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The Rainbow Times

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

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OPINIONS

Street Sense: Will Massachusetts overturn the 1913 law that prevents out of state couples from marrying in the commonwealth? Why or why not?



"I think that if two people love each other they should be married, regardless of their race, gender...I don't think the 1913 law should stay...there's a problem there only if they move back to where they were, then the laws don't apply to them, so it really makes no sense in letting out of staters marry, if when they move back the laws don't apply to them, then why get married to begin with."

—Alan Yebemetsky, Northampton



Unfortunately politics is really complicated. Certainly, I think it would garner a lot more public support to overturn that kind of law because we have made a lot of progress towards combating racism and it's much more socially acceptable for interracial couples to marry at this time. So in all fairness, they should be able to overturn it. Who knows what will happen.

—Dr. Sarada Shanti, Northampton



"If they can't do it in their own state, they have to be able to do it somewhere right? It's stupid. You shouldn't be able to tell people who they can marry and who they can't marry. That's love. You can't choose who

you're in love with, you can't choose if you're gay or straight or whatever. I really hope that the legislature overturns it."

—Erin Torrey, Belchertown



"I hope so. I feel that it's kind of the new social rights movement. I feel that the law is unfair. It was started on premises that are now blatantly, obviously wrong, and those premises are wrong to a lot of people nowadays to the people it refers to. So I hope it gets repealed. I think that we should be the state that offers someone a fairly legal means to try and get legal rights in their own state. I think that would be awesome."

—Riley Liptak, Northampton

Letter to the editor: John F. Kennedy's life-long friendship with a gay man

Dear Editor:

The May issue of Houston's OutSmart Magazine has an article based on a new book, by David Pitts, Jack and Lem: John F.Kennedy and Lem Billings—the untold story of an extraordinary friendship, published by Carroll Graf.

My question to not only the homosexual community, but to all those journalists, since the 60s, and the dozens of historians and authors who made lots of money writing about President Kennedy and all the Kennedys, is, why has no one told the public this before?

I think the media also hid the many women President Kennedy had sex with, but they finally talked about that. Perhaps heterosexual Writers didn't think Lem was of interest.

A major issue is that the most powerful person in the world had a lifetime friendship with a homosexual, and everyone in the White House, and the family members all along, knew this, and so you have to ask why no one mentioned this all these years.

In addition, those who started this movement [homosexual civil rights] were accused of alerting the public to homosexuality and thus scaring off possi-

ble sex partners. The author covers this issue this way: "That's one point I tried to make in the book in one of the chapters. Ironically, in some ways gay people had more license at that time than they do now. Homosexuality wasn't on the radar screen, the general population wasn't really aware of it, and so, in a sense, gay people could do certain things, such as the example you gave, and it did not come under suspicion the way it clearly would today."

So, those people who complained that once Mattachine stopped being secret, and became public as ONE Magazine, their easy find of partners would be hurt, had a point.

Can heterosexual men and women have close friendships with gay men and women without being called homosexual? Will this book be almost as important as Brokeback Mountain in getting all of us to think about homosexuality?

—Billy Glover

Billy Glover is the co-founder of the Homosexual Information Center, which came out of ONE, Inc in 1965, derived from early Mattachine in 1952. For more information, visit www.tangentgroup.org.

Love, Rights... and the Rest of It

By JM the JP*
TRT Columnist

Consider this Part III of the discussion about fear as a primary force towards doing harm in the world. Previously, I wrote about this in terms of coming out and the marriage debate at the State House.

Bullying is a means of exercising power and control oppressively, and it stems from a place of fear. Its prevalence can be found most overtly in the current White House administration. As with fear, a sense of entitlement runs hand in hand with bullying.

Justification reigns supreme in this form of bullying, and it is subject to shifting as social norms change. For instance, slavery has been justified by considering that whole groups of people are inferior to others. Misogyny and homophobia are examples of how one group in power can bully/oppress another group by justifying "pre-destined roles" or "abnormalities" in those groups.

This is especially dangerous because these large groups of oppressors encourage its individuals to become everyday bullies in both explicit and insidious ways. How many bullies are walking around on the planet?

I am particularly interested in those of us who take on the bullies and who are unable to watch as a powerless person or animal is prey to the bully. This is no small thing. The bully is clever at emitting a mystique that the price to pay will be very big if the bully is outed.

The Bush administration has demonstrated this over and over again. They have shamelessly threatened and bullied

Connecticut Pride gets rave reviews

By: Nicole Lashomb
TRT Editor-in-Chief

With over 10,000 attendees, Connecticut Pride was a success in every sense of the word this year. As the phoenix rises up from the ashes, so does CT Pride due to its hard work and dedication to the LGBTQ community.

Dozens of people that I spoke with that day stated that they were more than impressed with the ability of CT Pride, especially given its past history of having to completely re-establish themselves as a new entity, to achieve the evident success of the day's festivities.

The entertainment line-up was phenomenal and the substantial number of quality vendors was more than impressive. But, importantly, a largely diverse LGBT community truly was "United for Equality." See photos of CT Pride on p. 12



J.M. the JP

people into doing their bidding, and they insinuate that one is not moral or patriotic if you disagree with them. As this house of cards continues to fall, I

hope that our sleepy, spoiled American society will wake up and learn big lessons. As with colonization, we will have residual effects and will need to examine just how much of our democracy has been destroyed by this pack of bullies.

On a personal level, can we each be brave and lovingly righteous? I have called attention to bullies and injustice, and, yes, I have paid a certain price for being who I am. The balance is that my soul and sense of integrity do not suffer this. I encourage readers to send me your personal stories of courage.

* J.M. Sorrell is a Justice of the Peace. She believes that our individual actions are significant and will greatly affect the peace and well-being of our planet.

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Jesse Molina: Her whole heart & passion

By: Grisel M. Ocasio
TRT Publisher

Jesse Molina, a lesbian singer from Northampton whose lyrics have true meaning, will perform at the Iron Horse soon. With her unique singing style, Jesse will win you with her talent right from the start. Jesse Molina is a true singer that knows her music and shows her passion through her meaningful song lyrics. We sat down with Jesse in an exclusive interview with The Rainbow Times with this true Northampton lesbian, to let others know what she has to offer when she blasts her music on stage.

TRT (Q): When did you start singing/writing?

JM (A): I started playing the guitar and writing songs at an early age. I learned to play guitar and write songs listening to folk and popular music and then in the late 70's and early 80's there was this huge impact of Womyn's Music. I have a memory of my mother yelling at me "Why can't they even spell Men?!"

I always wrote poems and as I learned to play the guitar and piano, I began to put them to music. I never liked performing as much as the creating and "jamming" with other musicians. I think a lot of performers have that weird yin/yang in common—an almost desperate need for attention and, at the same time, a kind of insecurity and almost paranoia. You are putting your heart, not just on your sleeve, but dangling it in front of people for their judgment and critique and yet you might be surprised when some people love it and some people don't. Some of the best moments have been just two or three talented people jamming without an audience and lost in the music!

Q: Did you go to college? What do you remember about your college life?

A: I was in college in Western Maryland the summer my father died (1982) and I had just begun to perform and play in bands. I went to school and studied art and education. I think of those years as "the lost years," where I was a bit numb and wandering without my father.

Q: When did you first begin performing?

A: I first began performing under the name, Jesse X in D.C., but I ended up moving to California in about 1990, and played in and around Southern California. I performed at Pride Festivals

in LA, Irvine, and with a group called Dykes on Mics, with Kelly Conway. The gypsy that I was, I then moved to Hawaii, and performed around the Islands. In 2000, I began my move back to the East Coast, stopping off in Davis, CA for two years. I moved to Northampton in the fall of 2002.

Q: What is happening with your personal life these days?

A: Since moving to Northampton, I've

"I can't remember Him (Jesus) talking about anything but love and yet, there is so much hate and hostility coming from the so-called "faith based" people with God (and money) on their side."

—Jesse Molina

been preoccupied with raising our daughter and keeping both princesses happy — I know how my wife will feel about me "outing her" as a Femme Princess, but I must speak the Naked Truth! A message to other butches: "just say 'yes dear' a lot and you will be much happier!" Let your motto be, "the femme is always right!"

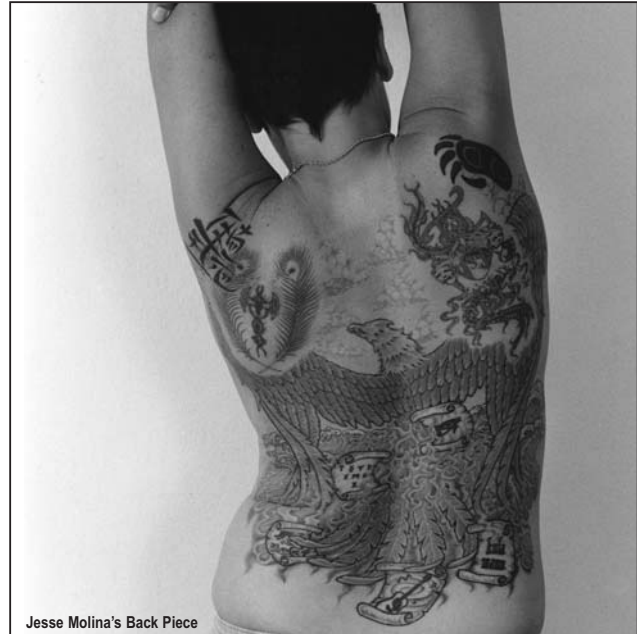
Q: When did you come out of the closet? How was such an experience for you?

A: Interesting question! It just wasn't safe to be "out of the closet" during my high school years. There certainly weren't any gay student groups or gay friendly teachers to turn to. Gay kids were ostracized and beaten up (not that they still aren't in many places around the world) and often, sent for psychiatric care.

My mother, God bless her, has come a long way since the day she wrapped herself around a tree crying hysterically when I tried to introduce her to the idea that I loved women and that my poor boyfriend was just a "prop." It's taken me a long time to see from her perspective that she was just worried and scared for me.

It is hard to seek your family's approval and support and just not be able to get it no matter what you achieve or how much you want it. Younger kids don't have any idea what that is like. I'm a little jealous and wonder what life would be like if I hadn't spent so much time and energy trying to get my homophobic family to accept and love me. It's still painful and I am not on real speaking terms with any of the "born again Christians" in my immediate family. Makes me wonder what WOULD Jesus do? I can't remember Him talking about anything but love and yet, there is so much hate and hostility coming from the so-called "faith based" people with God (and money) on their side.

Q: To that effect, have you done any-



Jesse Molina's Back Piece

thing to help with the LGBT struggle?

A: The *Marry Me, I'll Marry You* song was written in California right after a resolution was passed in Woodland, CA that gays did not have the right to marry and in fact should stop "wasting city council time" with the issue. My wife and I have married each other in three states, but

Massachusetts is the only state where it's legally recognized!

Q: What brought you to Northampton?

A: My wife and I picked Northampton because we figured it would be a good place to raise our daughter. The schools are good, and Northampton is one of those places where a multi-racial kid with

See Jesse on page 5



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Health care law reaches milestone: Nearly all must be insured

By: Steve LeBlanc/AP

BOSTON (AP)—The goal was as audacious as it was simple: Plug the holes in Massachusetts' health care network without resorting to the politically nuclear option of a single government-funded program.

The result is a landmark insurance law praised as innovative, derided as a house of cards and touted by former Gov. Mitt Romney as he runs for president.

As of July 1st, nearly everyone in Massachusetts must be insured or face a series of increasing tax penalties.

The law won't result in universal coverage immediately, but the deadline is a critical mile marker.

"July 1 is really a call to action," said Leslie Kirwan, chairwoman of the Health Care Connector Authority Board, which oversees implementation of the law. "We are looking to insure people, not penalize them."

The law divides the population into three segments:

- The poorest, making less than the federal poverty level, are eligible for free care.

- People making slightly more, up to three times the federal poverty level, can enroll in state subsidized plans.

- Those making more than three times the federal poverty level—at least \$30,630 for an individual and \$61,950 for a family of four—can choose their own coverage from new, lower-cost private plans, if they aren't already insured through work.

Massachusetts' health care experiment could spur or slow health care reform efforts nationally depending on its success or failure, said Drew Altman, president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, which studies health policy.

Key to that success is whether average people embrace the idea of an "individual mandate"—the requirement that they obtain health care.

"It has huge implications for other states, but even more importantly for the push for health care reform building nationally," said Altman. "It's the first real-world test of this idea of an individual mandate. This idea is either going to build steam or lose a lot of steam."

Amy Cassidy and her family have already taken advantage of the new law.

Cassidy, 38, provides day care and her husband runs a small flooring operation. Before the law, they were spending more than \$1,200 a month on health care for themselves and their two small children.

Now, Cassidy said, they spend about \$969 a month with a policy purchased through the Connector, a \$250 savings.

The state already has enrolled about 130,000 formerly uninsured people in health care plans, virtually all of them in the free or subsidized plans.

The far more challenging task is persuading the estimated 160,000 still uninsured residents not eligible for subsidized plans to pay monthly premiums. Even the lower cost plans can run several hundred dollars a month.

And while one recent poll found nine out of 10 residents were aware of the health care law, 49 percent said residents shouldn't be required to buy insurance.

Companies with 11 or more workers must offer insurance or face annual fees of \$295 per worker.

One way they can satisfy that requirement is to offer special accounts that allow employees to buy insurance with pretax

dollars, but the regulations needed to let businesses create those accounts were only approved earlier this month.

"For all that to be up and ready by July 1 ... is a Herculean task," McAnenny said.

Insurance companies also have found the law challenging, according to Marylou Buyse, president of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans.

"Insurers have worked very hard to put out attractive and affordable products," she said. "But if the new law is going to work in the long run we all have to address the fundamental issues driving health care costs."

The new state budget has \$472 million to cover the subsidized plans, and Kirwan said that number could rise. It's hoped the state could phase out its so-called "free care" pool—money paid to hospitals for treating the uninsured—by moving people into insurance programs.

"There will be glitches in it and there will be gaffes at some point, but if we waited until every one of those things were nailed down, this would never get off the ground," Kirwan said.

Will my TV set stop working after the switch to digital broadcasts?

By: Peter Svensson/APTech. Writer

Q: The TV set I just bought has a warning label saying it will need a "converter box" in 2009 because of a switch to digital broadcasting. What's that about?

A: Those stickers, mandated by the Federal Communications Commission, started appearing in May. What's happening is that on February 17, 2009, TV broadcasters will be turning off their analog over-the-air broadcasts, the kind you tune into with rabbit-ear antennas.

The FCC is making the TV stations do this because digital broadcasting is much more efficient, using less of the valuable radio spectrum. The government will take that spectrum back and auction it off

for other uses. The converter boxes mentioned on the label are not yet available, but the National Association of Broadcasters has shown off prototypes from LG Electronics and RCA. The smallest one, from LG, was about the size of a paperback book, but the production version may be smaller.

You won't need a digital converter to watch cable or satellite TV, or play movies from DVD players or VCRs. Game consoles are also unaffected.

The boxes will go between the rabbit-ear antenna and the TV set, converting the digital broadcast to an analog signal the TV can use. They'll need a power supply, and come with their own remote.

The price for a box is expected to be between \$50 to \$70, according to NAB spokeswoman Shermaze Ingram, but the government will be issuing two \$40 coupons (actually plastic cards that work like gift cards) to each household that asks for them. Each coupon can be used to defray the cost of one of the coupons and the converter boxes should be available in January, 2008.

This doesn't sound like good news for the 20 million U.S. households that get only over-the-air TV, according to the NAB's count. But if you go through the hassle of getting a converter box, you may find that your picture quality has improved a great deal.

Since TV stations are already broadcasting

digitally, the NAB was able to demonstrate the technology with the prototype converter boxes in New York City recently. Analog TV broadcasts are almost useless there, because the signal from the Empire State Building bounces between other skyscrapers, interfering with itself. The picture on a regular TV set connected to a rabbit ear antenna was very poor, with "snow" all over the screen.

The picture on a set that used a converter box to get digital broadcasts with the same antenna was free of static, and looked as crisp as if it was playing a DVD.

The digital broadcast also contains some program information, so you will be able to bring up a little window showing the name of the show you're watching.

If you're getting a new TV, look for one that has a built-in digital tuner, also known as an ATSC receiver. Sets that only have an analog tuner, also known as an NTSC receiver, are being phased out of stores.

You won't need a digital converter to watch cable or satellite TV, or play movies from DVD players or VCRs. Game consoles are also unaffected.




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First comprehensive analysis of 2008 Dem. & Rep. presidential candidates' positions on LGBT issues

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Inc., recently released the first comprehensive analysis of the top 19 candidates for the 2008 presidency on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues. Democrats discussed in this report include Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Barack Obama. Republicans include Rudy Giuliani, John McCain and Mitt Romney.

The report, The 2008 Presidential Candidates' Positions on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, are based on an analysis of the voting records and public statements of the candidates in eight key LGBT issue areas, including sexual orientation and gender identity nondiscrimination and hate crimes laws; HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment; lifting the military's ban on openly lesbian, gay and bisexual service members; and partnership recognition for same-sex couples.

According to the report, all Democratic

candidates are supportive of the majority of LGBT issues, including transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination and hate crimes laws. Only two Democratic candidates support marriage equality for same-sex couples, however, yet all of them are in support of other partnership recognition rights, such as civil unions. Across

U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich is the only 2008 presidential candidate who has publicly supported all eight LGBT issues. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney is the only 2008 presidential candidate who has publicly opposed all eight LGBT issues.

"The differences between the

that they will continue to use our lives as cultural wedge fodder whenever it's deemed politically expedient."

"The public statements and voting records of the Democratic candidates show that they are clearly light years ahead of the Republicans on almost every issue important to the LGBT community. Nevertheless, the lack of courage on marriage equality is disturbing on both political and moral grounds," said Foreman. "Politically, being for civil unions but against marriage doesn't bring a single voter over from the other side. Morally, it's hard to understand how a Democratic candidate can say to people they know individually and to one of the most loyal and generous voting blocs the party has, 'Sorry, I just can't go there — you understand, right?' Actually, we don't."

For more information about this comprehensive analysis, visit www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/financial_candidates_positions.pdf.

The mission of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is to build the grassroots power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Visit www.thetaskforce.org for more information.

"The differences between the Democratic and Republican fields of candidates on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues are shockingly stark and profoundly depressing," said Foreman.

the board, Republican candidates were in opposition to the majority of LGBT issues, with most publicly opposing lifting the military's ban on openly lesbian, gay and bisexual service members. Ten of 11 Republican candidates also oppose any partnership recognition for same-sex couples, whether it be marriage equality, civil unions or domestic partnerships.

Democratic and Republican fields of candidates on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues are shockingly stark and profoundly depressing," said Matt Foreman, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "Over time, the majority of Americans have moved to support basic fairness for LGBT Americans, including nondiscrimination and hate crimes laws, repeal of 'Don't Ask Don't Tell,' and protections for our families. Sadly, the Republican field has gone in the opposite direction, still clearly pandering to the venom of the so-called 'religious right.' This only means

Jesse from page 3

two moms, a dad and a step mom can feel at home. There's a great music and art scene, and, of course, because it is two moms, a dad and a step mom can feel at home. There's a great music and art scene, and, of course, because it is Lesbosville USA!

Q: Where did you inspiration for songs like "In my mind" come from?

A: That song is about trying (and sometimes failing), to live up to the goals and ideals we set for ourselves, and trying to be faithful and not be led astray by every shiny thing that comes your way.

Q: Are there any other songs that have inspired you in different ways?

A: A song I recently finished for an AIDS Care fundraiser was a song inspired by the death of my friend Alexander Martin. He was a young poet and playwright living in Hawaii, and his death was a huge loss to many people.

He wrote a play called The Buddha has AIDS which was very successful in Hawaii and Japan.

People are feeling despair, disconnected and without hope. Gay people are weary, everyone is weary! Fortunately, music can be a healing force, I really believe that. The coldest heart can be warmed a little bit by a sweet song. Everyone can relate to sound and be soothed and moved by music. That's the best we can do!

Q: Besides performing, what else do you do?

A: I went back to school in 2004 and became a certified teacher, right now I'm teaching art and social studies. I love photography, art, and recently I have become kind of obsessed with the history of the Northampton State Hospital. I just love

knowing more about the mystery and intrigue of that haunted place. I've taken hundreds of photographs from the inside and I hope to have a showing at Forbes Library in the coming months.

Q: We see your tattoos on your back, is there any significance to them?

A: One of my ex's is a tattoo artist ... Linda Tobin of Outer Limits Tattoo in California. While we were still together she "practiced" on my back and I ended up with a huge phoenix. Yes it hurt! WE chose various protective symbols from many different cultures, the eye of Horus from Egypt, the Celtic Ruins, the Chinese Dragon, the bear claw from the Pacific Northwest, the Japanese Kanji symbols for perseverance and clear listening. Luckily, Linda, my wife and I are good friends, and she did a beautiful dragon on my wife as well.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years from now?

A: Hopefully, my dog will have stopped chewing the furniture and my daughter will be in college. Maybe Gwen Agna (Jackson Street principal) will be president, the endless war will be over and global warming will be on the mend—and I will be playing regularly at Look Park either at The Pines as a performer, or at the water park with my grandchildren.

To be able to check out Jesse's other songs, as well as *Marry Me, I'll Marry You*, please visit her my space web page at: www.myspace.com/jedimusique

Jesse will be performing at the Iron Horse Music Hall, on July 10 in downtown Northampton, 20 Center St, Northampton, MA at 7 p.m. Jesse will be opening for Haale, an American singer of Iranian descent.

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RMovie REVIEWS

Capsule reviews of 'Die Hard' and other films opening this week

By: *The Associated Press*

Evening

A highly esteemed group of actresses including Vanessa Redgrave, Meryl Streep, Glenn Close, Toni Collette and Natasha Richardson come together for a pretentious, maudlin pile of goo based on Susan Minot's book. Michael Cunningham, who wrote the novel "The Hours," helped Minot adapt the screenplay and infuses it with the same romanticized sense of self-importance. But let's be honest: What we're looking at is a highbrow chick flick, though one that's beautifully shot. (Hungarian director Lajos Koltai is an Oscar-nominated, veteran cinematographer.) Redgrave stars as Ann, a woman lying on her deathbed, recalling the one who got away one summer 50 years earlier. Her children (Collette and Richardson, Redgrave's real-life daughter) sit beside her, listening to her half-coherent rants and looking perplexed. Meanwhile, in flashbacks, Claire Danes plays young Ann visiting Newport, R.I., for the society wedding of her college friend, Lila (Streep's daughter, Mamie Gummer, and the resemblance is startling). Patrick Wilson, eternally playing the prom king, co-stars as the generically attractive guy who still tugs at Ann's heart, and Hugh Dancy gets some volatile drunken moments as Lila's

younger brother, who's smitten with Ann. PG-13 for some thematic elements, sexual material, a brief accident scene and language. 117 min. **Two stars out of four.**

—Christy Lemire, AP Movie Critic

Live Free or Die Hard

Luckily for Bruce Willis and the audience, his die-hard cop still has a lot of yippee-ki-yay in him, nearly 20 years after the first "Die Hard." This fourth installment in the franchise, the first since 1995's "Die Hard With a Vengeance," is the sort of generally welcome surprise that last year's "Rocky Balboa" turned out to be, a re-acquaintance with an old friend you didn't think you would like anymore, but do. Let's be clear. The movie is silly, outlandish and painfully implausible, and it grows more so as director Len Wiseman revs up the climactic action sequences to preposterous extremes. This time, Willis teams with a computer geek (Justin Long) to take on a mastermind (Timothy Olyphant) who has launched a cyber attack that cripples traffic, utilities and federal agencies over the July Fourth weekend. PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, language and a brief sexual situation. 130 min. **Two and a half stars out of four.**

—David Germain, AP Movie Writer

Ratatouille

This may be the first Pixar movie that is so advanced, so sophisticated, it doesn't feel like it was made for kids. On a fundamental level, sure, children will probably enjoy watching the adventures of a plucky *Parisian rat as he leaves the colony to pursue* his dream of becoming a gourmet chef. There's some slapsticky physical comedy, and writer-director Brad Bird, the mastermind behind "The Incredibles," keeps things going at a lively, engaging clip. But there's nothing silly or childlike about it. If you stop to think about it, the main character is experiencing an existential crisis: Stay with the family and sift through garbage, as his rodent ancestors have done for centuries, or risk loneliness, abject failure and worse—death—by chasing after a loftier goal? Heady stuff. "Ratatouille" is also **visually wondrous in ways that are both lush and intricately detailed**—in ways that seem to have been tailored more toward grown-up tastes and sensibilities. The plot may be a bit thin: The furry Remy (voiced by comedian Patton Oswalt) literally manipulates gangly garbage boy Linguini (Lou Romano), Cyrano de Bergerac-style, into whipping up his culinary concoctions in the kitchen of a once-revered restaurant. Blissfully, though, it's free of gratuitous pop-culture references; "Ratatouille" is very much of

our world but it never goes for the cheap, easy gag. Brian Dennehy, Peter O'Toole and Janeane Garofalo are among the strong vocal cast. G. 110 min. **Three stars out of four.**

—Christy Lemire, AP Movie Critic

Transformers

The Hasbro toys inspired an animated TV series and movie 20 years ago, and this version essentially is another cartoon, though it's live-action seamlessly blended with an overload of computer-generated effects. In case you missed the 1980s, Transformers are giant, sentient robots made up of a gazillion moving parts that shift around to turn the big guys into all sorts of things—vehicles, jet planes, helicopters and such. Director Michael Bay's tale has the good-guy Autobots and their evil foes the Decepticons duking it out on Earth over a power source the villains want to use to wipe out humanity and create a new race of nasty machines. The robotic human cast includes Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox, Tyrese Gibson, Jon Voight, John Turturro and Anthony Anderson. Silly as the story is and bland as the characters are, the visuals—particularly the cool robot transformations—are the real stars. PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi action violence, brief sexual humor and language. 144 min. Two stars out of four.

—David Germain, AP Movie Writer

Survey: Fewer Americans see kids as key to a good marriage, say sharing chores more important

By *David Crary/AP*

NEW YORK (AP)—The percentage of Americans who consider children "very important" to a successful marriage has dropped sharply since 1990, and more now cite the sharing of household chores as pivotal, according to a sweeping new survey.

The Pew Research Center survey on marriage and parenting found that children had fallen to eighth out of nine on a list of factors that people associate with successful marriages—well behind "sharing household chores," "good housing,"

same items, with 65 percent saying children were very important to a good marriage. Just 41 percent said so in the new Pew survey.

Chore-sharing was cited as very important by 62 percent of respondents, up from 47 percent in 1990.

The survey also found that, by a margin of nearly 3-to-1, Americans say the main purpose of marriage is the "mutual happiness and fulfillment" of adults rather than the "bearing and raising of children."

The survey's findings buttress concerns expressed by numerous scholars and family-policy experts, among them Barbara Dafoe Whitehead of Rutgers University's National Marriage Project. "The popular culture is increasingly oriented to fulfilling the X-rated fantasies and desires of adults," she wrote in a recent report. "Child-rearing values—sacrifice, stability, dependability, maturity—seem stale and musty by comparison."

Virginia Rutter, a sociology professor at Framingham (Mass.) State College and board member of the Council on Contemporary Families, said the shifting

Gay Best Sellers*

1. Outlaugh!
2. A Love To Hide
3. Whole New Thing
4. Sun Kissed
5. Available Men
6. Queer As Folk: Season 1
7. Open Cam
8. Noahs Arc: The Complete...
9. Gay Sex in the 70s
10. Another Gay Movie

* By wolfevideo.com

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“Anytown” breaks through LGBTQ barriers and more

By: **Gricel M. Ocasio**
TRT Publisher

HOLYOKE—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 a week-long residential program designed to educate, liberate and empower youth participants to become effective, responsible leaders and community builders based on the model of a pluralistic society. The program, held from Aug. 19-24, 2007, is designed for high school age youth.

“This has been the best program I’ve ever been to,” said Frankie, a fictitious name for a 17-year old Latino Holyoke youth who attended Camp Anytown in 2006. “They show you how racism can affect your life and how I can break stereotypes by showing others that I can do better than what they think.”

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

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

Camp Anytown has been going on for over 50 years. The cost of the camp is \$500, which includes every expense through the week. 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.

“They showed me how to empower myself and bring about change within my family,” said Frankie.

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.”

For inquiries call 860-683-1039, or visit <http://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.

Episcopal bishop removes Bristol priest

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut’s Episcopal Diocese has removed the leader of a Bristol parish that left the Episcopal church over the appointment of an openly gay bishop.

The Rev. Donald Lee Helmandollar of Trinity Church has been deposed—the equivalent of being defrocked—and the diocese will take over the church’s property on July 8, Connecticut Bishop Andrew Smith said Friday.

Trinity’s congregation voted itself out of the Episcopal Church earlier this year, becoming one of several nationwide who left their dioceses and joined the more

conservative Anglican Church of Nigeria.

Trinity has hired an attorney to fight the diocese’s order to vacate the property, Helmandollar said recently. He also has continued to lead worship services in the church, he said.

“We firmly believe that our church was built by and given to the Anglican communion there, known as the Trinity Church Society,” he told The Hartford Courant, adding that the church’s construction in 1746 preceded the formation of the Episcopal Diocese.

See Bishop on p. 11

Kate Clinton reveals a ‘secret’ for looking good to Northampton audience

By **J.M. Sorrell**, TRT Reporter

NORTHAMPTON—Recently, comedian Kate Clinton performed at the Northampton High School Auditorium to a crowd of nearly 500 fans. The fund raising event to celebrate Perugia Press’ 10-year anniversary.

Perugia Press is a non-profit poetry publisher. Just one book is chosen and produced each year. Publisher Susan Kan introduced Clinton by noting similarities between comedy and poetry.

Kate Clinton opened by explaining her background as a high school English teacher: “Illness and fatigue caused me to quit after eight years. I was sick and tired of it!” Clinton made mention of “excruciating” feminist poetry, and she recited a particularly painful poem, “The tide goes out; the tide comes in; the sea; the beach. I hate my mother.”

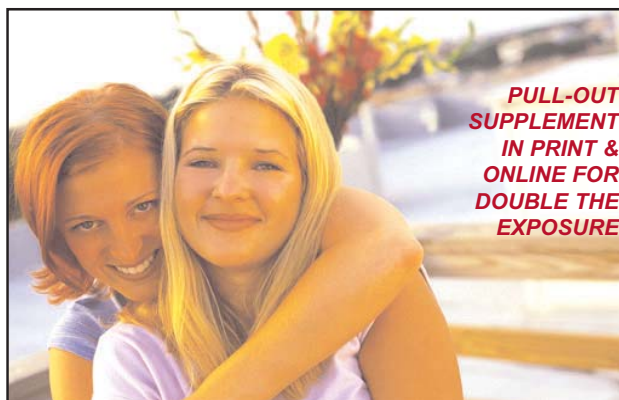
Her tour, Climate Change, refers to what Clinton hopes is an upswing in the socio-political world of this country. The audi-

ence roared when Clinton spoke about how 6 and ½ years of Bush causes her “Tourette’s Syndrome” every time she hears him speak. Her “spiritual program” is suspect when she has violent fantasies about Dick Cheney.

According to Kate Clinton, we could end the war in Iraq if we made all of its citizens wear pastel clothing. She believes that is has demonstrated effectiveness to pacify people in the United States.

As Clinton approaches 60 this year, she claims that her secret to looking good is, “You are what you eat.” This was expressed with a wink and raised eyebrow. She will continue working in retirement homes where her repetition will not be noticed. Kate Clinton gave special mention that Northampton is a “naturally occurring” lesbian retirement community.

You can learn more about Clinton’s touring schedule by visiting her website at www.kateclinton.com.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Hillary, Oprah and Dr.Phil, oh my!

By: *Jack/ie Kennedy/TRT Columnist*

I am with Hillary Clinton when she told nearly 1,000 women at a fundraiser that the White House needs a "clean sweep." I'd say more like a Clorox detoxification, alcohol-based disinfectant, with 100% bacteria, germ and virus removal power. Why? Look at what this administration has done to the LGBT community, to poor immigrants who are just working hard to get their part of the pie in a land of immigrants, at women for not giving them equal rights to earn the same as men and be treated

to. I mean, if I were to go on, I would never be able to finish this column and the atrocities that some people's president's administration has done to America. I say, "I didn't vote for Bush, don't blame me!"

So, now those who proclaimed that homosexuality was curable are taking their words back: Read EXODUS in the dictionary for flip-flopers, along with "Bush." It seems like now they realize that they've done more damage than anything else. It's like asking heterosexual people to change their inner soul, innate likes, and realities. Who will ask anyone to change those innate feelings that are present with most LGBT people throughout their lives? Some say it's a "lifestyle choice," well, who'd choose to live a life of oppression, insult, ostracized from what mainstream America imposes on us? Let's face it my readers, it's easier to be heterosexual. So when someone says, gays can be cured, trans can be cured, bi's can be cured, I say, so can you, if you're unintelligent enough to believe such a naive assumption!

The other day a straight friend told me that he'd gone to a Pride March and had left disgusted. He said that he was in awe and mad that he'd had to endure the

embarrassment of witnessing gay people "throwing their sexuality in his and his girlfriend's face." By throwing "their" sexuality he meant: "kissing, holding hands, embracing one another, etc." I asked him, isn't that what you do with your girlfriend when we all go out? He said he merely held her hand. I said, what about all of the other messages that LGBT people have to endure from heterosexuals, which also meant "throwing someone's sexuality in their faces?" He said there wasn't such a thing. I quickly thought of a show I watched a while ago and hurriedly said, what about for instance that Dr. Phil show that dealt with homosexuality and how families and friends felt about it? He said "Dr. Phil. He's not anti-gay." I said, he may not be anti-gay, but he isn't pro-gay either.

In this particular show that I was watching, I said, Dr. Phil told a guest that her loving gestures in front of her mother (the guest's mother) towards her same-sex partner were too much and asked her why did she have to "flaunt her sexuality in her face?" I thought about what he said for like 15 minutes, until I saw Dr. Phil's show come to an end. It was then that I thought about hypocrisy, yes again that word! I then witnessed Dr. Phil walking down this isle to meet with his wife, who sits with the viewers and watches his show as you all probably know. With a smile on his face, he simply, in an almost innocent and imperceptible move held her hand and walked out as the camera focused on the couple walking together, smiling and talking about what seemed to be the show. And then it came to me! Dr. Phil was "flaunting his sexuality too!" The difference was that as a heterosexual, affluent male, whose habits are accepted and applauded by the mainstream society and media, he was not even mindful to the privileges that he's always had. However, he could point fingers in other people's directions, couldn't he? What

do I call that? A hypocrite! So you can kiss, hug, make out, and do all of these things because you're a het, but God forbid anyone else does it because then it's offensive to you?! I get tired of the: "I have no problem with so and so being gay, as long as he doesn't kiss or touch his 'friend' in front of me." To heck with that! Gays in relationships are not friends people!! They do the same things you do behind close doors with those they love. And that's how our conversation ended. My friend didn't have a come back and I'd made my point clear, crystal clear.

Now dealing with Oprah is another different story. The woman's got guts and she knows how to treat the LGBT community. She's a proud African American that knows what respect truly means and who's not at all bothered or concerned with her sexuality. She's so certain of it that she doesn't care if others think that she's a lezzie. Go Oprah, go Oprah! There's HARPO to go for a loooong time. Maybe she should've given some advice to her former therapist Dr. Phil on LGBT issues. He could use some help in that department.

And guess what? If I were a heterosexual man, which I may be but won't reveal that here because I like to allow you to continue to guess my sexuality, I wouldn't be concerned about who cares if I am gay or not, or if I have gay friends, or whatever the case might be. Lesson number 1: True heterosexual people who don't have any issues with their sexuality have no problem with homosexuality. Only those with an issue, a question, an inherent fear or an out of proportion anger are usually those who want to play for the "other team," if they don't already do so behind your back. So, watch out for those homophobes 'cause they may already be playing for the other team without you knowing it. Like the wolf in the sheep skin. Got it? Gotcha!

Lesbian Best Sellers*

1. Desert Hearts 2-Disc...
2. Big Dreams in Little Hope
3. Loving Annabelle
4. Outlaugh!
5. The Investigator
6. Just the Two Of Us
7. She Likes Girls
8. The L Word: Season 1
9. That Tender Touch
10. The L Word: Season 2

* By wolfevideo.com

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Sally Field takes golf lesson at Women's Open

SOUTHERN PINES, N.C. (AP)— Sally Field likes golf. She really, really likes golf.

Instead of merely watching the U.S. Women's Open from the gallery, the Academy Award-winning actress tried playing, taking her first lesson on a practice hole at Pine Needles with renowned teacher and former PGA star Peggy Kirk Bell.

"I would go to all these locations and think ... why don't I play golf? People

walk around and enjoy God, God's gifts, the trees, so I think I've always thought I should have that in my life," Field said.

Field, who stars in ABC's "Brothers and Sisters," also came to the Open to promote awareness of women's health issues, including osteoporosis, the disease of progressive bone loss and fractures that affects millions of Americans. Field was diagnosed with it last year.

She said she keeps a set of golf clubs in her bedroom to remind her of her goals.

Stories needed for Lobster Bisque for the Rainbow Spirit

Stories are still being collected the book, Lobster Bisque for the Rainbow Spirit and the GLBT experience.

The story should be inspirational, true and about people exhibiting the most noble qualities of humanity like kindness, generosity, authenticity, caring, humor, friendship, love, etc.

Probable chapters include: coming out, HIV/AIDS, commitment, parenting,

being GLBT, community, volunteering, family, the physical change for transsexuals, and love. Names will be changed to protect privacy.

To submit your story, go to www.lobsterbisquefortherainbowsprit.com.

Stories will be collected at least through the end of August 2007.

Lobster Bisque for the Rainbow Spirit will be completed during the fall of 2007.

Attention CT Latinos: A place to call your own

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TV Shows you Don't Want to Miss!

Bravo's third season of the Emmy-nominated reality series "**Project Runway**" (10:00 a.m.) is kicking off! Selected from thousands of hopefuls, an all-new cast of fifteen talented fashion designers will compete for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to show in the world-renowned Bryant Park tents during New York's Fashion Week. Here's your chance to relive all of season three with twelve straight hours of stitching and bitching.

Bravo: Top Chef: 10 p.m., July 4; the cutthroat culinary competition is in Miami for its third season, and *Queer Eye's* Ted Allen is along for the ride as the newest addition to the judging panel. Gay chef Dale remains to rep the LGBT contingent among the 11 remaining hopefuls vying for top honors.

The N: The Best Years: 9:30 p.m.; 1 Hr. This new drama follows the inevitably interesting life of a college freshman attending a prestigious university in Boston. Providing a dash of gay culture

is Lee Campbell; the owner of the local hotspot where the gang hangs out.

American Public Television: In the Life; 1 Hr. Gay and lesbian newsmagazine with guest hosts discussing youth and education, health and AIDS, arts and culture, workplace, relationships and family, and global issues.

Re-Runs: CourtTV/TNT; NYPD Blue; 1Hr. Tough detective Andy Sipowicz has a gay assistant, John Irvin.

HBO: Rome; 1 Hr.; Men with men. Women with women. When in Rome...

BET: The Wire; 1 Hr.; Set in Baltimore, this gritty HBO drama features two gay series regular characters: lesbian police detective Kima Greggs and gay criminal Omar Little.

The N: South of Nowhere; 1 Hr. Watch 16-year old Spencer Carlin go from quiet Ohio girl to out Angelino over the course of this teen drama.

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PRIDE ENVIRONMENT

Do motorcycles generate pollution?

Dear EarthTalk: How much pollution do motorcycles generate? Are there efforts to make them more eco-friendly?

— Matt Lackore, Rochester, MN

Motorcycles typically get about double the gas mileage of even the most fuel-efficient cars—but that doesn't mean they are green. Despite getting 60-70 miles per gallon, motorcycles are not subject to the same rigorous emissions standards as cars and light duty trucks, even though they spew up to 15 times more pollution per mile, mostly in the form of smog-causing hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides.

Increasingly stringent regulations in Europe and the U.S. have forced automakers to make their engines cleaner, but motorcycle manufacturers have not been held to such high standards and have therefore been slow to implement similar advances. According to the European Commission, motorcycles—despite only accounting for about three percent of total traffic volume in Europe—are expected to generate as much as 14 percent of that continent's total hydrocarbon emissions by 2010.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel, thanks in large part to the state of California, which in 2004 passed legislation to green up motorcycles sold and ridden in that state. California's new standards dictate that hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxide emissions from motorcycles top out at only 0.8 grams per kilometer (g/km), down from 1975-set standards of between 5.0 and 14.0 g/km (depending on engine size).

And in 2005, the United Nations' World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, which works inter-

nationally to set vehicle emissions standards, issued a new set of motorcycle emissions testing guidelines that will make it easier for manufacturers to design more green-friendly motorcycles.

In the wake of these developments, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established new federal rules that require motorcycle makers to reduce their products' emissions by 50 percent. In place since the beginning of the 2006 model year, these new rules are expected to cut combined hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxide emissions from motorcycles by about 54,000 tons a year, while also saving approximately 12 million gallons of fuel annually by preventing it from escaping from fuel hoses and fuel tanks.

Many manufacturers are rising to the challenge. Honda, already a world leader in the development of greener cars, is putting the finishing touches on its new "idling stop system" that cuts fuel consumption and exhaust emissions by turning off the engine instead of idling at stop lights and in traffic jams. And Intelligent Energy, a British company, is developing an Emissions Neutral Vehicle (ENV), a motorcycle powered by a detachable hydrogen-powered fuel cell. The vehicle can reach speeds topping 50 miles per hour while making virtually no noise, and can run for up to four hours without refueling. Bigger, faster and longer running versions of the ENV are currently in the works, and should become widely available in Europe, the U.S. and elsewhere within a few years.

Got an environmental question? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; online: emagazine.com/earth-talk/thisweek/, or via e-mail at: earth-talk@emagazine.com.

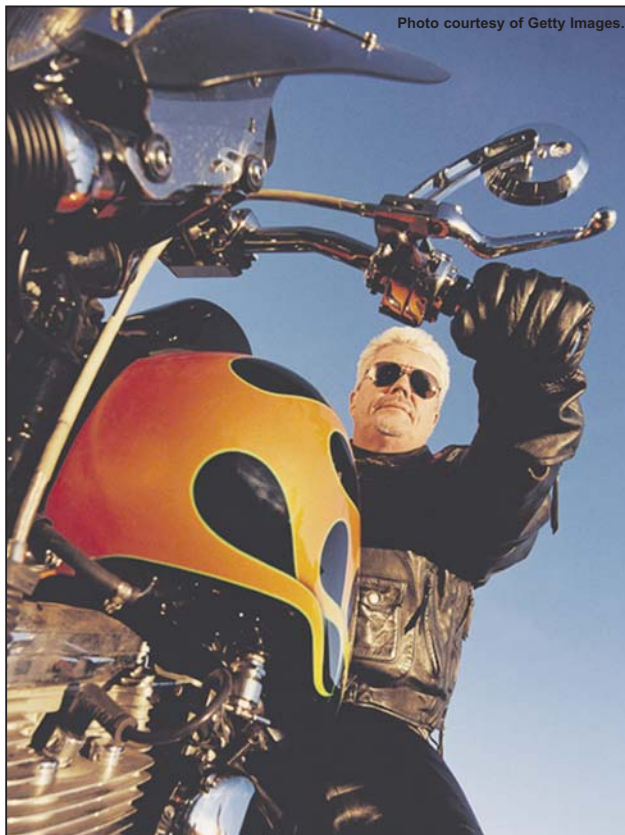


Photo courtesy of Getty Images.

Motorcycles are tough on the environment, spewing up to 15 times more pollution per mile than cars and light trucks, mostly in the form of smog-causing hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides.

Grant Helps GCC Train for a "Green" Workforce

GREENFIELD—Greenfield Community College has been awarded a \$372,000 grant for a Sustainable Practices in Construction (SPC) project that will help local business leaders send employees to the college for training in renewable energy technology.

The college applied for the grant from the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (WFCT) after it decided to launch a series of courses teaching students and people in the community practical ways to become more environmentally friendly. The courses offered this summer and fall include "introduction to photovoltaic technology" (panels that convert solar energy into electricity), "photovoltaic installation", "solar domestic hot water", "passive solar technology" and "energy conservation and efficiency," and more classes are being planned for spring. Resources from

the SPC project grant will support the development of a comprehensive sustainable energy program, called Renewable Energy Workforce Education (RENEWED) at GCC.

"It will eventually include a certificate program and then, in the next three years or so, a two-year associate degree program focusing on this technology," said Nancy Bair, of GCC's workforce development office, who is the program manager on this project. "GCC is a key academic, economic and cultural contributor in our region, setting high national and state standards for graduating competent employees into our workforce and transferring well prepared students into other colleges and universities."

The courses are meant to provide community members and students with the skills to install and maintain the new green

technology that can help cut back on our carbon emissions. There is a growing demand for this technology, but the supply of people who know how it works has not caught up to that demand. They are being offered either for credit, for students seeking a degree, or as noncredit courses for people already in the workforce who want to expand their skills.

This project continues GCC's commitment to provide access to educational excellence for everyone in the community who seeks it.

"The Renewable Energy Workforce Education program is a great fit for our college and a great fit for our community. This collaborative is focusing on the right issue and creating the right process and these are the right partner," said GCC President Robert Pura "This is just smart economic development for our communi-

ty and GCC is pleased to be an active partner in this effort. It is clear that the WFCT agrees and we welcome them as an active and engaged partner."

GCC plans to train 240 people through this program: 150 workers, many of whom will take more than one course; 30 members of "special populations" including young people, older workers and those needing English language training; and 60 college students who are transitioning into energy programs.

For a complete listing of these and other GCC courses, please pick up a free copy of the summer course guide at the GCC main campus or downtown campus or go online to www.gcc.mass.edu. For more information about this program please contact Jones at jones@gcc.mass.edu or Nancy Bair at 413.775.1607.

Women's Fund announces Golf Classic

EASTHAMPTON—Rosie Jones, 13-time LPGA winner, now Golf Channel commentator and host of RosieJones Golf Getaways presented by Olivia, will be on the tee at the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts Golf Classic, to be held at the Hickory Ridge Country Club on Monday, July 30, 2007.

Our 10th Anniversary presenting sponsor is Northwestern Mutual Financial Services and the Tournament presenting sponsor is Fran Johnson's Golf & Tennis.

Rosie will tee off for each team on a Par 3 hole followed by a team photo op with her. At the end of the day Rosie will draw

the winning raffle tickets; prizes include an Olivia Cruise for Two, a Hickory Ridge Country Club one-year individual membership, a Provincetown Getaway, and a set of golf clubs from Fran Johnson's.

The \$125 registration for the 18 Hole Scramble includes golf and cart, range balls, lunch and tournament banquet, team and skill prizes. You may make your own team or enter yourself and we will place you on a team. Registration and buffet lunch begins at 11:00 am with a shotgun start at 1:00 pm. Cocktails are followed by dinner and awarding of

prizes at 6:00 pm. Registration deadline is July, 16th.

Interview contact information and photo of Rosie Jones available upon request.

Local businesses, don't miss out on this great opportunity to promote your products and services at this well-attended event featuring LPGA star Rosie Jones. Tournament sponsorships range from \$250 to \$2,000.

To play, sponsor or volunteer, visit www.womensfund.net to download registration and event information or call 413-529-0087 x10 to register by phone.

Bishop from p.7

"Our own constitution says we will remain," he said.

The Episcopal Church has splintered nationwide since the 2003 consecration of openly gay bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. Trinity was among six Connecticut parishes that opposed Smith's support of Robinson's election. Smith announced the revocation of Helmandollar's clerical status during a gathering Friday with Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. She was visiting for Saturday's ordination of Connecticut's first female Episcopal bishop, the Rev. Laura J. Ahrens.

Smith and Helmandollar disagree about whether Helmandollar voluntarily renounced his orders with the Episcopal Church by joining another church, or whether the diocese's standing committee stripped him of that role.

At least 45 parishes nationwide have left the Episcopal Church over disputes about ordaining openly gay pastors and the blessing of same-sex unions, according to the denomination.

The Episcopal Church comprises 2.4 million members in 62 countries and is part of the 38-member provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

CDH receives grant for women with breast cancer

Access to free complementary therapy services to help women with breast cancer cope, reduce stress and heal

NORTHAMPTON, MA—Cooley Dickinson Hospital's Cancer Care Program and its Center for Complementary Therapies have been awarded a grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for \$34,457 to provide complementary therapy services to area women living with breast cancer. Services will be provided in collaboration with Cancer Connection, Women's Health Network/Tapestry Health, Hospice of the Fisher Home and the VNA & Hospice of Cooley Dickinson.

"The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation grant will enable the hospital's Cancer Care Program and the Center for Complementary Therapies to provide free complementary therapy services to women in Hampshire and Franklin counties living with a breast cancer diagnosis," said Mary Ellen Walsh, MA, LCSW, Cancer Care Program director.

Women can choose from complementary therapies services such as acupuncture, aromatherapy, healing music, healing touch, Reiki, Preparing for Surgery®, self-hypnosis/guided imagery and therapeutic massage.

All practitioners providing these services are employees of Cooley Dickinson Hospital. They hold certifications, appropriate licensing and registrations, and pursue ongoing training in their respective fields of expertise.

"More women survive breast cancer than any other type of cancer," continued Walsh. "However, survival is only part of long-term adjustment. The quality of that survival is equally important. For women on this journey, we are honored to be able to provide access to complementary therapies that offer self-awareness and stress



reduction techniques. It is our hope that exposure to complementary therapies will provide participants with skills for healing, self-care and wellness, as defined by each individual."

Categorized as a Quality of Life and Support Services grant, it will fund 600 appointments that will be available to 200 women on a first come, first-served basis. Each woman will receive three, one-hour appointments in any of the modalities named above. To make an appointment, women should call the Center for Complementary Therapies at 413- 582-2424. of life means to her, perform an assessment of their stress level, implement techniques to reduce stress and enhance self-awareness, and select the type of modality they want to experience."

Participants will be asked to provide feedback by completing various evaluation tools before and after each session and within six months. They will also be asked to provide written and oral testimonials about the experience to evaluate each therapeutic intervention.

For more information or to speak with a woman who has used services funded by the grant, call the CDH Public Relations Office at (413) 582-2421.

Fact Sheet; Breast Cancer at CDH

• Breast Cancer is the leading cancer diagnosed at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, an acute care hospital serving residents of the Pioneer Valley.

• Each year, CDH diagnoses over 415 new cancers. The largest number of those

cancers, approximately 125 or 25 percent of cases, are breast cancer diagnoses.

• According to the Mass. Department of Public Health CHIP Breast Cancer Report of 2006, the breast cancer incidence for both Hampshire and Franklin Counties is approximately 900 new diagnoses of breast cancer over the past four years.

• The most recent statistics from the Massachusetts Cancer Registry indicate 1051 women are living with breast cancer in Hampshire and Franklin Counties.

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FIERCE: Lesbians in attack unjustly sentenced

By: **Bran Fenner/FIERCE***

Updates based on court and trial support

NYC—On the night of August 18th, 2006 a group of young black lesbians from Jersey intended to hang out in the village as was an occasional routine until they encountered Wayne Buckle, 29. Buckle approached them making vulgar gestures and remarks that were severely homophobic and sexist.

As the verbal interaction progressed, Buckle eventually responded by spitting in one of their faces and flicking a lit cigarette at their faces as well. There were points captured on the video where he pulls out the hair of one of the young women leaving large patches, hair later found scattered on the ground. There are also parts of the footage as well as testimonial that shows Wayne Buckle on top of one of the women choking the life out of her. It was then that another young woman (Patresse Johnson 4'11" 105 lbs. pulls a kitchen knife out of her purse to injure his arm and stop him from potentially killing her friend). At that moment, two unidentified men came to the women's aid without being asked to and beat Wayne Buckle.

When Buckle was asked at the hospital about who had attacked him, he responded at least twice that some men had attacked him. There was no evidence that Patresse's kitchen knife was the weapon that penetrated his abdomen, nor was there any blood or testing done on the kitchen knife. There is even footage of them [the women] cautiously walking away from him while he continues to walk after them. To say the least, many of



us who were at court everyday seeing the trial happen were surprised (due to naivety) that they [the women] could be found guilty. Even the night they [the women] were arrested, they thought they would be going home as an officer told them; all while never looking for the men that inflicted most of Buckle's bruises and wounds.

We remember Sakia Gunn a 15 year old black lesbian who was stabbed to death in a similar situation, they [the women] were also friends of hers.

We understand that when we are being attacked calling the police all too often results in being re-victimized by police officers.

We understand that the media coverage

40s had lived with a partner outside of marriage.

According to the survey, 71 percent of Americans say the growth in births to unwed mothers is a "big problem." About the same proportion—69 percent—said

a child needs both a mother and a father to grow up happily.

Breaking down the responses, the survey found some predictable patterns—

Republicans and older people were more likely to give conservative answers that Democrats and younger adults. But the patterns in regard to race and ethnicity were more complex.

For example, census statistics show that blacks and Hispanic are more likely than whites to bear children out of wedlock. Yet according to the survey, these minority groups are more inclined than whites to place a high value on the importance of children to a successful marriage.

The survey found that more than 80

percent of white adults have been married, compared with about 70 percent of Hispanics and 54 percent of blacks. Yet blacks were more likely than whites and Hispanics to say that premarital sex is always or almost always morally wrong. Among those who have ever been married, blacks (38 percent) and whites (34 percent) were more likely than Hispanics (23 percent) to have been divorced.

Delving into one of the nation's most divisive social issues, the survey found that 57 percent of public opposes allowing gays and lesbians to marry. However, opinion was almost evenly divided on support for civil unions that would give same-sex couples many of the same rights as married couples.

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Delving into one of the nation's most divisive social issues, the survey found

to socialize? When has it become normal to expect that everyone has a comfortable home environment and should not be out doors at night or any other time of the day?

For many years FIERCE has been fighting that notion of only those with money and property have the right to public space. The Christopher St. Piers has been a home for many in our community for decades, particularly low income or homeless youth of color. This incident is not an isolated incident. Many of us have been in situations where some

random person felt entitled to our bodies, whether it be the guy on the corner trying to "get a date" or the state whose solution to homelessness is incarceration/cheap labor.

FIERCE has been acting as a support to the women and their families. Visit the FIERCE website now to find out how you can help support these women and their families. Visit www.fierceny.org.

* FIERCE! is a non-profit community organization for Transgender, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two Spirit, Queer, and Questioning (TLGBTSQQ) youth of color in NYC, who is dedicated to exploring and building power in our communities through a mix of leadership development, artistic and cultural activism, political education, and campaign development while taking care of ourselves and each other. They challenge the institutions that perpetuate transphobia, homophobia, racism, ethnic conflict, gender bias, economic injustice, ageism, and the spread of HIV, STIs, STDs, and other mental and physical health crises that make daily survival a terrifying challenge for many TLGBTSQQ youth.

that 57 percent of public opposes allowing gays and lesbians to marry. However, opinion was almost evenly divided on support for civil unions that would give same-sex couples many of the same rights as married couples.

Asked about the trend of more same-sex couples raising children, 50 percent said this is bad for society, 11 percent said it is good, and 34 percent said it made little difference.

KIDS from page 6

views may be linked in part to America's relative lack of family-friendly workplace policies such as paid leave and subsidized child care.

"If we value families ... we need to change the circumstances they live in," she said, citing the challenges faced by young, two-earner couples as they ponder having children.

The Pew survey was conducted by telephone from mid-February through mid-March among a random, nationwide sample of 2,020 adults. Its margin of error is 3 percentage points.

Among the scores of questions in the survey, many touched on America's high rate of out-of-wedlock births and of cohabitation outside of marriage. The survey noted that 37 percent of U.S. births in 2005 were to unmarried women, up from 5 percent in 1960, and found that nearly half of all adults in their 30s and

... the survey found that 57% of the public opposes allowing gays and lesbians to marry. However, opinion was almost evenly divided on support for civil unions that would give same-sex couples many of the same rights as married couples.

FOR SALE

AccessAbility Alternatives, a Nonprofit for Womyn with disabilities, has 3 building lots for sale (\$43 - 49,500) in Wendell. These lots are surrounded by Lesbian conservation land to fund raise for environmental protection.

For more info: 413-625-6978, ext 1

Q JUSTICE QUEER

Horse injuries while boarded, is there any recourse?

Dear Queer Justice:
I board my horse at a local stable. During his stay, another horse kicked him and injured him severely. Do I have any recourse and what are my rights?

—Samantha, Easthampton

Dear Samantha,
The first thing I would suggest is to read your boarding agreement. Any reputable stable would have you sign a contract defining your role as well as the role of the owners. Your boarding agreement will outline your responsibilities, your rights and your avenues of recourse.

Assuming you signed a boarding agree-

ment, you still have rights as to the care and protection of your horse. In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts the law is very vague as to the horse world. But you do have legal avenues through civil law.

The owner has a responsibility to provide an appropriate, safe, and reasonable stable for horses. The owner should be insured and able to cover any claims you can make in negligence or gross negligence.

As a person who is involved interstate the horse world, I will assume that you



Atty. Jennifer Dexter

know that there is a level of danger and negligence that is to be expected when it comes to horses. The law approaches the equestrian world with a term called "assumption of the risk." There is an inherent risk to riding and caring for horses, therefore in order to win in an action in negligence you would have to prove that the action went beyond regular negligence and rises to the action of gross negligence.

As to the owner of the other horse that is a slippery slope. Your ability to win in an action against the owner of the other horse depends on how much control they had over their horse and to what extent the damage goes beyond the "normal" expectation of injury that is inherent to the sport.

Automotive Q & A

By: Steve Lewis
TRT Columnist

W e've
got a
few

more questions to address, but essentially when these are gone the cupboard is bare. No matter how insignificant you think your question is, it may help you and someone else, so get them to the Rainbow Times, or directly to me at SteveLewis@subaru-mail.com.



Stephen M. Lewis
President, Steve Lewis Subaru

Question 1: Is Regular gas as good as Premium and how do I know if I should be using 87, 88, or 89 octane fuel?

The answer to this question is found in your owner's manual. The fuel that is suggested to be used has been carefully calculated by the manufacturer for your car. It serves absolutely NO purpose for you to use a higher octane fuel than suggested. At this day and age of fuel ranging from \$3.10/gallon to upwards of \$4.00/gallon, save all that you can!

Question 2: Would you say that one brand of tires is better than another?

The answer to that question is generally no. In general, an inexpensive tire (\$50-\$75.) will not last as long as a tire that in the \$75.00 + range.

The brand of that tire does not matter. Just make sure you get the correct sized tires for your vehicle and that you keep them properly inflated, and maintain the proper alignment. Given all of this is done, rarely is there any tire that won't last 60,000 miles, and 80-90,000 miles is not uncommon.

Question 3: Are ABS brakes better for safety or is there not much of a difference? ABS stands for "Anti-lock Braking System."

What it does is cut off the power to the brakes in the event of a panic stop. If you push the brake pedal to the floor at speed you will "lock" up the brakes, causing the car to lose its braking power and go into a skid.

ABS moderates the braking so as to allow you to maintain control of the car by having maximum braking without going into a skid. ABS is definitely a good thing!

Thanks for the questions. Please keep them coming! Happy Motoring!



TRT PRIDE Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JESSE MOLINA Opens for Haale, at the Iron Horse, 20 Center St., in Northampton, at 7 p.m. Check out this true lesbian's perform-

ance. She's hot and steamy, and ready to make you sing along her repertoire of songs.

Bryan's B-Day at The Chez Est; July 13; 458 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT; Blacklight, Glowstick Party; Featuring Sarah Atereth, NYC Diva Anthony Lamont, NY City DJ Lady Tita, & Angelica Nations with Fever Passions.

Club Lucy @ The Chez Est in Hartford, CT, on July 14 and every second Saturday; 458 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT; the longest running ladies' party in New England; Hip-Hop, Techno, Mainstream, Latin Beats; Huge outdoor patio; www.clublucy.com.

REACH! FOR A FREE DANCE PERFORMANCE; Jul 18, 2007 7:00 p.m.; Bishop Allen Drive parking lot behind Harvest Cooperative Supermarket, 581 Mass. Ave., Central Square Fifteen aspiring teen dancers from Boston, Cambridge and area neighborhoods dance side by side with professionals at this public performance by Boston University's four-week Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship Dance Program, REACH! This free 45-minute high-energy performance will showcase the teens' original choreography in an eclectic program of modern, improvisation, jazz, hip-hop, contemporary, and ethnic dance set to Latin, hip-hop, jazz, classical, contemporary and world music. Rain date: July 25, 7 p.m. Bring lawn chairs.

WEDDING SUPPLEMENT; The Rainbow Times; July 19th; not an event, but a Supplement not to miss! Send in your wedding pictures (we'll publish them for free), and advertise your events, services and all stuff so that couples planning their wedding can go and support your business! 413-204-8959 FMI.

VT BEAR FILM FEST: Saturday, August 25, 2007. Yo ho ho! There be pirates amongst us! Search for Gray Beard's treasure, WOOF it up

at the "Bears Gone Wild" Carnivale and enjoy a day full of short, feature and documentary films. FMI: www.vtbearfilm.com

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

HARRASSMENT? DISCRIMINATION? Do you know of any businesses in Northampton or surrounding areas that are giving you a hard time because you're gay and/or don't cater to you? If you have a story, we want to tell it. **Contact The Rainbow Times, 413-204-8959**

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therainbowtimesmass.com

GOT TESTED?

Free and anonymous HIV testing: Call the Aids Project of Southern VT at 254-4444. Meeting arrangements also available.

Free hepatitis A&B vaccinations: Call Kathleen at 251-2108 at the Department of Health to make an appointment

Remember that men who have sex with men are at increased risk for hepatitis A&B. The vaccination protects you for life!

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

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

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

Gender Re-assignment Surgery for inmates with tax dollars?

By: Jane Hamel/TRT Columnist

There is a much publicized court trial going on right now concerning the case of Michelle – formally Robert - Kosilek, convicted of killing her wife, who is suing the Massachusetts Correction Department for a taxpayer funded gender re-assignment surgery. According to an AP review, the MCD has already spent 52 thousand dollars on expert testimony in their vigorous fight against Ms. Kosilek's request. "The duration and expense of the case have outraged some lawmakers who insist that taxpayers should not have to pay for inmates to have surgery that most private insurers reject as elective," according to a report by AP writer, Denise Lavoie. (She also goes on in her article to continually refer to Ms. Kosilek as "he" and "his", an inexcusable and transphobic reference to a pre-op transsexual woman.)

Insurance companies rejecting GRS as an elective surgery, is just one of the many issues packed into this multifaceted case, and the one that hits home for me. This is a huge fight that we as transsexuals have, which includes getting the diagnosis of "Transsexuality" changed from being the same as "Gender Identity Disorder" and removed from the DSM (the index of mental disorders) just as "Homosexuality" was removed some years ago. I don't have to see "Sicko" to know that profit-driven insurance com-



JANE HAMEL

panies are in control of medical care in this country and that any surgery not paid for means more money for CEO bonuses.

I offer something a bit more current from the Harry Benjamin's Syndrome informational resource; Harry Benjamin's Syndrome is an intersex condition developed in the early stages of pregnancy affecting the process of sexual differentiation between male and female. This happens when the brain develops as a certain sex but the rest of the body takes on the physical characteristics of the opposite sex. The difference between this and most other intersex conditions is that there is no apparent evidence until much later after the baby is born or even as late as adolescence.

Harry Benjamin's Syndrome was known in the past with many different names, being Transsexualism (ICD-10), the most common used in relation with it. "People with the condition of transsexualism (HBS) are therefore born with both male and female characteristics and, like many others with atypical sexual development, seek rehabilitation of their phenotype and endocrinology to accord with their dominant sexual identity; an

identity which is determined by the structure of the brain. Transsexualism (HBS) is about being a particular sex, not doing it. It is also about recognizing gender norms, not challenging them." (Karen Gurney & Eithne Mills, Murdoch University Electronic Journal of Law, Vol 12, No #1 & #2, 2005.)

Arguments are being presented by psychiatric and medical professionals as to whether or not GRS is a necessary treatment for Transsexualism or Harry Benjamin's Syndrome. Scream with me here. . . Yes! It Is! This debate is over! But then again, I consider the debate over Darwinism vs. creationism to be over as well.

For many of us, the stress of living in a gender role opposite from your brain-sex can cause serious emotional side-effects such as clinical depression leading to suicidal behavior. This in fact is what's happening with Ms. Kosilek - two suicide attempts to date.

Can we agree then that the proper and accepted treatment for HBS is the least harmful corrective surgery, meaning genital reconstruction rather than a brain transplant? You can think about it for awhile. We now have the real argument for this case which is "Should Ms. Kosilek be given this corrective surgery at the taxpayer's expense?" I can't answer that without first

asking. . . Should convicted criminals within the correctional system receive better health care than those of us on the outside? My answer to that is NO! But, being a prisoner should not mean getting lesser or better health care than the rest of us. She has been tried and convicted of murder and is serving out a sentence that doesn't include denial of necessary health care. We should all receive the same great medical care that our elected officials get at the taxpayer's expense and only when Gender Re-assignment Surgery is covered for HBS just as bypass surgery is for a heart problem. Then, both my self and Ms. Kosilek would be first in line.

Since we are in no way close to having such a fine and equitable insurance program, then my answer has to be – NO, I do not support taxpayer funding for an inmate's GRS, because I would then have to ask myself what I would have to do to get on the surgery list.

Former leaders of ex-gay ministry apologize for "bringing harm" and causing shame

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three former leaders of a ministry that counsels gays to change their sexual orientation apologized, saying although they acted sincerely, their message had caused isolation, shame and fear.

The former leaders of the interdenominational Christian organization Exodus International said Wednesday they had become disillusioned with promoting gay conversion.

"Some who heard our message were compelled to try to change an integral part of themselves, bringing harm to themselves and their families," the three said in a statement released outside the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center.

The statement was from former Exodus co-founder Michael Bussee, who left the group in 1979, Jeremy Marks, former president of Exodus International Europe, and Darlene Bogle, the founder of Paraklete Ministries, an Exodus referral agency.

The statement coincided with the opening of Exodus' annual conference, which is being held this week at Concordia

University in Irvine.

Exodus' president, Alan Chambers, said the ministry's methods have helped many people, including himself.

"Exodus is here for people who want an alternative to homosexuality," Chambers said by phone. "There are thousands of people like me who have overcome this. I think there's room for more than one opinion on this subject, and giving people options isn't dangerous."

Founded in 1976, the Orlando, Fla.-based Exodus has grown to include more than 120 ministries in the United States and Canada and over 150 ministries overseas. It promotes "freedom from homosexuality" through prayer, counseling and group therapy.

Jennifer L. Dexter Attorney at Law & Notary Public



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COMING STORIES

When the student becomes the teacher

By: Michael A. Knipp*
Special for TRT

As children, we're taught many things.

Like how to properly pass a pair of scissors. Or raise our hands in class. Or excuse ourselves when we burp.

We're taught all of this under the notion that we'll be better equipped to teach others when it's our turn.

But at some point – generally during adolescence—some of what we're taught begins to conflict with what we feel is right. Like whether or not we're obligated to practice a certain religion. Or have same-sex relationships. Or fall in love with someone outside our respective races.

The latter, unlike the former, aren't part of our publicly funded education—and nor should they be. No, this education comes from within the stern but shaky walls of our own homes. Homes, that we're taught, may no longer be accessible should we defy our parents' teachings.

Such was the case in my own house. As a kid I was warned that if I strayed outside the anthropological guidelines my

parents created, I would pay a price. Without ever uttering the word "dis-owned," they made clear the consequences my actions would reap should I violate their self-imposed laws.

So naturally, when my mother asked me during a phone conversation four years ago if I was gay, I said yes.

In an instant, my parents' cautionary threats materialized; the penalties of my insubordination came down like a hammer.

Consumed by emotion, my parents—my mother especially—made sure I knew exactly how they felt about my confession. And while neither one of them went so far as to tell me I couldn't come home, they made my life difficult—if only as reparation for rebelling their authority.

In their defense, this reaction was consistent with how they were taught to regard homosexuality.

To my credit, I defended what I know to be perfectly acceptable.

As if the first declaration didn't unravel all that my parents worked so hard to instill in me, a short time ago I let them in on another little secret that drifted beyond the bounds of their clearly

defined but narrow lines of "right" and "wrong": My boyfriend is bisexual.

Wide-eyed, once again, from disapproval, my mother asked, "Now you're dating a black guy?"

"No," I quipped. "He's only half black."

Humbly, she digressed, and kept to herself whatever remark was bubbling inside. She understood – having previously dealt with my resistance to her dictatorial parenting – that imparting her opinion on how to live my autonomous adult life would result in further disintegration of our relationship.

To that effect, over the past four years my parents' perspectives concerning homosexuality and, more recently, interracial relationships have changed. They've transformed from indignant



MICHAEL A. KNIPP

opponents of the unordinary to students of moral evolution. As such, they've both learned a lesson.

A lesson in loving. Without conditions.

They've learned that when the initial embarrassment—however unsubstantiated—of having a gay son subsides, love, above personal convictions, matters more. And in meeting my boyfriend, they've found that despite the color of his skin he's as handsome, charismatic and intelligent as any white guy I've brought home.

In fact, proof of their graduation from provincial pupils to my erudite equals was delivered just last month.

My mother, upon first glance of the man I love, said he was cute—a compliment that would have never left her lips even a year ago.

My father—a man of few words—was "impressed."

As am I. Impressed at how defying what I was taught has forever altered the foundation of my family.

Irrefutably, for the better.

* Michael A. Knipp is a 26-year-old Baltimore-based freelance writer and the founder of Line/Byline Communications. He can be reached at michael.knipp@gmail.com.

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