at Berkshire Community College, 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA from 4:00 to 10:00pm. FMI: 413-243-2382; for dinner information and reservations call Marilyn Burke: 413-243-4373. The charge for both the Film Fest and dinner is \$60.00 per person.

(NY) July 15; **Free Movie Tuesday - At The Circus**; 2980 Route 66, Chatham, NY; 8:30pm; Free! Projected on the big screen outdoors, under the tent. Light refreshments for sale.

(MA) July 18; **AFTER WORK HIKE**. 6:30 pm. Kennedy Park. Meet at the parking lot on West Dugway Road (north of the Arcadian Shop.) Everyone is welcome. FMI: 413-822-7268.

(VT) July 18; **SPIRITUALITY**; 6:30pm, the Menspace. This month, we'll be watching the film *For The Bible Tells Me So*, then discussing. This film has been widely acclaimed, and features the New Hampshire Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson. Note 6:30pm start time!

(NY) July 19; **Those Two Guys**; 2980 Route 66, Chatham, NY; Two performances, 2:00pm and 8:00pm. \$20 general admission / \$15 PS/21 members / \$12 students (under 21).

(VT) July 19; **BIKE & BBQ**; 11am and 2pm, Brad Banks' place in Peterborough NH. An easy rail-to-trails bike ride (road bikes okay) along an improved bike path which follows the lovely Contoocook River. Followed by Brad's popular Gay BBQ on his serene 10 acres with pool, hot tub, lawn games, and bonfire! The ride starts at 11:00am, and please arrive NO earlier than 10:30! Ride ends about 1:30pm. The BBQ "starts" at 2:00, although guys arrive throughout the afternoon and evening. If you are attending just the BBQ, please don't arrive before 2pm. You want to make sure Brad is home from the ride before you get there! Bring along something for the grill, or a dish to share. Not a Men's Program sponsored event. FMI: goldnwolf@surglobal.net, NO phone calls.

(VT) July 19; **OPEN SOCIAL EVENING**; 7pm; Menspace, with host John Souza. Also, with ice cream! No agenda, no set topic, no need to bring a dish. It's an open social evening just for dropping in and seeing who else might be out and about!

(NY) July 22; **Free Movie Tuesday - The Red Violin**; 2980 Route 66, Chatham, NY; 8:30pm; Free! Projected on the big screen outdoors, under the tent. The perfect violin, created by a master in 1681, is on the auction block. This film, from 1999, follows the violin through history and around the world. Solos are played by noted violinist Joshua Bell. Winner Best Music and Original Score, 2000 Academy Awards. Rated R.

(VT) July 22; **NEWSLETTER MAILING PARTY** - Help get the newsletter in the mail 6pm at the APSV office, 67 Main Street, 4th Floor, Brattleboro. Fold, stuff, seal, stamp, laugh. Pizza provided!

Stay tuned for more LGBT events in July!

Submit your non-profit calendar event/s* to calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com or calendar@therainbowtimesnews.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 submissions appear online.

Camp Anytown: Teaching about prejudices right from CT

Segregation, sexism, racism, heterosexism, ageism, etc. If you are a youth wondering why there are so many 'ism's in society, perhaps you may want to take a look at Camp Anytown.

Camp Anytown is an overnight camp in beautiful Colebrook, Connecticut, and it attracts an incredibly diverse group of over 60 high school students from all over Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. The Camp seeks to educate, liberate and empower youth participants to become effective, responsible leaders and community builders based on the model of a pluralistic society. The National Conference for Community and Justice's ANYTOWN program presents once again Camp ANYTOWN, a six day social justice, community building and leadership camp for high school age youth taking place from August 17 - 22, 2008.

Former camp goers have summarized

their experience as one-of-a-kind. Some past ANYTOWNers have said: "Overall, I would say that the experience I had was the biggest life changing event so far. "ANY-

"We have students from wealthy communities, from poor communities, from every race, every class, every gender identity, etc.," said Kelly Benkert, NCCJ Youth

Camp Anytown is an **overnight camp** in beautiful Colebrook, Connecticut, and it attracts an incredibly **diverse** group of over 60 high-school students from all over **Connecticut and Western Massachusetts**.

TOWN was not just about what I learned, but also how I learned." "By the end of the week, ANYTOWN became my ideal community." "ANYTOWN was the most unique and empowering learning experience."

The camp places 60 students annually and offers workshops that focus on a different type of oppression each day.

Program Specialist.

Camp Anytown has been going on for over 50 years. Transportation is available from the NCCJ's Windsor, CT office. Students like Frankie, who cannot pay such a fee are also welcome to apply and will be considered based on financial aid and scholarships that are available through the program.

According to Benkert, there are various reasons to send the youth to Camp Anytown.

"First, it is very important to show respect and understanding of people of all races, classes, genders, sexual orientation, etc.," said Benkert. "Second, there are a lot of problems in this country and a lot of inequalities and if you're not part of the solution; you're part of the problem."

To learn more or read about the camp and students can register at www.nccjctwma.org.

The NCCJ of Connecticut & Western Massachusetts is a non-profit human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry, and racism. NCCJ promotes understanding and respect of all diversity including race, religion, and culture through education, advocacy, and conflict resolution.

LMAF: Hopes Connecticut Supreme Court rules as California did

By: **Anne Stanback/Executive Director, Love Makes a Family**

Last month, same-sex couples in California were finally able to legally marry!

In fact, because California—like Connecticut—has no residency requirements, any same-sex couple can legally marry in that state. (Getting the marriage recognized by one's home state will be more difficult. But if you live in the Northeast, your chances are much better. Of the three states that border Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York will definitely

recognize these marriages and Rhode Island could likely recognize them.)

We congratulate our colleagues in California who have worked so long and hard for this victory. And we celebrated from afar as the first couples began to marry on June 16th.

Truth be told, many of us had expected that Connecticut would be the next state to legalize marriage for loving, committed same-sex couples. But our state Supreme Court has still not ruled in the Kerrigan case that was argued over a year ago before the Justices.

The beautifully written decision from the California high court clearly said that "marriage" by another name (in California's case, domestic partnership; in Connecticut's case, civil union) is neither marriage nor equal to marriage. I am hopeful that the Connecticut Supreme Court will rule similarly.

Love Makes a Family is working harder than ever to be ready to protect a marriage equality win if the court rules for us or to return to the legislature in 2009 and win there if the court rules against us.

You can help with the final phase of our marriage equality campaign in two ways:

1. Make a donation to LMF today to support our work.
2. Visit our website (www.lmfct.org/), bookmark it, and stay informed about what's happening and how you can get involved.

This is a historic time. Take a moment and continue to toast the new happy couples and then take a step to get involved in making marriage equality a reality right here at home.

Coalition pushes for constitutional convention

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A group that wants Connecticut to allow ballot initiatives like those in California is urging voters to approve a convention this fall so the state constitution can be changed.

Connecticut voters are asked every 20 years whether the state constitution should be revised or amended. The next time is

coming up in November.

Matthew Daly of Glastonbury is heading up a campaign to urge people to vote yes. He says allowing ballot initiatives will ultimately give voters a bigger say in state government and allow the people to decide issues such as gay marriage and property tax caps.

CT Neighborhood Organizations

AIDS Testing: www.guardianhealth.org

Gay Father's Group: (203) 938-2881Hartford
Community Center: (860) 724-5542CT Freedom to
Marry Coalition: (203) 791-9553Love Makes a
Family: www.lmf-ct.org (860) 525-7777Married
Lesbian Support Group: tricolor@aol.com (203) 430-9227

Married Men's Bisexual Support Group of Hartford: (860)264-5605Metropolitan Community
Church of New Haven: (203) 397-2312New Haven
Gay & Lesbian Center: www.nhglcc.org (203) 387-2522

PFLAG Danbury: www.pflag.org; (203) 797-4743Connecticut's Kids: (203) 256-8414

Senior Lesbians Happily at Play (SLAPHAPS): Kathy (203) 929-8113

True Colors CT: www.ourtruecolors.org; (888) 565-5551National

Runaway Switchboard: (773) 880-9860Connecticut
Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF): 135 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 - 860.247.6090
Info. and Referral program: (800) 479-2949 or Greater Hartford 524-0601 - Statewide women's rights organization working to end discrimination and hate crimes; provides free legal information and referral to the LGBT community.

XX Club (Twenty Club): Rev. Cannon Jones - 45 Church Street Hartford, CT 06141-0387 - (860)646-8651 - Provides knowledgeable info., and ongoing peer support to transsexuals. 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, 2-5 p.m.

connecticut View (cTVView): A Transgender social and support club, for the TV, TG, TS, CD, both male and female. Monthly meeting in New Haven as well as e-membership, and more. A no dues club, with all the frills; www.transgender.org/ctv/

www.therainbowtimesnews.com



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QRviews

The macho man is outdated, and my log can be bigger

By: Jack/ie Kennedy/Opinion Columnist

Pink, pink and more pink. Imagine, men department stores filled up with the color that they've taught us not to like. I've got news for you. The macho man is outdated! Gone is the blue and the rough, in is the pink and the soft. No more rough toys for boys, this is *metro-sexuality to the max* guys and if you don't go with it, you're OUT! Does that mean that we're all gay? I'll get back to that later.

I didn't make that up. Check it out because by the time this gets to you, the news will be out. Jack/ie is in touch with, well, what's happening. I'm always truthful to my readers, other than about my sexual identity. But, the news is really that *Paris designers are introducing a gentler masculine ideal*, one that doesn't go without overrated testosterone teachings. So my news to heterosexual men, trans men, the butch lesbians and whomever bathes in strong masculinity and testosterone is *softer is in, rougher and more macho is, well, drainable*. To act grotesque and dress without fashion is out the door ladies and gentlemen! Yes, focus on the gentleness of that word and stop watching *Spike TV*, because it seems they're saying "macho" is Garrbah-GGE! Ouch. I'll have to switch my



channel now to *Lifetime* to get my surge of femininity, or should I visit LOGO?

But, who am I to worry? I have defined myself as *sexless*, or having a plethora of sexual identities. Aren't we all different in the bedroom after all? Or, are you telling me that your wife isn't a top at times Mr., ah, yes, you sir, the one who's reading this column. Or, are you saying that your husband, yes you ma'am, doesn't enjoy the gentler touch and motions of femininity applied to him either? I don't buy it. *We all sexually identify in a diversity of ways* (most people do it behind closed doors and don't come out of the closet, and others have the courage to dare and do). Let's face it, if we only play just like boys in the bedroom or just like girls, we'd all be bored with our bodies and our relationships. But, enough of that sexual stuff that scares my

bosses. I've got to keep you updated about other stuff. Did I tell you that I'm back?!

Now, let's talk about more news. What's with *Facebook* lately? The online social network website now wants to be the sex-patrol police. Yeah, you got that right. No more of John wants "their" pet to eat. It is forcing members to pretty much use the right pronouns. Boy, am I glad I don't work for them. So, if you haven't identified your gender in Facebook, prepare to do so my friend. *No more "in-betweeners" allowed, says the sign!* Now, in their kindness, it seems that trans people can still remove their gender completely from their profiles. How nice of them! In a gender phobia filled society, they'll allow a few people to be genderless, but they will make you choose a pronoun otherwise. I think they should just focus on the site overlooking security for its members first, instead of focusing on gender. What do you think?

And I read that *GenY* is having problems with coming out! Come on people, at least it's not the 40s, or 30s or you're not living in an Arab country, or Russia where you're murdered for coming out. Although that still happens here, due to the comments of some *Bible Thumpers* who spread hatred because they live "perfect" lives. I say, come out of the closet and show your

pride! I dare to say that had my wonderful, you know who you are, hadn't come out I'd be one of those who didn't get it at all. It's about teaching others that this is the 21st Century and rights come before old rules. Love comes before hatred, and understanding that we're all different and all sinners is perfectly fine.

Did you hear about the members of the *Canadian Armed Forces who danced and marched their way through downtown Toronto* in the Gay Pride parade? Now that's a country with guts! Those Canadians know how to do it, just like their maple syrup. There ain't anything like their syrup. They do walk, do march, do ask, do tell, and they'll still honor their service to their country. Maybe our Gay and Lesbian service people should move to Canada and "ask and tell" all they want. Hmm, that sounds like that land of the free that I once read about but that offers very few freedoms.

Like in my previous articles, if you have a sty in your eye don't come pointing out the log that you see in mine. *Just because my log is bigger doesn't mean your sty is not there*. You too have something in our eye and that gives you no right to talk or judge. That's how I see it and I say it how I see it. Peace out!

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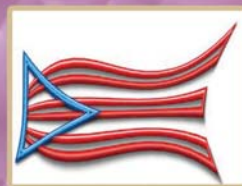
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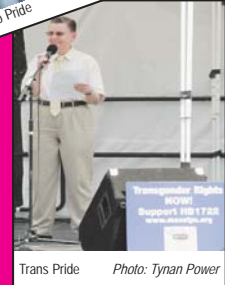


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Remembering our 2008 Pride Marches & Rallies



Carbone's: 5 Flag Ristorante

By: **Julis Child**/TRT Restaurant Reviewer

It is always difficult choosing an Italian restaurant in Little Italy in Hartford Conn.

After studying the many fine establishments on Franklin Avenue, we chose Carbone's, an Italian Ristorante owned and operated by the Carbone family for over 70 years.

Carbone's is one of the few establishments that pride themselves in tableside food preparation, usually available on Thursdays and Fridays. If you enjoy entertainment during your dining experience, then you have found your place of choice.

For starters, we chose Bruchetta ala Carbone which consists of prosciutto di parma with tomatoes, fresh basil, buffalo mozzarella and olive oil. Words will never do this justice.

Now, dining at Carbone's without taking advantage of the tableside preparations would be a terrible waste. On with the show! We watched as we were entertained by our waiter as he prepared our Caesar salad for 2. Wonderful, both the performance and the perfect salad!

Now let's get serious. I selected Filetto di Manzo Dominico for my entrée, a sautéed

tenderloin filet topped with spinach, bread crumbs, Italian sharp cheese, smoked bacon, shallots and wild mushrooms in

brandy cream veal demi-glaze. My meal also included house prepared mashed potatoes. I committed the cardinal sin by ordering my tenderloin well done. However, that cut of meat was of such high quality that it was still juicy, in spite of my culinary request. The plate presentation was so wonderful that it was difficult to disturb the arrangement.

My partner chose to have Pollo Del Corletto, a sautéed chicken breast, with sweet sausage, hot stuffed cherry peppers and roasted sweet peppers inn a

pinot grigio lemon sauce for his entrée. We were impressed with what that chef could create from chicken! Superb!

For dessert, we feasted on an unbelievably deep, dark chocolate cake that we had to share because it was so rich. However, Café Diablo stole the show.

See Carbone's on p. 22

Carbone's Ristorante

588 Franklin Ave., Hartford, Ct.

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Authors on Authors: Secrets so Deep

By: **Terri Breneman**/TRT Author Reviewer

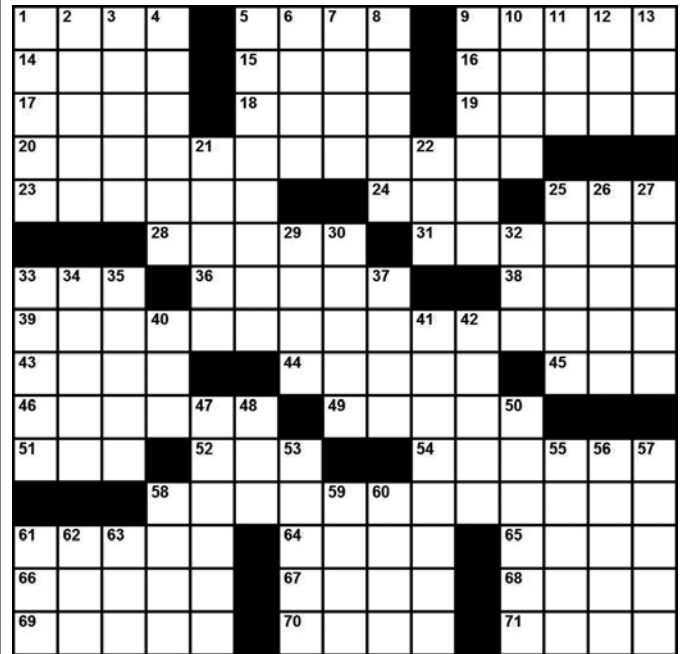
If you are looking for a mystery, legal thriller and romance all rolled into one, this is the book for you. KG MacGregor aptly blends these genres into the backdrop of Capital Hill, and keeps the reader on edge until the very end. The two main characters draw us into their diverse worlds with ease. Glynn Wright, a deep-in-the-closet Republican Congresswoman, shows us her vulnerability when her sixteen year old son attempts suicide. This is the catalyst that starts opening long-closed closet doors. And as you can imagine, most closets hold skeletons. The psychiatrist on-call steps in to assist the young teenager and we are introduced to Dr. Charlotte Blue, psychiatrist extraordinaire. She is the kind of woman you would love to have as a friend; intelligent, witty, strong and dedi-

cated. Glynn recognizes this and immediately reaches out in friendship. Dr. Blue happily responds, but it does not take long for Dr. Blue to question her own ethics and professionalism as her attraction to Glynn grows.

This is a well paced book that is difficult to put down. The mystery keeps you guessing and the dialogue is well written. Attention to detail is obvious as we learn about the inner workings of Congress, good and bad. Early on you are connected to both of the main characters and are as shocked as they are when new information comes to light. The story is a fun blend of nasty politics, the law, psychiatry and romance. Ah, a woman after my own heart. I recommend Secrets So Deep to all.

Terri Breneman is the author of the Toni Barston Series: *Anticipation*, *Borderline*, and *Compulsion*.

Q Puzzle: 2008 Tonys



Across

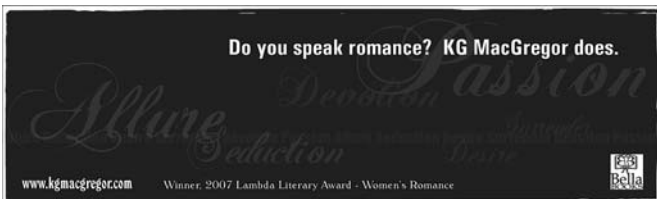
- 1 What you touch getting to third base?
- 5 Peter's place
- 9 Lupone, who won the Best Performance by a Leading Actress Tony for 69-Across
- 14 Penetrating reed
- 15 Asian inland sea
- 16 Humped antelope
- 17 Where a cobbler puts the tongue
- 18 "Lesbians ignite!" e.g.
- 19 Big tops
- 20 Best Revival of a Musical Tony winner
- 23 Samantha's uncle
- 24 Posed for Catherine Opie
- 25 Hawk-chicken difference
- 28 Seminal computer
- 31 Big Lovely singer Toshi
- 33 They go at the bottoms of letters
- 36 PC drive insert
- 38 Stud fee?
- 39 Winner of a Lifetime Achievement Tony
- 43 Result of a sexually active Woody
- 44 Slim bear
- 45 Place for porking?
- 46 Women's music festival ____ Fair
- 49 Edna Ferber work about an erection?
- 51 They made laws against O. Wilde's love life
- 52 Official at a Houston Comets game
- 54 Witherspoon and others
- 58 Lyricist nominated for a Tony for *The Little Mermaid*
- 61 Org. for Etheridge and lang
- 64 Ballet supporters?
- 65 Prefix with gravure, in "Easter Parade"
- 66 Respond to Suzanne Westenhoefer
- 67 Ham cut
- 68 Caligula's way
- 69 See 9-Across
- 70 Mishima's continent
- 71 Richard of *And the Band Played On*

Down

- 1 Nova opening
- 2 Can't bear
- 3 Date, with "with"
- 4 Foam at the mouth
- 5 A rainbow flag symbolizes this
- 6 Anthropology, to Margaret Mead
- 7 It might go right to the bottom
- 8 Fashion designer Perry
- 9 Not a dress size for 31-Across
- 10 Mapa of *Desperate Housewives*
- 11 Provincetown project
- 12 Stuff for a blow job?
- 13 Puts the finger on a bad man
- 21 Hump
- 22 Way out
- 25 Backdrop portrayal
- 26 Fly cry
- 27 Fred Phelps, to gay community
- 29 River of da Vinci's land
- 30 The bottom lines
- 32 Postcoital sigh
- 33 Reading at Metropolitan Community Church
- 34 "Take it off!"
- 35 Emulates a market bear
- 37 Con ____ (rather fast, to Copland)
- 40 Waikiki paste
- 41 Lincoln's state
- 42 Towels off
- 47 ____ boy (male escort)
- 48 Cut
- 50 Lou of Glenn Burke's sport
- 53 Jazzman Hines, contemporary of Billy Strayhorn
- 55 Hit, for Shakespeare
- 56 Enjoyer of Stephen Pyles
- 57 Make noise in bed
- 58 Far ____ (women with gay friends)
- 59 Hoppers, in Barry Humphries' land
- 60 Prefix meaning "tenth"
- 61 Easy subj. for John Nash
- 62 Oral input
- 63 Bra half

Solution of Puzzle on Page 22

Do you speak romance? KG MacGregor does.



www.kgmacreger.com

Winner, 2007 Lambda Literary Award - Women's Romance



Queer Voices from NY

Lesbian Notions: Myth vs. Reality, very clear



By: Libby Post*

When I was growing up in a nice, Jewish, middle-class family on Long Island, I was told there wasn't any domestic violence or alcoholism in nice, Jewish, middle-class families like mine. My mother always told me, "If your father ever..." their marriage would be over. There was always alcohol in our house. I probably dusted the same bottles for 10 years.

So, in my nice, Jewish, middle-class family, at least, there was no domestic violence or alcoholism. It took me a few years, but once I left my parents' home, I came to realize that what they told me were just well-intentioned myths. My synagogue has an AA group, and I've heard the stories of abusive husbands who started out as "nice Jewish boys."

My parents needed to believe those myths. They were part of what made them who they were. Sadly, the LGBT community has fallen into the same trap.

While no one has ever said the LGBT community didn't have its share of people with drinking problems, we have tried to hold on to the notion that, since we struggle so much to love the ones we love, we could never, ever think of abusing them.

That's just a myth. The reality of our lives is really no different from that of our heterosexual counterparts.

"LGBT intimate partner violence is as prevalent in our relationships as it is in heterosexual relationships," Avy Skolnik, the coordinator for statewide and national programs for the New York City Anti-Violence Project, told me in a recent phone interview. "One in four relationships experience some type of abusive power and control

dynamic."

Just as in straight relationships, this dynamic runs the gamut of emotional and economic abuse, such as the abuser isolating the victim from friends and family, using jealousy to control the victim, or threatening to tell an employer the victim is gay or lesbian; or the abuser controlling the purse strings and forcing the victim to ask for money. In other cases, the abuser may treat the victim like a servant or engage in actual physical abuse, such as hitting, push-

your whole life, what you're experiencing in your relationship may not be that big of a deal."

Skolnik also explained that it takes an average of seven to nine incidents of intimate partner violence for anyone to leave a relationship, and for LGBT folks it can be even harder because of living in a small community or having the same network of friends. He said that LGBT youth (under 18 years old) in abusive relationships have an even harder time breaking the cycle of vio-

lence because they are not going to turn away lesbians or bisexual women—something they did with regularity a decade or so ago. But there are only a handful of shelters across the country that will admit transwomen and treat them with respect. There are even fewer shelters that will take transmen, and hardly any will take gay men.

With very few places for LGBT people to turn, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (www.ncavp.org), which is housed out of Skolnik's shop in New York City, is working with domestic and anti-violence programs throughout the country to get them to deal more positively with this issue. Right now, NCAVP's 37 members throughout the country and in Canada will work with victims to find them shelter through the safe home network, or provide hotel vouchers and advocacy with law enforcement and health-care providers, and accompany the victims to their court appointments.

The myth versus reality here is very clear. Intimate partner violence and abuse are dirty secrets we can no longer afford to sweep under the rug. We're not doing ourselves any favors by ignoring the violent reality in which many of our community members live. I'm not talking about the asshole down the street who shouts "faggot!" at a gay man—I'm talking about the partner who abuses him because the bed wasn't made just right.

**Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.*

It's sad to think that we do this to one another and that, just like many straight women who are abused, we stay in these destructive relationships. ...not only did we grow up in this society—which is so violence-centric—but we're doubly burdened with internal and external homophobia.

ing, biting, grabbing, and beating. And at times, physical abuse can culminate in death.

It's sad to think that we do this to one another and that, just like many straight women who are abused, we stay in these destructive relationships. But we've got to remember, not only did we grow up in this society—which is so violence-centric—but we're doubly burdened with internal and external homophobia.

"Part of the community's resistance to talking about sexual abuse and intimate partner violence really comes from people not wanting to feed the fires of homophobia and transphobia," said Skolnik. "We think we always have to put our best face forward and keep this stuff quiet. We're all exposed to seeing violence as almost normal in relationships. LGBT people have few role models of what a healthy LGBT adult is. If you're not exposed to that, especially if you've been dealing with violence

lence because they have no legal rights at all, and may be trying to keep the relationship secret for family and perhaps friends.

"LGBT young people are some of the most vulnerable," said Skolnik. "They have fewer options, and because there's so much homophobia that they can't always distance themselves from, their intimate relationships are more precious. They don't want to break up. Some may even think that 'the violence I experience out there is worse than in here.'"

Despite some of our common assumptions, the frequency of intimate partner abuse is pretty much the same

for gay male couples and lesbian couples, and there is absolutely no correlation to butch-femme/top-bottom roles and who the abuser is within relationships.

When an LGBT person does decide to leave an abusive relationship, the next question is, where does he or she go? By and large, according to Skolnik, domestic

Carbone's from p. 21

Our waiter arrived with his magic cart and proceeded to prepare a dessert-like coffee drink. First, he peeled an orange leaving the skin hanging downward, ready to add its flavor to the specialty coffee. He proceeded to fill one ladle of Grand Marnier, another with Couvassia Cognac and a third with Galliano. With flames blazing beside us, our server repeatedly poured the liqueurs over the orange slices until it was absorbed into the flavor of the

liqueurs. He then combined the blended orange-flavored liqueurs into a large pot of coffee. The fun began with drinking this wonderful gourmet blend. It is a bit pricey, but you get approximately 6 drinks from it, a must have!

Truly, it was a memorable evening worth the 30 minute ride from Springfield, Mass. Since we were 4 minutes from one of our favorite watering holes, The Chez Est Night Club on Wethersfield Avenue, we ended our evening there.

GLAAD Condemns Rush Limbaugh's vulgar On-Air comments towards Gay and African American people

New York—The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) condemned Rush Limbaugh for crude comments he made during his June 23 radio broadcast.

Media Matters for America released audio of the remarks in which Limbaugh said that Democrats will "bend over, grab the ankles, and say, 'Have your way with me'" to African American and gay voters. Limbaugh then asked why Democrats don't say "To

hell with you, you wacko nuts in the base."

"While these sorts of crass diatribes aren't surprising coming from Rush Limbaugh, it's still important for people to call these comments what they are – ugly, crude and unacceptable," said GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano.

Rush Limbaugh's radio program has an estimated audience of nearly 13.5 million weekly listeners. It is syndicated by Premiere Radio Networks, which is a subsidiary of Clear Channel Communications. GLAAD is calling on Clear Channel and its CEO Mark Mays to hold Limbaugh accountable for his crass remarks.

Politics from Page 2

her supporters need to unite with Obama's "to create an unstoppable force for change we can all believe in."

Q Puzzle Solution from P. 21

B	A	G	S	G	A	T	E	P	A	T	T	I
O	B	O	E	A	R	A	L	E	L	A	N	D
S	H	O	E	Y	E	L	L	T	E	N	T	S
S	O	U	T	H	P	A	C	I	F	I	C	
A	R	T	H	U	R		S	A	T		A	G
			E	N	I	A	C	R	E	A	G	O
P	S	S		C	D	R	O	M		A	N	T
S	T	E	P	H	E	N	S	O	N	D	H	E
A	R	L	O		O	T	T	E	R		S	T
L	I	L	I	T	H		S	O	B	I	G	
M	P	S		R	E	F		R	E	E	S	E
			H	O	W	A	R	D	A	S	H	M
A	S	C	A	P		T	O	E	S		R	O
L	A	U	G	H		H	O	C	K		I	T
G	Y	P	S	Y		A	S	I	A		G	E



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Of course, Clinton has over a \$10 million campaign debt and Obama can help her pay it off. In return, Clinton can convince her supporters to join Obama's side. After all, she has already given him all of her top fundraisers. Obama cannot win the general election in Nov. without the support of the 8 million voters who cast their ballot for Clinton. Lastly, let's not forget the countless advantages that would be serving to Obama and to Clinton if there was a joint Democratic ticket.

It is back to politics as usual, a claim Obama has said he vehemently opposes.

The Outfield: Ranging onto Unfriendly Ice



By: Dan Woog*

It's summertime, so Kevin Jennings' thoughts turn to...ice hockey.

The energetic educator/activist - who steps down next month as executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, a youth advocacy organization he founded 13 years ago—is a lifelong hockey fan. He grew up rooting for the Boston Bruins, and during a three-year span, attended every minor-league game in his hometown of Winston-Salem, N.C. Moving to New York City in 1993, he became a regular at Madison Square Garden, where the Rangers play.

But adults in the stands often sounded as ignorant and immature as the schoolchildren whose behavior GLSEN works so hard to change. Players were routinely mocked as "faggots" and "queers"; a season-ticket holder who tried to incite the crowd with an antic dance was derided as "Homo Larry." Even the scoreboard was booed, when it briefly flashed the name of the New York City Gay Hockey Association (NYCGHA).

This year, Jennings had enough. As fans near his seat yelled "faggot!" at a Philadelphia Flyer, Jennings confronted them. "Are you really gay?" one asked. "No," Jennings thought to himself. "This is just a cool way to win a popularity contest in a crowded arena."

But he kept quiet, and didn't hear when one man muttered, "That's your problem." However, Jennings' nephew - a former col-

lege football player—heard the slur. He stared at the homophobe; the man apologized. "Maybe he thought my nephew would kick his ass," Jennings says.

In his best teachable-moment manner, Jennings wrote to the Rangers about the incident, and about homophobic slurs at games in general. "Naively, I thought they would do something," he says. No one responded, so he wrote again.

Finally, Jennings received "a blow-off reply." The Rangers said they had completed their charitable donations for the year.

"That wasn't what I was looking for," he says. "I told them, 'I want you to educate your fans.'"

So the media-savvy GLSEN leader enlisted the help of two heavy hitters: City Council speaker Christine Quinn, who is a lesbian, and Ted Rybka, director of sports media for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. In March, the *New York Times* ran a story documenting the long tradition of gay slurs at Rangers games. It included a response from a Madison Square Garden spokesman. He said that "homophobic or racially or culturally insensitive behavior is unacceptable at any event (here), and we have taken aggressive steps to deal with the offensive behavior of a very small minority of game attendees."

Part of that statement is true, Jennings acknowledges: the Garden does eject fans who use racial epithets or scream four-letter words. And that makes the inaction surrounding antigay speech even worse.

He had high hopes after the *Times* story, when Rangers executives agreed to meet with him. But by late spring, there was still



KEVIN JENNINGS

no follow-through.

Jennings is not demanding major changes. He simply wants officials to air public service announcements during games, urging fans to act more respectfully. Jennings would also like the Garden to train its staff on how to intervene with offensive fans. And he has offered to facilitate a partnership between the Rangers and NYCGHA.

He's skating on thin ice. So far, none of his requests have been granted.

"I know people are busy, and blah blah blah, but the lack of response makes me nervous," Jennings says. "The silence for five months after our first contact shows a lack of seriousness. I hope it wasn't all a smokescreen."

He does not believe the Rangers are mali-

cious. "I just don't think they were aware they had gay fans—or the [straight] fans realized it either. Change is a process, not an event. I'm under no illusion that everything would change if they called today and said, 'Let's meet.' But I want them to realize that everyone is there to have fun. When name-calling is tolerated, a lot of gay and straight people can't enjoy the game."

Jennings draws parallels between his work with schools and his outreach in sports. "GLSEN's mission is acceptance of everyone, regardless of sexual orientation. Sports is another arena to teach acceptance. Sports is where a lot of young men learn how to behave. If they get the message there that it's okay to be antigay, that's wrong. Schools can't do it alone. We need to send the message at hockey rinks, too."

Like a good teacher, Jennings understands that no issue is black and white; there are always shades of gray. His partner is from Columbus, and when they're in Ohio, they attend Blue Jackets NHL games. Jennings has never heard "faggot" slurs there. Earlier this year, the couple took 15 nieces and nephews to Nationwide Arena, the Blue Jackets' rink.

"I'm not sure I'd do that at Madison Square Garden," Jennings says. "I don't want to send the message that I'm comfortable in an antigay environment, or that that atmosphere is acceptable."

* 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.

Winners of 21st Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival Awards announced

Out Film CT is pleased to announce the award winners of the 21st Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival:

Best Feature - Audience Award

- 1st Place - XXY (Dir: Lucia Puenzo)
- 2nd Place - Were the World Mine (Dir: Tom Gustafson)
- 3rd Place - The World Unseen (Dir: Shamim Sarif)

Best Documentary - Audience Award

- 1st Place - She's a Boy I Knew (Dir: Gwen Haworth)
- 2nd Place - Marriage Makes a Word of Difference (Dir: Fran Rzeznik)
- 3rd Place - Call Me Troy (Dir: Scott Bloom)

Best Short - Jury Award

- 1st Place - Mano-A-Mano (Dir: Todd Strauss-Schulson)
- 2nd Place - Getting Lucky (Dir: Christian Lloyd)
- 3rd Place - Gay Zombie (Dir: Michael Simon)

Director's Award

- Tom Gustafson (Were the World Mine)

Thanks to enthusiastic audiences, the 21st Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival was a great success. Over 2,500 attendees from all over Connecticut and beyond enjoyed nine days of exceptional feature films, shorts and documentaries at Cinestudio, located on the beautiful campus of Trinity College in Hartford.

In November 2008, Out Film CT continues its collaboration with the Trinity College gay-straight student organization, EROS (Encouraging Respect of all Sexualities), in presenting the 10th EROS Film Festival. This event, held every fall, brings more queer films to Hartford with an emphasis on youth, history and classic films.

Out Film CT is a nonprofit cultural organization whose primary mission is to plan, organize and sponsor the annual Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The film festival presents U.S. and international films by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) filmmakers, about the GLBT community, or of interest to the GLBT community. The members of Out Film CT value diversity, multiculturalism, variety, entertainment,

acceptance, respect, tolerance, aesthetics, progressiveness and humor, and express and celebrate these values through the

Q Classifieds

PERSONALS

Trans

"SWEET TRANSVESTITE" MTF, 51, smiling, slim, healthy, balanced, love to shop, garden, cook, kayak, kiss. Looking for a GG as sweet as me to ride off into the sunset with. Contact "Jennifer" at: j.nytop@yahoo.com.

Men 4 Men

Hey, 18 yo looking for a man in Western MA, for romantic relationship... under 20 ONLY. Thanks. Contact: Josh at PrynceShybo@gmail.com

I am open-minded, nice, intelligent, good looking in an old fashioned way, youthful and historical. Contact Douglas at Doross51@yahoo.com

BiCurious

SWBiF looking for friendship and possibly more in Springfield/Noho area. Very new to scene

and testing the waters. Great sense of humor and kind heart. College educated and intelligent. Contact Ashley at honor_huston@hotmail.com or call 413.883.0396.

Women 4 women

Looking to meet women in the Springfield/Northampton MA area for friendship and fun! Diva's, Oz, dinner/coffee/drinks in NoHo or Springfield. Movies, the beach, you name it let's get together and do it! Contact Kris at dolphinstarnight@yahoo.com

Looking for other women for outdoor activities: biking, hiking, and cross country skiing. I like to cook, especially coming up with healthy tasty recipes. Walks in the woods, sitting by a cozy fire, enjoying all life has to offer. Contact: Treesyster@aol.com.

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