

The Rainbow Times

Your LGBTQ News in MA, RI, North Central CT & Southern VT

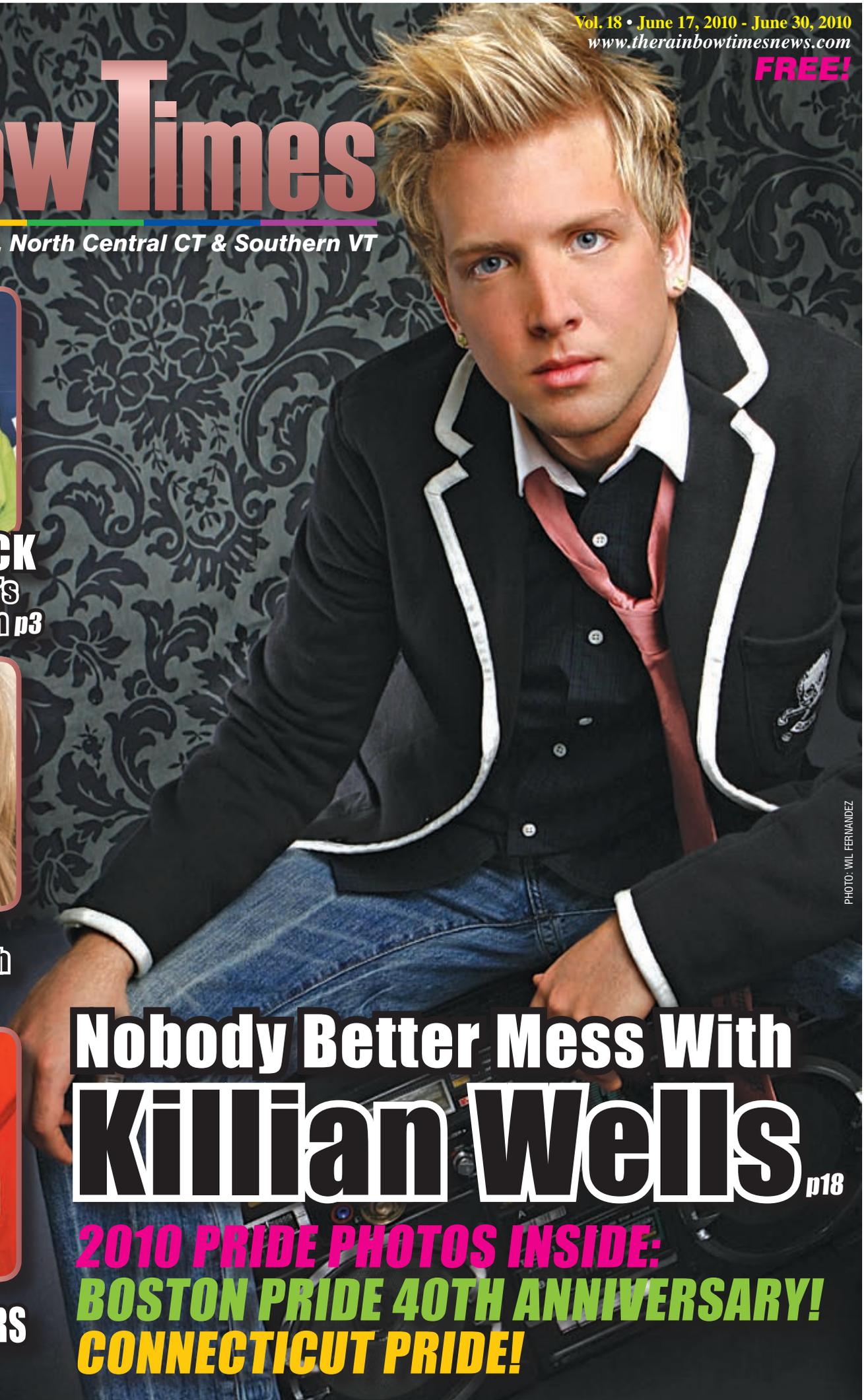


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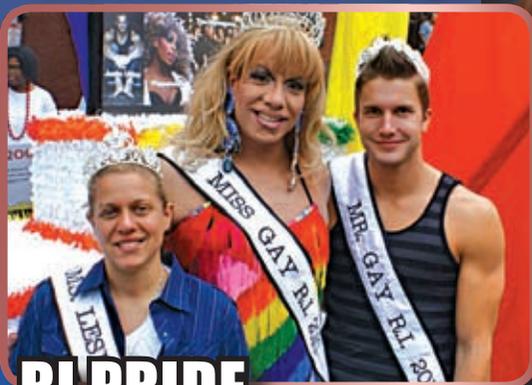
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BOSTON PRIDE 40TH ANNIVERSARY!
CONNECTICUT PRIDE!**

Boston & Hartford Pride and the next Pride events on the horizon

Publisher's Desk

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

It was a pleasure to be a part of the Boston Pride week and to be invited to commentate for the largest Pride Parade and Festival in New England. It was an honor and a privilege to work with the Boston Pride Board, Committee, Executive Director and volunteers. Most importantly, it was a pleasure to be around our loyal readers and advertisers in the Boston area and beyond. We can never thank you enough for picking up a copy of The Rainbow Times and for recognizing our stories, product and placing your trust in us. Thank you for your warm welcome and for giving TRT a special place in your lives!

We look forward to Boston Pride next year and congratulate everyone who had anything to do with it and its success.

If you were not able to attend Boston Pride this year, you can get a taste of the festivities in this edition with our featured pictures. As well, you will find a photo spread for our coverage of Hartford Pride, which was a really great Pride event too.

Now, we will move towards the next Pride events (Providence, RI, VT Pride, New Bedford, MA, Worcester, MA, etc.). Let's continue to join and support them all in Pride, for Pride and all of us.

Best in Pride,

Gricel M. Ocasio

Publisher

**Gricel M. Ocasio is the co-founder, co-owner and Publisher of The Rainbow Times. She is a graduate of Temple University and has been in the journalism and publishing field for almost 20 years. You can reach her at: publisher@therainbowtimesnews.com.*

Hetero-normative concepts of desire: Queer sex breaks all of these concepts and it's political too!

Opinion

By: **Jason Lydon**/TRT Opinion Writer

Few things are more fun during Pride week than seeking out a hot trick, FB, or lover. Sometimes we even fall in love (I did last year with a guy visiting from Chicago ... oh swoon). Everywhere you turn there are sexy half naked people seeking out some of the best parts of being queer—hot sex. Some of this sex happens on the dance floors as hands slowly glide under belts and slip behind underwear elastic bands. This sex also happens in bathroom stalls, on kitchen floors, romantically in the bedroom, slippery in the shower, or in the backroom of an often frequented bar. It can be kinky, it can be vanilla, it can be silly, it can be sexy, yet best of all it is greatest when it is queer!

Queer sex can happen anywhere and in so many different ways with lots of different body parts and silicone toys or leather straps. This sex must always have one essential aspect to it, consent! Have you ever noticed that the word consensual has the word *sensual* right in it? I think

that is pretty incredible. The reality of sexual assault is too often overlooked in our communities and when we do not talk about the essential aspect of consent we create an environment where sexual violence can go unchecked and ignored. Queer sex is wonderful and exciting, but the lonely feeling one can get and the suffering one can experience after a sexual assault has the capacity to ruin the beauty of queer sex.

Queer sex is political! Even with the overturn of sodomy laws our sex is still criminalized throughout much of the United States and other places around the world. That we have been able to defy a lifetime of hetero-socialization and connect sexually with other people in queer



Jason Lydon

See *Queer Sex* on page 16

Just Ask! Advice Column

Express Yourself

By: **Tetty Gorfine***/TRT Columnist

*Hello Tetty:
I don't know how to say this. I really screwed up! My very close friend has been involved with this guy for the last several months. Before this we hung out together all the time. I was his number one person who he would call if he had a problem, if he was down, if he had a dating problem. We went to the movies, went dancing and did a lot together. But since he's been involved with this guy, we hardly hang out. I feel like a second class citizen. I just couldn't help myself. I told my friend that he was in an unhealthy relationship and that he shouldn't be spending all his time with this guy. I told him that his life was out of balance and that he would lose all his friends. We haven't talked since. Now I feel ashamed of myself. Am I a terrible person? How can I make this better?*

—Wondering, Todd

Hi Todd:

Yes, new love can be hard on a close friendship. You have come to depend on your buddy for support, companionship and social activity. Now he has changed the game and you're upset and have overreacted.

Change is a fact of life. Most of us don't like this especially when the change is something we've grown to depend upon. Likewise, when change follows something unpleasant, we celebrate this ebb and flow of life. As life has it though, all things will pass.

Part of what you are experiencing is grief. You have lost that place in your friend's life where you were that one special person. Now he has another special person, which changes your relationship. This is grief. You must feel the loss of what was and wait for a fresh new breeze to



Tetty Gorfine

See *Express Yourself* on page 23

The Controversial Couch

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

By: **Suzan Ambrose***/TRT Columnist

Homo kisses are all the rage.

First up: Miley Cyrus is kissing girls. Again. Or not at all, depending upon what you think you saw when she performed on "Britain's Got Talent." Cyrus, 17 and a child star who has worked on the Disney Channel for many years as Hannah Montana, is in the spotlight for kissing a fellow dancer while performing live on the show.

Her latest song, titled "Can't Be Tamed," is apropos for little Miss Disney ears and her new look, which includes fishnet stockings and don't-cha-wanna-do-me spiked boots. I'm sure this is going over swell with her fan base, the 11-16 year olds who are already putting her latest fashion on their Back to School list for Mommy to purchase, as this new generation continues to look more like Red Light District professionals than fans of the Mickey Mouse Club.

But hey! She denies the kiss and said she was just "rocking out with another female band member." Wow. What's considered rocking out these days would have been grounds for burning at the stake not long ago. Note to Joan of Arc.

Then there was the Dustin Hoffman and Jason Bateman kiss on the Jumbotron at the Lakers game in L.A. Apparently the "Kiss Cam" focused in on them and, with their wives sitting right next to them, they locked lips for the whole arena to enjoy. Who knows? Maybe the wives were onboard for some healthy homo-husband



voyeurism.

So is it vogue to be gay-lite now? So it seems. The country hasn't fallen apart, and God hasn't sent out the locusts, although there are more

gnats in my back yard. Straight people are seemingly more and more into gay-like posturing.

Nowhere else is this more noticeable than in the Czech Republic, where straight men having gay sex is the hottest thing ... for cash. According to GlobalPost.com, straight men are perceived as being more masculine, which is what sells in the porn industry, and in Prague, thin, cute guys help the "Twinkville" image of what is appealing to American consumers of gay porn.

Of course they insist they're straight. I mean, it worked for Senator Larry Craig and Reverend Ted Haggart. Getting a boner for another guy is ... all in a day's work, right? The men say they need the money and the economy's suffering. The gay porn industry is thriving, especially when they pay these gents a sixth of what they'd make in the States. The guys like having the cash to impress or take care of their girlfriends so they continue to show up for filming. I mean, do they say: "Hey honey, I'm just gonna go get something to eat and a lube job and I'll be home soon?"

What's interesting about what's happening in Prague is that the country has very relaxed attitudes about homosexuality. It isn't an issue for

See *Homo Kisses* on page 23

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Loved your Boston Pride coverage. It was comprehensive and had everything needed to get ready and navigate around Boston. Great coverage!

—Brittany M., Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

I think that Susan Ryan-Vollmar was right to write on her story that a single woman is immediately seen as a lesbian. It is a media spectacle and we shouldn't tolerate such comments whether they are true or not. I like Ryan-Vollmar's comparison to that of firsts and how it all matters. It's always harder on the person pioneering the efforts. Kudos for publishing the story!

—Larry C., Cambridge, MA

To Jason Lydon,

Thank you for writing about the Puerto Rican trans woman that was murdered because the struggle, I agree, is not even close to being over. I like your words and they make me want to be more involved.

—Thanks, Christopher R., Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,

How pleasant it is to read actual coverage about Rhode Island! Your reporter, Mr. Siegel, does a fine job at giving us actual news relevant to our community. I've seen many gay papers come and go and I've never seen a New England newspaper published much RI specific news. Usually, the news focuses on the area where their headquarters are.

Looking forward to reading more from your fine reporters.

With gratitude,
—Rich G., Providence, RI

See *Letters* on page 4

The Rainbow Times

351 Pleasant St., #322
Northampton, MA 01060

www.therainbowtimesmass.com

editor@therainbowtimesnews.com

sales@therainbowtimesnews.com

papersales47@mac.com

Phone: 413.282.8881,

617.444.9618 or 617.438.4364

Fax: 206.203.0436

Publisher	Columnists
Gricel M. Ocasio	Suzan Ambrose
Editor-In-Chief	Lorelei Erisis
Nicole Lashomb	Tetty Gorfine
Sales Manager	Deja N. Greenlaw
Bill Berggren	Paul P. Jesep
Distribution Manager	Jason Lydon
SJ Seymour	J.M. Sorrell
Sales Associates	Reporters
Chris Gilmore	Joe Siegel
Liz Johnson	Tynan Power
Webmaster	Susan Ryan-Vollmar
Jarred Johnson	Lead Designer
	Jim Curran

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Deval Patrick's secret and strategic campaign weapon

In the Limelight

By: Susan Ryan-Vollmar*/
TRT Columnist & Reporter

The Deval Patrick Campaign has deployed a secret weapon to collect votes and drum up enthusiasm among LGBT voters: the governor's youngest daughter, Smith College junior Katherine Patrick. The petite 20-year-old, who's sporting a close-cropped 'do these days, is volunteering for her father's campaign this summer.

Patrick, who came out two years ago, is helping the campaign with its strategy to recruit 21,700 "organizers" who will pledge to talk with 50 of their friends about why they are supporting Patrick for re-election. "Having those person-to-person phone calls is so much more effective than doing robo calls because my friend is more likely to listen to me rather than have a volunteer reading from a script and saying three things why this guy is great," she says.

It's a strategy that worked for Gov. Patrick in 2006 and, of course, more famously, Barack Obama in his 2008 campaign for president. And it's outlined in entertaining fashion in Nicholas A. Christakis and James H. Fowler's book *Connected: The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives* in which they recount how "a single plea to vote can change political behavior and spread from" person to person, including those who never even directly hear the pitch to get

out and vote.

Patrick's goal is to recruit 200 LGBT organizers for her father's campaign. "I'm not concerned about meeting that goal in the least," she says. "I think we'll shatter it on Pride."

As for why LGBT voters should support her father, she admits to being "a little biased." She then ticks off Gov. Patrick's rather formidable list of accomplishments: support for the Transgender Civil Rights bill (GOP nominee Charlie Baker and Independent candidate Tim Cahill

while actively campaigning in support of civil marriage rights. And after he won, he went to work immediately (even before officially taking office) to lobby lawmakers and State House leaders for defeat of an anti-gay amendment to the state constitution that would have stripped same-sex couples of the right to wed.

"There's just never been a wavering moment or question of whether or not my dad or [Lieutenant Governor] Tim Murray has backed this community," Patrick says. "And I think it's our job in a sense to kind of reward that and ensure that that support for LGBT people is kept up."

Patrick's getting the word out about her dad on a Facebook fan page (her profile pic shows her perusing the tables at NoHo Pride earlier this year with a MassEquality sticker on her shirt) and via Twitter (@

DP_Katherine).

Unlike other candidates' offspring (hello Makena Cahill), Patrick's status updates and tweets are pretty staid offerings. A typical tweet: "Youth Night was a great success last night. Loved hearing everyone's reasons for why @VoteDeval is important to them. Come back every Wed"

Is she ever tempted to just let it rip online? "It's hard to have people attack someone who tucked me into bed at night, you know? It's hard to have somebody say things that I know aren't true and what not," she

"I want to organize as many LGBT events and house parties as humanly possible. If anyone wants to have a house party, I will not turn them down!"

have both derided the civil rights measure that would grant equal protections for transgender people in housing, employment, credit, public accommodations and hate crimes protections as "the bathroom bill"; signing the anti-bullying law (which will help protect students from bullying, and which LGBT students are a chief beneficiary); repealing the 1913 law (which means that out-of-state same-sex couples can now wed in Massachusetts, as *Glee's* Jane Lynch and her wife Dr. Lara Embry recently did in Sunderland); and signing the MassHealth Equality bill (which grants equal Medicaid benefits to married same-sex couples).

Then there was Gov. Patrick's 2006 campaign in the first place. He was the first gubernatorial candidate in the country to win office



PHOTO: MASSEQUALITY VIA FB

Smith College junior, Katherine Patrick

says. "But I kind of follow the rule of breathe, take a couple minutes, and just call my dad and keep myself grounded."

Not all of her organizing work is taking place online, though. Patrick is also trying to recruit

See *Secret Weapon* on page 4

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NEW ENGLAND

Faith, Family, and God: Don't let all of life's challenges drown out the celestial song

In the Name of God

By: Paul P. Jesep*/TRT Columnist

Life's daily irritations can convert positive energy into negative karma. In the context of the infinite universe it is sad what we allow to weigh us down. It is unfortunate the emotional pain we hold on to for years.

Not long ago I listened to a colleague fume for a half day at the poor customer service from a car rental agency. She had good reason to be annoyed. Yet, she couldn't let it go. It caused her blood pressure to rise. My colleague chose not to enjoy the scenic drive she had to take on a beautiful, sunny day with the most amazing white clouds.

Another colleague became extremely irritated with someone at the office, unbeknownst to the other person, and went home stewing for much of the night about an incident known only to him. He waited until late the next day to address it. He was a changed man once the discussion occurred. Why did he wait? If because of timing he had to address the issue later than sooner then don't bring it home. It diminished quality time with the family.

I can't follow my own advice. I get ticked off with myself for not letting go. I can't let go of being annoyed with me. I cut off my nose to spite my face. If I were a dog, or preferably a cat, I'd be chasing my own tail to nowhere.

The amount of time I spend upset with my-

self for allowing myself to be annoyed with others would make for a Seinfeld-like sitcom. Ultimately, we choose the attitude toward others and ourselves.

My reaction to the rascally squirrel that is on my deck every morning is slowly changing. This critter is extremely destructive. At times it has the hubris to look at me as it digs in the potted plants. Yes, he actually looks at me as he does it! I'm Elmer Fudd with a pop-gun against this cunning vermin who no doubt received lessons from Bugs Bunny. I, a degreed professional, have been out maneuvered by a rodent! I'm letting it go! Or at least I'm trying.

Mikhail Lermontov (1814-1841) in his poem "Angel" teaches that we are too extraordinary, too beautiful, and too special to be upset by big things. We're also too wonderful to be upset by little things.

Staying annoyed with anything is misdirected energy. Not letting go of pain is time lost. Less love. Less joy. Less time to celebrate life. Don't go to bed angry or annoyed. You only hurt yourself and possibly a loved one.

"At midnight an angel was crossing the sky," Lermontov wrote. "Quietly the angel sang; The moon and the stars and the concourse of clouds paid heed to his heavenly song. He sang of the bliss of the innocent souls In Heavenly gardens above; Of almighty God he sang out, and his praise was pure and sincere."

"He bore in his arms a young soul to our valley of sorrow and tears; The young soul remembered the heavenly song so vivid and yet without words. And long did it struggle on earth,

with wondrous desire imbued; But none of the tedious songs of our earth could rival celestial song."

Perhaps a guardian angel brought all of us to earth. We carried deep within our soul heavenly music – soft, sweet, divine. Don't let life's challenges – big or small – get too loud and drown out the celestial song that should be a constant reminder of our place in a mystical universe where we are to love and be loved. Everything else is irrelevant.

*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He may be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.

Letters from page 2

Dear Editor,

While I find your newspaper to have great content, I don't understand why I haven't seen more men on the cover. I mean, we are the largest group of the GLBT community and I truly want to see more men!

—Not so happy, Freddie H., Dorchester, MA

Dear Editor,

I went to CT Pride and stopped by your booth and met Miss Trans New England. That was awesome! I really appreciate you having someone from our community, the Trans community, representing you. It shows me that you care.

Trans and happy Times reader,
—Frank G., Northampton, MA

Secret Weapon from page 3

LGBT people who will hold a house party for the campaign. On June 26 and July 11, campaign organizers will be hosting house parties to generate small dollar donations. Participants will be able to listen in to a live call with the governor that will go out to all of the parties. And the governor will drop in on a few of them.

Patrick is trying to get six or seven official LGBT house parties to join in. If you're interested, email her at kpatrick@devalpatrick.com or call the campaign office at 617-367-2010 and ask to speak with her.

"I think it's really important for people in the community to not only be meeting each other but to also know that there is a larger LGBT family out there for them," she says. "I want to organize as many LGBT events and house parties as humanly possible. If anyone wants to have a house party, I will not turn them down!"

*Susan Ryan-Vollmar is a media relations and communications consultant. MassEquality, which recently endorsed Deval Patrick for governor, is one of her clients. She lives in Arlington with her family.

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TRT's DJ Top 10

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It's all in the presentation: Issues in the "Bathroom Bill"

Trans Opinions & More

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw/ TRT Columnist

It's getting late in the legislative session and it looks like ENDA, the *Equal Non Discrimination Act*, once again won't make it through the channels and turn from a bill into a law.

This is a tough year to get anything done with the economy, the war, the oil spill, "Don't Ask Don't Tell" and zillions of other issues so it really should be no surprise that this bill never gets to its final vote.

There has always been trouble with this bill from the beginning.

The first big problem was with the decision to either include or not include transgender people on the bill. Some outspoken gays claimed that the T element "transjacked" the bill and made it impassable so that no one gets rights.

After a few years everyone realized that we must include the transgenders as they are part of the LGBT community. After all, we are all Americans and all Americans should have the same rights as every other American. That, I believe, is not an issue anymore not even with those outside of the LGBT community.

The issue remaining is the "bathroom" issue. I know that we hate to refer to this bill as the "bathroom bill"



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

but, guess what? Many, many people do see the bathroom as a huge issue with this bill and it's going to be nicknamed the "bathroom bill" whether we like it or not!

Let's take a look at some questions concerning bathroom usage. Who can use which bathroom?

May a person use one bathroom one day and another one the next day? May a person use any bathroom that they want at any time? These are very real questions being pondered and frankly this does not sit well with the lawmakers who will have to answer to the disgruntled people if/when this bill passes. Should there be rules? Should there be someone at each bathroom to check IDs for gender verification or even to go as far as to "check" the genitals of the person who wants to use the bathroom? These may sound like crazy questions but these are very real questions going on in the minds of lawmakers, opponents and proponents of the bathroom section of the ENDA bill. I don't have all the answers but I do have my personal thoughts on this bathroom issue.

As transgender women we expect to be able to use the women's room without any problems. We present as a female in female attire

so there shouldn't be any issues.

Those who present as male and are attired as such should have no trouble using the men's room. It starts to get sticky when you have men who cross-dress or do drag. Where should they go?

I've always followed the unwritten cross-dressing rules that in how you present yourself, you should use the appropriate restroom. For instance, if you are presenting as a female then use the ladies room. If you are presenting as a male use the men's room.

Then the stickiness continues with those who are androgynous. They may look neither male nor female, so where do they go? I say leave it up to them. They will fit into either the men's or women's room so there will probably be no issues.

Now for the stickiest point, when someone presents as male, but wants to use the ladies room and someone who presents as female who wants to use the men's room. I do have problems with these situations.

Imagine a male-looking person with a beard wearing a three-piece man's suit that goes to the ladies room. Don't you think that there might be problems?

How about if you were with your 10-year-old daughter who needs to use the ladies room and you sit just outside of the ladies room and you wait for her? While she is in there you see a bearded man wearing a three-piece suit going in the ladies room - wouldn't you have concerns for the safety of your daughter?

Chances are very good that you would think, "What the heck is this guy doing in the ladies room? Why doesn't he use the men's room? Is he up to no good? Is my daughter safe? Is this right? That's it! I want him out and I want my daughter safe! I don't want to have to worry about her safety in the ladies room!"

These are very real parental issues and I guarantee you that most people would agree with me on this situation, especially parents of young daughters. However, not everyone shares my view on this one. I have had some pretty heated arguments with some transfolk who loudly insist that anyone has a right to use any bathroom that they want no matter what they are wearing.

You can call me a binary subscriber (binary = there are two genders and they should be kept separate), but I am not comfortable at all with a bearded man in a three-piece suit using the ladies room. Maybe someday in the distant future we might be able to get to this point but I think it is way, way, way too much to ask for right now.

So, my primary thought on the bathroom issue is that it's all in how you present. If you present as male please use the men's room. If you present as female please use the women's room.

My other thought is that other people have to feel comfortable too, so please do not forget to respect their feelings. This bill concerns everybody, not just transpeople.

Ask a Transwoman: Developing ways to stay true to oneself

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist

Dear Lorelei,
How do you do it? I mean, how do you diffuse/confront the static (ranging from benign and uninformed curiosity or distaste to full blown anger and threats of violence) that you receive living your life as yourself?

I would imagine that as Transwoman of

New England [the World(!)] you have a certain responsibility to act as role model and advocate...beauty queen, schmeauty queen, you're (as far as I can tell) a duly appointed representative for the sort of actualized and affirmed self that the community at large holds in such high regard. Please forgive me if this is an unfair assessment; I'm a jumbled mess of cynic/intellectual pessimist and idealist/hopeful optimist. Without regard to why you do it, it's clear that you do it. How?

—Logan

Well now, that certainly is quite a question Logan!! How do I do it?

The short answer to that would be, coffee and Irish Whiskey!

I'm reasonably certain that's not the answer you were really

looking for though, so I will attempt right here to codify for you (and myself) just exactly how I do the things I do. Which, to clarify slightly, as I'm sure some of you have had cause to wonder, is to be a visible and outspoken advocate of Trans Rights. A Pageant Queen. A performer, writer and politician. An improviser. A teacher. An artist. An activist and adventurer! But mainly, just my fabulous self!!

Basically, I'm a transgender woman who is trying to make her way in the world just like everyone else and hopefully make a positive impact while I'm at it—living my life as openly and honestly as I am able.

As many of you know, it is certainly not an easy thing to be transgender in this society. For every person who accepts me for who I am, there may be five who hate me for what I am. This holds true generally for trans people and specifically for me.

For example, I was not back in Western Massachusetts even a month when I managed to get myself noticed by one of our local anti-LGBT hate groups. I had just come from California and found it important to speak up against the passage of Proposition 8, which overturned same-sex marriage in my old home state. I had been at a star-studded event in Beverly Hills just weeks previously to celebrate the legalization of same-sex marriage and when I heard there was a rally being held here in Northampton, I asked if I could speak.

And, speak I did! I spoke passionately - and with 20-odd years of theatre training under my belt, I spoke loudly! It was a powerful moment and the video of my speech was almost immediately picked up and featured on the website



Lorelei Erisis

of a group which has been officially registered by the *Southern Poverty Law Center* as a hate group. Only recently returned and already I was the face of "The Tranny Menace in Massachusetts." It was a little scary, but I thought, Well, at least I'm p*ssing off the right people.

I could choose to be afraid or to hate them back. But I refuse to make that choice. I have since encountered these folks in person and they have featured myself as well as many of my friends on their website and blog. They do not dress in neat brown uniforms or look like thugs. They are our neighbors—nice, middle to upper-middle class working folks, kindly looking grandmothers and concerned fathers who happen to be filled with ignorance and irrational fear.

Hating them will not change their minds. I do not yell back when I see them. I wave and blow kisses to their photographers. I trade their hate for love. I try to shake their hands. If it doesn't change their minds, at the very least it messes with them!

I was lucky to have a wonderful, loving, and open-minded family growing up and I try always to remember the lessons they taught me. I was raised to not only tolerate difference, but to celebrate it. I was taught to think for myself and to treat others with kindness and respect. I was instilled with a love of nature, a wonder for the world and curiosity about all things.

The one thing I was not allowed to say in my grandmother's house was the word "hate." I might seriously dislike a thing, but hate was a powerful word, never to be taken lightly.

An idea I hold dear is that no person is fundamentally better than any other person. We may have skills we excel in or more knowledge about a particular area. We may have had different experiences or come from a different culture. All those things are valuable. But we are all human. For all our wonderful variations we are more alike than we are different.

See Stay True on page 7



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Western Mass. Rallies for Immigrant Rights

By: Gary Lapon/Special for TRT

A diverse crowd of over 150 immigrants and their allies gathered on the steps of the Northampton, Mass. City Hall late May to protest the passage of SB 1070 in Arizona, which according to the American Civil Liberties Union "invites the racial profiling of 'people of color.'"

The bill makes it a crime to be an undocumented immigrant in Arizona, requires documented immigrants carry their papers with them at all times, and mandates state and local law enforcement officers to check immigration status based on "reasonable suspicion" a person is undocumented.

Although Brewer said that enforcement of SB 1070 would not result in racial profiling, rally organizer Natalia Tylim said that "this law has

meant in practice that Latinos are being forced into the shadows of society for fear of being the targets of police repression." Seventy-six percent of undocumented immigrants are Latino, according to the Pew Research Center.

Protesters also spoke out against a recent budget amendment passed by the Massachusetts state Senate, which would make it more difficult for undocumented immigrants to access services such as housing, health care, and education, and would set up a hotline for people to report those they suspect of being

undocumented to the state Attorney General's office. Tylim said this will "create a culture of fear" for immigrants in Massachusetts.

The rally, called by the *Coalition for Immigrant and Workers' Rights*, was part of a national day of action against SB 1070, the culmination of a wave of protest against the bill, beginning with activists across Arizona and including boycotts by the cities of Boston and Los Angeles among others, including an artists' boycott spearheaded by Zack de la Rocha of Rage Against the Machine.

Protestors came from across Western Mass., including members of the Alliance to Develop Power, the American Friends Service Committee, the *International Socialist Organization*, the *United Auto Workers* and *Equality Across America*.

Organizers are continuing to meet to build a movement for immigrant rights in Arizona as well as here in Massachusetts.

On June 7, local activists celebrated a victory when the Amherst Select Board unanimously voted to join the boycott of Arizona, and plans were underway to spread the boycott to Northampton, Springfield, and Holyoke as this article went to press.

"We will [stop SB 1070] with [the politicians], without them, or in spite of them," said protestor Sister Elvia Mata.

"We will [stop SB 1070] with [the politicians], without them, or in spite of them," said protestor Sister Elvia Mata.

Stay True from page 6

Everyone has a story. No matter how mundane a person may seem at first, there is always some new thing I can learn from them, some experience they have had that I have not. I treasure those stories. I seek them out.

How do I do what I do? I am true to myself. No matter how "cool" I might begin to feel, I remember the person I was growing up. The geeky, gangly "Doctor Who" TV series fan

who loved to read and play in the tide pools.

I am loyal to my friends. I stick by those who have stuck with me and I find real joy in making new friends!

Mainly though, I try to love, seek truth, ask questions and enjoy the ride!

Slainte!

**Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009 and she can be contacted at: loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.*

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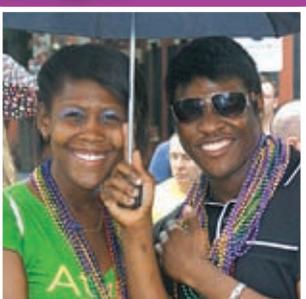
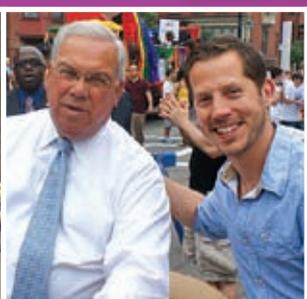
photos: glenn koetzner





boston pride parade boston, ma

photos: bill berggren



Brattleboro kicks off Pride Month with Queer Tales readings and LGBT art show Cineslam LGBT film fest follows on June 19th

National News By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

Amid crowds in town for the annual Strolling of the Heifer weekend, LGBTQ people from western Massachusetts and southern Vermont turned out for a festive evening of art and words at Brattleboro's Hooker Dunham Theater & Gallery on June 4th.

The opening of "A Few of Our Favorite Things," an exhibit of works by LGBT artists, was part of Brattleboro's Gallery Walk. Attendees had the opportunity to vote for their favorite from a wide variety of works that included black and white photography, paintings, mixed media works including several with sculptural elements, and fiber arts.

In a statement posted at the exhibit, Gallery Director Suzanne D'Corsey referred to questions that sometimes arise about the apparent disappearance of Brattleboro's once-vibrant LGBT community. Explanations include queer integration with the wider community, but D'Corsey also noted that "there are many dynamic groups in full swing here."

"One of the greatest strengths and legacies of the LGBT culture is in its maverick creativity, its blazing of innovative trails, its reputation as a cutting-edge leader in many areas, most certainly in the arts," her statement con-

tinued. "When the opportunity arose to bring the local LGBT artists together for this show, I jumped on it. Nor was I disappointed. The elusive broader community does exist and is still following its artistic dream, and the proof is on the walls of this Gallery."

Following the exhibit opening, local writers shared poetry, essays, fiction and their own personal journeys in the third annual Queer Tales literary reading, presented by the Men's Program of the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont and the Queer Community Project. One writer shared impassioned essays, as well as personal experience of the painful intersection of transgender and poverty.

Brattleboro's Pride month festivities will include "Cineslam," an LGBT film festival, opening at the Hooker Dunham Theater & Gallery on June 19th. The "Cineslam" opening will be followed by an LGBT dance party at the American Legion Hall. Also that evening, a benefit wine tasting will be held at Windham Wines. The \$25 entrance fee and a silent auction will benefit the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont.

"A Few of Our Favorite Things" will remain on display in the Hooker Dunham Gallery throughout June. Visit www.hookerdunham.org for more information about the exhibit and Cineslam, or visit www.aidsprojectsouthernvermont.org for information about other Pride month events.

State Department announces new policy for Passport Gender change procedures

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign – the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization – last week praised the State Department for instituting a new policy, effective immediately, regarding gender change in passports, as well as Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. Under these new rules, an applicant can change his or her gender on a passport by presenting certification from a physician that he or she has undergone appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition, and can obtain a limited-validity passport if the physician indicates that he or she is in the process of gender transition.

Previously, an applicant seeking to change his or her gender marker on a passport had to present a physician certification that he or she had completed gender reassignment surgery. The new rules are more consistent with passport gender change procedures in other nations, as well as policies regarding other identity documents, such as driver's licenses and birth certificates, in a number of states.

"[The] policy change will allow many more transgender Americans to obtain an impor-

tant identity document that accurately reflects their true identity and to travel with less fear of discrimination and harassment," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "We thank the State Department for taking this important step and congratulate the many organizations that have pushed for this historic change in policy."

HRC included revising the passport gender change policy as part of its Blueprint for Positive Change, a series of policy recommendations to the Obama administration. In addition, our fellow members of the Council for Global Equality, particularly the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, have lobbied the State Department to institute this important change.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.



Creep of the Week: Family Research Council



D'Anne Witkowski

By: D'Anne Witkowski*

On May 28, President Obama declared June 2010 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month. Such a declaration was, according to the Family Research Council, an outspoken foe of LGBT people and rights, tantamount to declaring war on "traditional" families.

"Happy sexual deviance month – or, as this President likes to call it, Gay Pride Month," begins a shrill edition of FRC's Washington Update online.

Ha, ha. Get it? "Sexual deviance month," because to the Family Research Council LGBTs aren't people; they're walking, talking sex acts, no more human than feral cats screaming and screwing in dark alleys all summer long. LGBTs are not, as Obama says in his Pride Month declaration, "Our mothers and fathers, our sons and daughters, and our friends and neighbors." Nope. The FRC wants to make it clear that LGBTs are just people who want to fuck on the taxpayer dime.

"Under this administration, every month feels like one long same-sex parade," the message continues.

I must not watch enough CNN because I seem to have missed this so-called "parade." Especially since, to the FRC, a gay parade consists of undulating twinks in neon pink banana hammocks shaking their derrières to Madonna songs on a parade float shaped like a giant cock ring, followed by fat lesbians on motorcycles and drag queens on stilts. If this kind of thing has been going on in the White House since Obama was elected, then shame on the press corps for missing some really incredible photo ops.

The idea that there could be anything to celebrate about LGBT people stupefies the FRC. Like I said, these aren't people we're talking about; these are threats to every aspect of American life.

"(Obama) called on 'every American' to

spend the month celebrating their movement – a movement dedicated to destroying marriage, free speech, public health, religious liberty and (after the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal) national security."

Gays are, in the eyes of the FRC, terrorists holding the American people hostage. In the gay-run post apocalyptic world envisioned by the FRC, traditional one-man-one-woman marriage will be but a distant memory and all Americans will be forced to gay-marry each other and have sex openly in all Kindergarten classrooms. If you have something against that you'd better shut your mouth, lest the speech police lock you in the kinky S&M dungeons that will replace all prisons.

Bodily fluids will flow down the streets. Everyone will have AIDS. No one will believe in gods of any kind and the only deity anyone will be allowed to worship is the current International Mr. Leather. Our all-fag army will be easily defeated by morally righteous nations that advocate death for gays and the United States of Gaymerica will be no more.

Sure, I may be exaggerating FRC's position a bit. But I doubt it's by much. Just look at their reaction to Obama's expansion of domestic partner benefits for federal workers:

"If agency men decide to sleep with other men – or if a government worker chooses to dress in drag and sleep with anyone – you'll be picking up the tab," FRC cries.

This is, of course, a gross exaggeration of Obama's policies. Cross-dressers who "sleep with anyone," huh? It takes more than sleeping with someone to be a domestic partner, or – dare I say it? – husband or wife. Sex is only part of the equation in a committed relationship. But of course, it's the only part of the equation FRC will acknowledge. Anything else might make LGBT people too human. And we can't have that.

**D'Anne Witkowski has been gay for pay since 2003. She's a freelance writer and poet (believe it!). When she's not taking on the creeps of the world she reviews rock and roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister.*

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Bay State gubernatorial candidate on GOP ticket

Eastern MA News

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Richard Tisei is hoping to serve as the Bay State's next lieutenant governor. The openly gay Republican was selected as the running mate for gubernatorial candidate Charlie Baker. He also won the endorsement of the state party at their convention in April.

Baker and Tisei will be running against Democrats Gov. Deval Patrick and Lt. Gov. Tim Murray in the November election.

Tisei, 47, is the Minority Leader of the Massachusetts State Senate. He represents the Middlesex and Essex District, which consists of Lynnfield, Malden, Melrose, Reading, Stoneham and Wakefield.

Tisei is among the three openly gay Republican candidates endorsed so far this year by the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, a group that promotes openly gay elected officials.

Tisei had been a part of state government for the past 26 years, having won his first election in 1984 at the age of 22, becoming the youngest Republican ever elected to the Massachusetts Legislature. After serving six years in the House, he was re-elected to 10 consecutive Senate terms in an overwhelmingly Democratic district.

"My approach has always been to treat everyone equally and to work hard to represent everyone," Tisei told The Rainbow Times. "I have always tried to find the common ground that is needed to get the work of the people done. I hope to use those same skills in the Lt. Governor's office."



Tisei (left) and Baker (right) at the 2010 Boston Pride Parade

PHOTO: BILL BERGGREN

Massachusetts needs a change in leadership, Tisei believes. Among his goals are creating a more friendly business climate to spur job creation.

"Over the past four years, Massachusetts has clearly lost its way by overspending, increasing taxes and by refusing to reform and modernize our state government," Tisei said. (Charlie Baker and I) want to make Massachusetts work again by taking our state in a new direction."

Baker has drawn some criticism from LGBT organizations for opposing a transgender protections bill. Tisei is a co-sponsor of the bill, which would protect transgender people in the areas of housing, employment and public

See Tisei and Baker on page 20

Local high school student bikes 545 miles in 9th Annual AIDS/LifeCycle fundraiser

BREWSTER, MA—Nauset High School senior, Will Martell, 18, is riding in the 9th annual AIDS/LifeCycle bicycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles this week. So far, Will has risen over \$3,200 benefiting AIDS/LifeCycle's work with AIDS education, treatment, and research while riding 545 miles along the Pacific coast.

The AIDS/LifeCycle bicycle ride benefits multiple charities specializing in prevention, testing, and care for people suffering from HIV & AIDS. Young philanthropist, Will Martell said, "This has been one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I am meeting many wonderful and interesting people, supporting an amazing cause, and I am pleased representing Nauset High School and all of Cape Cod through this ride."

Martell returned from Los Angeles immediately following the completion of the ride on Saturday to graduate with his class at Nauset High School on Sunday, June 13th. Martell has already agreed to ride in next year's 10th anniversary ride with his friend, Nathan Wagner of Yarmouth Port.

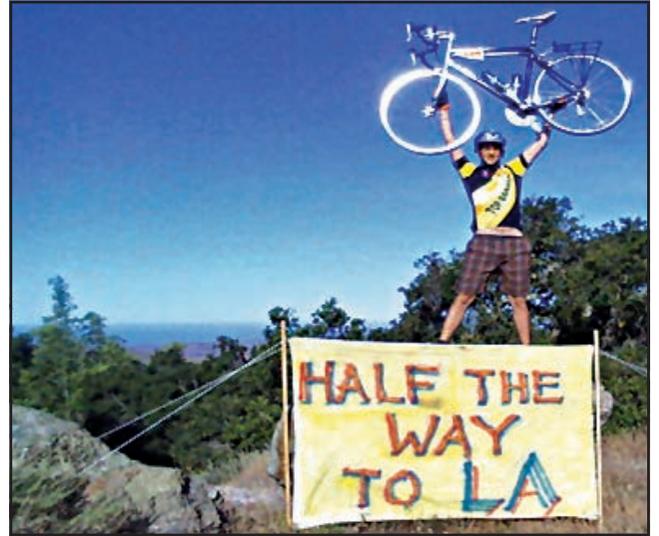


PHOTO: WILL MARTELL

Will Martell pauses on his Pacific Coast fundraiser trek

Together they are pledging to raise \$10,000.

The AIDS/LifeCycle bicycle ride is its 9th year bringing people from across the world to support AIDS & HIV prevention, testing, and treatment. For more information about the AIDS Life/Cycle bicycle ride, please email Will Martell at info@willswheels.org. To donate to next years ride, please make checks out to AIDS/LifeCycle 10, and mail them to Nathan Wagner, PO Box 58, South Yarmouth, MA 02664.

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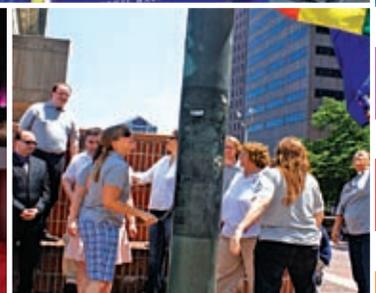
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photos: bill berggren



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Visión Latina



Por: Wilfredo Labiosa*/
Columnista de TRT

Durante la Celebración de Orgullo de Boston, me encontré con tanta gente que hacía tiempo no veía. Entre los temas de los que hablamos, salió a relucir el tema de dieta y cuerpos saludables. Algunas de estas personas me dijeron que tener músculos es tener un cuerpo saludable, pero a la vez noté como ellos toman tanto alcohol.

Para otros tener un cuerpo saludable es mantener un peso bajo, sin embargo, padecen de diabetes, un nivel alto de colesterol, y tantos diagnósticos médicos causados por la mala dieta. En mi opinión, tener un cuerpo saludable no significa pesar menos de 100 libras, sin embargo significa tener un cuerpo, mente y alma balanceados. Una parte del cuerpo afecta la otra, y vice-versa.

Tener una dieta balanceada es importante ya que afecta nuestra mente, como uno se siente y como uno se maneja en el diario vivir. La comida boricua de por si no es alta en grasa pero en casa sí lo era cuando estaba creciendo. A la vez, estuve rodeado por un alto nivel de criminalidad, incertidumbre y tanta confusión entre la espiritualidad y la religión.

Todos estos temas, desde la comida que uno

se sirve en el plato hasta la “comida” que uno escucha para alimentar el alma y espíritu afecta la dieta de la persona y afecto la mía. Tengo orgullo de quien soy pero a la misma vez siento vergüenza de lo que pasa en mi país.

Me encantan las chuletas, alcapurrias, tostones, bistec, y demás pero, ¡qué malos son estos platos para la salud! ¿Se acuerdan de las “meriendas” con arroz, habichuelas y pollo frito? ¿Se acuerdan de los sándwiches de “mezcla” con una malta o refresco? Estas comidas me traen tanta alegría al momento, pero después ¡ni les digo!

Aquello que uno come en el pasado afecta nuestro presente y futuro. Lo que uno es = es lo que uno come. ¡Es verdad!

A la vez que escribo estas palabras, no significa que hay que parar de comer estos platos, pero sí hay que mejorar como uno los cocina. Hay muchas técnicas, en libros e Internet, sobre como mejorar como uno prepara la comida latina.

El comer una dieta balanceada es importante ya que afecta como uno duerme y como uno se siente durante el día. Hay muchos estudios que confirman que una dieta balanceada afecta como el cerebro funciona ya que si uno come comidas fuertes la sangre se moviliza menos al cerebro ya que esta concentrándose mas en el estomago procesando estas comidas.

La mente es el mecanismo más importante del cuerpo y si la mente no se mantiene activa entonces el resto del cuerpo no funciona como debe ser.

Una nutrición balanceada para el cerebro no sólo incluye comer una dieta balanceada pero también incluye ejercitar la mente con la lec-

tura y escribiendo.

Hay tanta criminalidad en nuestros países, tantas incertidumbres en el diario vivir, y estos temas sociales afectan la dieta de una persona. Por supuesto, esta dieta de la que hablo es la dieta de la mente. Quizás no podemos cambiar nuestro medio ambiente y evitar estos crímenes e incertidumbres pero por lo menos podemos hacer diferentes cosas para alimentar la mente. Por ejemplo, podemos leer libros que nos eduquen de diferentes temas, escuchar música, ver películas o documentales, conectar con organizaciones comunitarias, entre otras actividades sanas.

El espíritu, aunque mucha gente no lo reconoce como parte funcional de nuestro cuerpo, es lo que nos hace individuos vivientes. Hay personas que dicen que nuestros espíritus/almas tienen colores diferentes y que cada color significa algo diferente, una personalidad individual. Es diferente espiritualidad y religión. Uno puede ir a una iglesia y no sentirse espiritual y viceversa, uno quizás no va a ninguna iglesia y se siente más espiritual que otro/as.

Encuentro que en la comunidad LGBT hay personas de todas índoles. Hay personas que tienen balance entre mente, cuerpo y alma/espíritu pero como toda comunidad hay personas que no tienen este balance. ¡Vamos a ser diferente! Vamos a mantenernos activos. Vamos a enseñar a otro/as y a nosotros/as mismo/as que podemos tener una dieta balanceada que incluya un espíritu azul, mente clara, y cuerpo saludable.

Hay personas que lo pueden ayudar en aprender como cocinar nuestra comida latina más

saludable; hay personas que lo pueden ayudar a traer un balance a nuestra mente; y hay personas que lo pueden ayudar a balancear y limpiar su espíritu. Comienza este verano trayendo un balance a tu cuerpo. Les deseo salud y todo lo mejor para sus cuerpos, mentes y almas/espíritus.

“Bueno para el cuerpo es el trabajo del cuerpo, bueno para el alma es el trabajo del alma, y bueno para ambos es el trabajo del otro.”

—Henry David Thoreau

*Escrito en ambos idiomas por Wilfred W. Labiosa; editado por Grisel Martínez Ocasio. To read this story in English, please visit: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionjune172010.

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DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD: Heidi Klum and hubby Seal help couples heal

Entertainment News

By: Romeo San Vicente*

Project Runway's fashionable spawn

Ratings may be slipping a bit for *Project Runway*, but the spinoffs and branding have only just begun. By the time you get bored with your *Runway*-themed Wii game, one of the following shows may have already begun airing on Lifetime: *Love's Divine*, a relationship coaching show hosted by Heidi Klum and her adoring husband Seal. The premise is that the model/pop star pair will travel around helping couples with their relationship problems (after they intimidate the heck out of them, of course) – and it is presumed that Heidi will keep her astringent fashion critiquing tendencies in check while in the service of divine love. On the other hand, don't look for former *Runway* runner-up Santino Rice to keep his mouth shut when he and fellow former contestant Austin Scarlett hit the road with their own co-hosted makeover show. Sounds like a *What Not To Wear*-like "cruel to be kind" situation. But with possibly more cruelty. Lifetime will, no doubt, keep us all abreast of the situation as airdates materialize.

Zachary Quinto's no angel

Young Spock is going where no *Star Trek* star has gone before: to off-Broadway to star in the revival of the most acclaimed gay play of the late 20th century. The revival of Tony



Romeo San Vicente

Kushner's Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play *Angels in America* – set among a large ensemble cast during the beginning of the AIDS crisis – is coming this fall to New York's Signature Theater (Sept. 14 to Dec. 19) and Zachary Quinto has signed on to play the character Louis Ironson. The play began its original run in 1990 in Los Angeles before moving to Broadway in 1993, cleaning up at the Tonys and going on to become a highly praised HBO movie. And Quinto – despite his action-star status as Spock and on the show *Heroes* – is no stranger to gay roles: earlier in his career he played Tori Spelling's best gay pal on *NoTORious*. Now, it's been a while since Romeo's seen the play. Is this the character who gets naked? Not that that's important at all... but... you know...

Glee's Cory Monteith is *Breaking The Girl*

Out of one gay frying pan and into a lesbian fire, that's the career path currently being taken by *Glee* heartthrob Cory Monteith. The singing football jock, while shooting *Glee* this fall, will be pulling double duty and simultaneously starring in the new film from lesbian director Jamie Babbit. *Breaking The Girl*, a project that's been described as a college-age *Wild*

Things, was co-written by Mark Distefano and Guinevere Turner (the funny, talented *Go Fish* and *American Psycho* screenwriter whose name on the script is always a good sign) and will co-star *Friday Night Lights'* Adrienne Palicki and some other yet-to-be-cast pretty young ladies. And with *Wild Things* as a reference point, here's hoping that the cast's collective task will be to make out with each other at all times. A nation of young lesbians begins thanking the sky for this stroke of potential good luck.

Beastie Boys back Burroughs

A while back, Romeo reported on the existence of a new documentary, *William S. Burroughs: A Man Within*, about the legendary and controversial Beat-era author of *Naked Lunch* and *Queer*. So often documentaries are relegated to film festivals and then cable airings before the DVD. But this one is getting a theatrical release thanks to Oscilloscope Laboratories, the film distribution company run by Beastie Boy's member Adam Yauch. And the talking heads on display are good ones: David



Heidi Klum fashions relationship advice on Lifetime's *Love's Divine*

Cronenberg, John Waters and what is being reported as an exuberant Iggy Pop. Meanwhile, word is that Patti Smith and Sonic Youth have contributed music to the film. Honestly, the only way this could sound any cooler is if they're also giving away free popcorn and grape soda.

*Romeo San Vicente knows *Naked Lunch* makes no sense but he doesn't care. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeeplnsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Biker Chicks geared up for new TV series

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Eight members of an all-female Boston motorcycle club, known as the East Coast Biker Chicks, are being featured in a new television series which begins filming later this month.

Portions of the show, called *Biker Chicz*, will be shot at Laconia Bike Week in Laconia, New Hampshire and continue in eastern Massachusetts throughout the summer.

Lucky Belcamino, president of East Coast Biker Chicks, which was formed in 2003, has been riding bikes since she was a young girl growing up in a big Italian family with five older brothers.

Belcamino enjoys riding for the "independence, the camaraderie, and the networking," she said.

The club has traveled all over New England, as well as Florida and Canada.

"Meeting other women and other bikers, we share a passion," Belcamino said. "We're like a family. We all do it for the same reasons – either friendship, networking, charity. I always tell my friends that if I'm having a bad day I go home, fire up the bike and head out on the road. It's like therapy."

Belcamino said there is nothing quite like seeing the landscapes of New England on a motorcycle, where the rider has a unique sense

"We are going to be portrayed as the fun-loving, easy-going, charity-driven East Coast Biker Chicks," Belcamino said. "Obviously with lesbians there will be some sort of drama, but it's going to be good drama."



PHOTO: LUCKY BELCAMINO

Boston-based East Coast Biker Chicks to be featured in new TV series of freedom.

"It's just really unbelievable," Belcamino said. "It's just something that is so different than being in an enclosed vehicle."

Belcamino is excited about *Biker Chicz*, which she feels will provide viewers with a positive look at East Coast Biker Chicks.

"We are going to be portrayed as the fun-loving, easy-going, charity-driven East Coast Biker Chicks," Belcamino said. "Obviously with lesbians there will be some sort of drama, but it's going to be good drama."

The show is produced by Edward Winter-

halter, a biker personality and AN author who has been riding Harleys since 1974.

One of the world's leading authorities on bikers, motorcycle clubs and the Harley-Davidson biker lifestyle, Winterhalter's books about the biker lifestyle have been published in multiple languages and sold worldwide.

"Because I have lived the biker lifestyle myself for more than thirty-five years, I feel confident that I can accurately capture for TV what really goes on in the life of a biker on a day-to-day basis,"

he said.

The East Coast Biker Chicks have been treated with much respect by the male bikers they have encountered in their travels.

"We've been embraced," Belcamino noted. "We participate in so many charity events throughout the year within New England. Most of my biker friends other than the East Coast Biker Chicks are male and we have been embraced by many entities and groups. We have a very good reputation in the biker community in New England."

Queer Sex from page 2

ways is a radical act. Even masturbating while thinking about queer sex throws a wrench in hetero-normative concepts of desire. Our sex is even more political when we authentically talk about consent. Sometimes hook-up ads will request someone who is "verbal." It would be really great for all of us if we all verbalized, or communicated however we do best, what sexual acts we wanted and how we wanted it. Not only commands of faster, harder, up or down but clear communication about boundaries and sexual needs. This includes communication about safer sex. I think condemning people who have sex without condoms or dental dams or other barriers is anti-queer. Rather we need to affirm people's sex that is consensual and informed. If I want to have bareback sex with my date/partner/stranger/lover(s) that is up to us! If I want safe-only that is also up to us! The job of our communities is to make sure people have information they need to make the best decisions for their bodies.

It is very unfortunate that we have so many rules about what is allowed and not allowed with our bodies during the pride parade. It is most unfortunate that nipples on breasts must be hidden away. It is sad that c*%\$# and c&%#\$ must be confined behind fabrics. Our queer bodies are such sensual objects that should be allowed to fly as free as each individual feels most comfortable with. Pride in who we are must also include our bodies in their many shapes, colors, textures, abilities, and so on. A way we can resist this hiding of our bodies throughout the rest of the year is to affirm one another and celebrate each others body. When you take someone, or multiple people, home to play be sure that as you talk about boundaries and rules for safety make time to simply tell your date/partner/trick/lover(s) how sexy and sensual they are. Treat their bodies with respect and relish in their beauty as queer creations that operate as complicated political and sexual beings in the world!

Soak in the sun and music at Ascension 5: Fire Island heats up

By: G.T. Angelo

Five years ago, Eric von Kuersteiner had a vision to create a fun daytime party for the new generation of Fire Island. Since 2006, Ascension Beach Party has grown from a single event on the shores of the Pines into the island's most anticipated and busiest weekend, with three days of stellar events, thousands of cute guys and unsurpassed entertainment—all raising money for von Kuersteiner's charity, Fund in the Sun Foundation.

This year, from Aug. 13-15, the Pines will be ringing in Ascension's fifth anniversary with new parties.

"It's a big year for Ascension", says von Kuersteiner, "so each event will feature over-the-top production. We're also adding a new event to the weekend, the Ascension Tea Dance."

Since its inception, Ascension Weekend has always been a magnet for major musical talent.

From its inaugural debut with DJ Brett Henrichsen to last year's tribal sounds of DJ Tony Moran with special guest performer Kelly Rowland belting out her summertime smash "When Love Takes Over," Ascension has delivered hot beats and hot beach bods. This year's event is no exception. The Freemasons, one of the U.K.'s most successful producer-remixer teams, are headlining the Weekend's main event: the Sunday afternoon Ascension Beach Party.

"The Freemasons blew us away at Jeffrey Sanker's White Party in Palm Springs," explains von Kuersteiner. "It was clear after only a few minutes that they would be perfect for Ascension. Their high-energy vocal remixes have a fun and fresh sound that we haven't heard on the Fire Island beach before, and their sound is guaranteed to lift everyone's spirit and pack the dance floor."

In addition to the Freemasons, von Kuer-

steiner has a few more surprises up his sleeve. Showtime Network is presenting Friday night's VIP Launch Party in celebration of its series: Dexter, Season 4. The party will include a special performance by Luann De Lesseps, 'The Countess', of the *Real Housewives of New York City*.

The wet and wild Float Pool Party soaks up Saturday, followed by the premiere of the Ascension Tea Dance: free for all Ascension ticket holders. "We're bringing out two of Fire Island's favorite DJs, Twisted Dee and Phil B, to go head-to-head at the turntables," continues von Kuersteiner. "We're building a tremendous dance floor on the Great South Bay which will also be the stage for a fabulous fireworks display."

All of this leads to Sunday's main event to which von Kuersteiner hints more special performances are in the works.

Set in the all-gay oasis of Fire Island, Ascen-

sion is the perfect summer vacation. Thousands of men from around the country and the world rent homes or shares for the week. Thousands more take advantage of the easy daytrip from the NYC metro area.

"We offer incredible music, hot boys in sexy swimwear and the stunning backdrop of sunshine over the Atlantic Ocean," von Kuersteiner concludes, "It's a recipe for magical memories."

Here's to another five years!

Ascension Weekend takes place Friday,

August 13 through Sunday, August 15, 2010 on Fire Island. Beach party tickets are \$75 in advance and include admission to Float Pool Party and Ascension Tea Dance. VIP tickets are \$125 in advance and include admission to Float Pool Party, Ascension Tea Dance, VIP Launch Party, Closing Party and open bar at Ascension Beach Party. Visit ascensionparty.com for more information.



CREDIT: ASCENSIONPARTY.COM

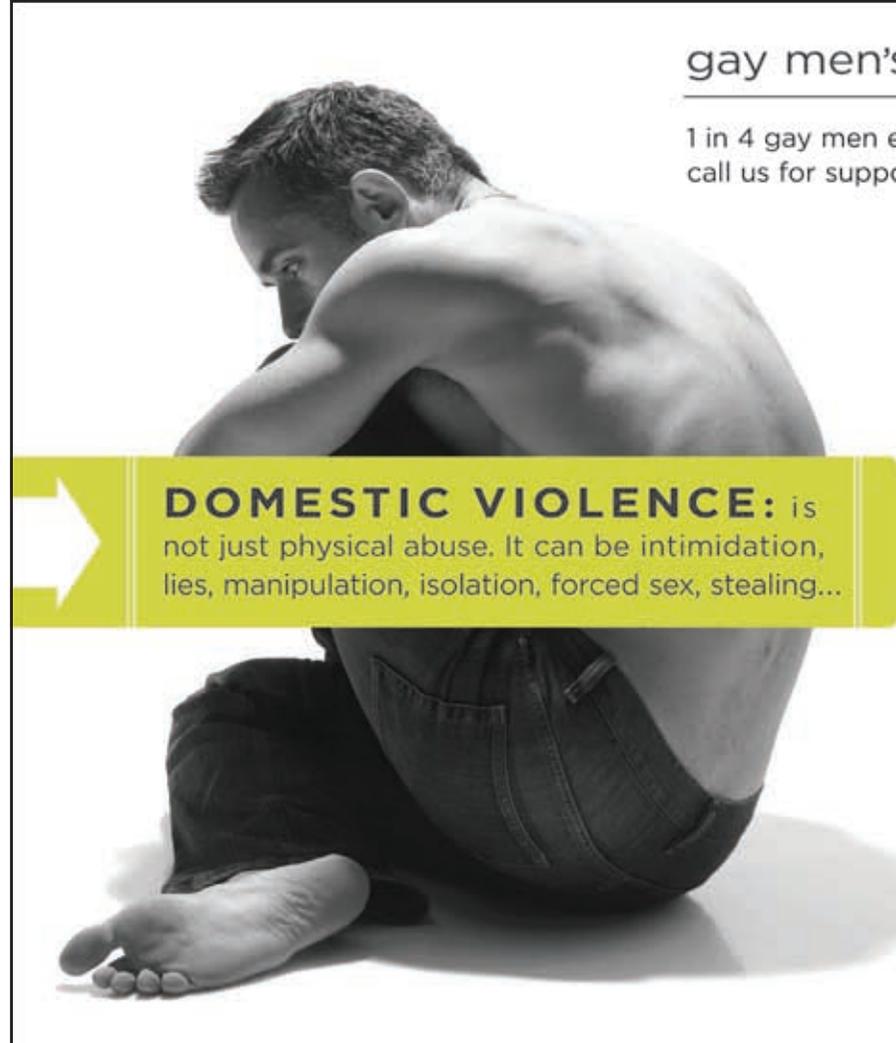


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VIP... From 212 to 323 Nobody Better Mess with Killian Wells

By: Dylan Beck

The music video for "VIP" kicks off with Killian Wells and his eclectic group of friends running amuck in Times Square. They then jump in their party bus and Killian and co. live the VIP lifestyle to the fullest. The liquor flows as hard as the cash. Everyone is dancing and utilizing the stripper pole cemented in the middle of the bus. Killian freestyles amidst girls losing their tops, trannies flipping their wigs, and boys smooching boys.

If "VIP" has a bit of a Lady Gaga feel to it, it's with good reason. Killian Wells, who bares a striking resemblance to the "The Hill's" Spencer Pratt, wrote "VIP" with the intention of depicting today's celebrity lifestyle. And not only does Killian wear crazy getups like Lady Gaga, he's from NYC like Gaga and even shares her vocal coach. He's a pop sensation in the making with tons of New York City attitude who seems made for the stage.

His song is bound to be an instant nightlife hit with its partying theme, infectious dance beat and catchy hook that boldly declares, "Baby, let's get down and party ... nobody's gonna mess with me." It's fun electro-pop with some urban edge. Music bloggers have long dubbed Killian Wells as an artist to watch, but he proves to everyone with his debut single, VIP, that he is ready to be treated as such.

Dylan Beck: How do you feel about comparisons to Spencer Pratt?

Killian Wells: It doesn't bother me. We both have curly blonde hair and blue eyes but that's about all we have in common. I promise I'm not as big of a jerk as he is.

DB: Is your video celebrating today's celebrity-obsessed culture, or poking fun at it?

KW: My video celebrates the VIP lifestyle but shows a realistic outcome from a night of debauchery; people hook up and throw up.

DB: Are you celeb-obsessed?

KW: Not at all, I don't get star struck.

DB: Why do you think we all want to be VIP?

KW: It's human nature to want to feel important.

DB: Obviously, by releasing a record, you aim to be VIP.

KW: I'm not trying to become famous for the sake of being famous. I simply love to make pop music and that's what I'm doing. Being a VIP comes with its perks though so I'm not opposed to it.

DB: What perks?

KW: Money, power, girls, boys ...

DB: We'll get to the boys thing in one sec.

KW: I'm sure you will (laughs).

DB: Why do you deserve to be VIP? How have you paid your dues?

KW: Unlike most pop artists, I write and produce my material. That should count for something.

DB: Is it true you suffer from anxiety and panic attacks?

KW: I've struggled with anxiety disorder for many years.

DB: How do you perform on stage without falling into an attack?

KW: I don't suffer from stage fright so performing isn't a problem. My panic attacks aren't triggered by anything in particular though they tend to be worse when I'm under a lot of stress. I take

Klonopin to keep it under control.

DB: Take us back to the beginning. What were you like growing up in upstate New York?

KW: I was what you might call a popular out-cast. I was friends with everyone but I always did things differently. I'm allergic to conventionality.

DB: When did you drop out of high school?

KW: I dropped out when I was 14 to do an independent study program at home.

DB: Did you get a diploma?

KW: Most homeschoolers don't receive a traditional high school diploma.

DB: Any plans to get one?

KW: Probably not. I don't need a piece of paper to be creative.

DB: What if the whole celeb thing doesn't work out?

KW: I'll focus on writing and producing for other artists. I have other talents I'm developing and ventures I'm undertaking.

DB: You're bisexual.

KW: If you must brand me, I guess that's what most would consider me. I hate labels though because society uses them more as a means to stereotype personality traits than to identify sexual preference. I'm attracted to beauty, not what's between someone's legs.

DB: What do you say to those who believe bisexuals are bi-now, gay later?

KW: I find it hypocritical when one of my gay friends will say bisexuality doesn't exist and in the next breath say how they want to "convert" someone because nobody is completely straight. Aren't they basically saying everyone is bisexual? I don't think bisexual is a transitional sexual orientation.

DB: Why did you decide to come out so early in your career?

KW: I'm a bad liar and I wanted all of my skeletons out of the closet, pun intended.

DB: On a scale of 1-10, how much do you tip to the gay way?

KW: If you're familiar with the Kinsey scale, I'm a 4.

DB: If you had the choice between Heidi and Spencer, who would you choose?

KW: Why choose? We could make it a ménage à trois.

DB: Does being bi hurt your chances with the ladies?

KW: Maybe with some but I find that most girls are pretty open-minded about it.

DB: You hang out with a lot of drag queens, would you ever go tri-sexual?

KW: As far as my sexual attraction is concerned I like girls who look like girls and guys who look like guys.

DB: What's your ultimate goal in life?

KW: I want what everyone else wants, success and happiness.

DB: What does fame mean to you?

KW: Anyone can be famous. I want to be successful.

DB: What does success mean to you?

KW: Achieving something you've worked hard for.

DB: Are you so close you can taste it?

KW: At this point I'd say I'm closer to success but the latter will come with time.

DB: When will you know you've made it?

KW: When Perez Hilton draws a penis on my face.



Killian Wells

PHOTO: WIL FERNANDEZ

For more info, go to KillianWells.com

SAGE: June Launch of National LGBT Aging Resource Center

NEW YORK, NY—Monday, June 14th, Services & Advocacy for LGBT Elders (SAGE) celebrated the launch of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging in its Manhattan offices. The Resource Center is the first of its kind and will provide training on LGBT issues to mainstream service providers for aging and on aging concerns to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) agencies nationwide. It will also offer critically important educational tools to LGBT older people.

Earlier this year, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and the Administration on Aging awarded SAGE and 10 partner organizations from around the country a historic grant to establish the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging. Significantly, the center opens during National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month.

"We are living in an unprecedented time, especially for caregivers, healthcare facilities and communities that serve LGBT older adults," said Michael Adams, executive director of

SAGE, the world's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults. "Our country is witnessing the first generation in history to live and age more openly as LGBT people—going into the closet to access vital services isn't an option."



The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging will provide tools and resources to assist communities across the country in their efforts to provide services and support for older LGBT adults. It will also aid LGBT people in planning for their own long-term needs. In the fall, the Resource Center will launch a web site that will begin providing vital information to these audiences to ensure that LGBT older adults are supported in all parts of the country.

SAGE is the world's oldest and largest organizations dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults. SAGE celebrated its 30th Anniversary in 2008 and is continuing to advocate with, and on behalf of, LGBT elders. For more information, please www.sageusa.com.

Human Rights Campaign screens *The Real L Word* in Boston

The Human Rights Campaign and Showtime Networks Inc. are teaming up to host premiere parties to celebrate the kickoff season of *The Real L Word* in communities across the country. In Boston, such an event will take place on Sunday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m. at Club Café (209 Columbus Ave. Boston, MA). The screening begins at 8:30 p.m.

A suggested donation of \$10 at the door includes an annual HRC membership. Attendees must be 21-years-old to be able to be at the party.

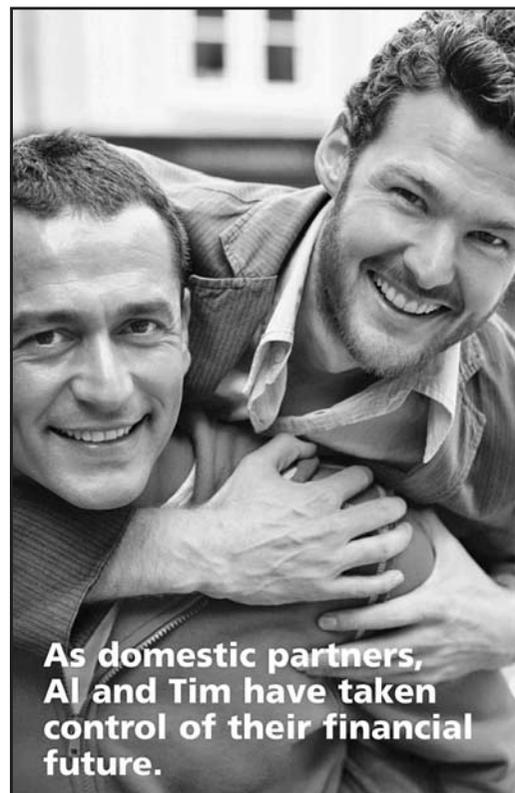
In addition, join the Human Rights Campaign and Showtime for the series premiere of *The Real L Word*, a new Showtime reality series that follows a group of real-life, high-

profile, left coast lesbians as they go about their daily lives, at work and play. Fabulous, Fashionable and completely "hot," *The Real World™*, is reality TV that only Showtime can bring you. Be the first to get a sneak peek of this exciting new series, amidst hundreds of curious fans like you!

Become a member of HRC, or renew your annual membership, to help our community with the real hurdles to equality we currently face. You won't want to miss this exciting event!

The Real L Word is a groundbreaking SHOWTIME series about the lives, careers and relationships of a group of women in Los Angeles. *The Real L Word*, premieres Sunday, June 20th at 10 p.m. (ET/PT). For more information contact: communityevents@hrc.org.

the real L word



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Being Britney: Derrick Barry performs Pride

By: Jorge Treviano

Derrick Barry has made a career out of being Britney Spears. His impersonation of the pop icon has landed him spots on numerous national TV programs including *America's Got Talent*, *The Today Show*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and ABC's *The Next Best Thing*.

Local fans can see him live when he brings his Britney show to Milwaukee Pride on Friday, June 11th.

Derrick Barry grew up in Modesto, CA, where he trained as a gymnast from age five. At 12, he traded the parallel bars for the theatre stage. In truth, it was the adrenaline he experienced from a cheering audience that inspired him to make the change. Barry also realized musical theatre gave him the opportunity to perform with his body and voice.

Today, Barry utilizes that musical theatre background in his career as an impersonator. All of his stage performances incorporate live vocals, whether singing the numbers live or giving the audience an a cappella teaser.

Barry's career as an impersonator began seven years ago when he first dressed up as Britney Spears for Halloween. His impeccably accurate and choreographed impersonation of the pop princess seems to flow naturally. It has won him much praise — including from Britney herself. In fact, the second time he dressed up as Britney, Barry came face to face with the princess of pop. Britney applauded Barry's impersonation of her when he danced while she was interviewed on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. Barry has even been featured several times on Britney's official website. While on her recent "Circus" tour, Britney kept a copy of their shared magazine cover in her dressing room.

The adoration is mutual. "Britney inspires me," says Barry who shaved his head the day after Britney Spears shaved hers in a sign of solidarity. "Her music video concept for "... Baby One More Time" remains iconic. She proved her talent to the world and accomplished so much at a young age. I am excited to see what is next in her career."

As for Barry's career, he recently added a new pop icon to his six-nights-a week "Divas

Las Vegas" show: Lady Gaga.

"I am huge fan of her music," he says, acknowledging that a significantly greater amount of effort is required in order to create an accurate representation of Lady Gaga, the artist.

"I spend hours creating crazy costumes and perfecting her elaborate make-up tricks," continues Barry. On his days off, when not working on his vocals or choreography, Barry can usually be found adorning his costumes with Swarovski crystals.

The persistence has paid off. "Lady Gaga told me I was beautiful. She was shocked to learn that I do my own make-up."

Before Barry added live vocals to his Gaga act, he apologized to Lady Gaga for lip syncing to her music. She responded, "It's okay, because if you didn't, you drag queens would put us out of business."

Her job is safe. Derrick Barry's ultimate career goal is not only in music. It's actually in comedy. More specifically, he'd love to land a role on *Saturday Night Live*.

"Fans are surprised to learn that I am more like Jim Carrey in my normal life. I am always hiding around corners, scaring people, or making funny faces and voices. I love to get a laugh."

In the meantime, he's enjoying being part of the resurgence of the impersonation industry. He credits icons like RuPaul who he says has made the art of impersonation a huge part of today's culture.

Derrick Barry is busier than ever, too. In addition to his "Divas Las Vegas" show, he headlines "Boys n Barry Sundaes" in Las Vegas every Sunday night at Krave nightclub. This summer, he is embarking on his second USA tour — a Britney Spears and Lady Gaga tribute — that will hit 20 cities including Wilmington.

Female impersonation has opened doors for the young actor/singer/dancer. It has brought him in front of leading directors, producers and entertainers. Derrick Barry believes the exposure will eventually lead him to his ultimate goal in comedy.

For now, he truly has the best of both worlds. Doesn't everyone dream of being a pop icon?

Visit Derrickbritney.com.



PHOTO: DAVID HARDY

Derrick Barry as Britney Spears

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Gay man competes in RI gubernatorial race

Rhode Island News

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Todd Giroux, an openly gay candidate for governor, launched his campaign on June 1 at the Rhode Island State House.

Giroux, 39, is a political newcomer. He is one of seven candidates in the race to succeed Republican Gov. Don Carcieri, whose term will expire in 2011. His status as a rookie politician did not affect his confidence as he took the podium in front of a handful of supporters.

"We will go the distance to the ballot," Giroux pledged.

The Bristol resident made a splash when he proclaimed his sexuality at a March rally for same-sex marriage, attended by rivals Attorney General Patrick Lynch, Treasurer Frank Caprio, and former United States Senator Lincoln Chafee.

The event was the first time several major candidates for Governor pledged their support for same-sex marriage.

In his speech, Giroux condemned the efforts of a handful of state legislators to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"A Constitutional Amendment that will deny rights to citizens and to specifically deny gay populations is bigotry and hate in plain view," said Giroux.

Giroux has no reservations about being open about his sexuality and does not feel his sexual orientation will be a barrier to his getting

elected.

"You have to be honest with yourself," Giroux explained. "I wanted to control my message so it's on my terms."

Giroux is passionate about fairness and social justice issues as well as helping people suffering in tough times.

Giroux believes he is the only candidate willing to address the economic concerns of the voters. The state is currently ranked number four in unemployment for the entire country.

"We need to take the chance on our own people," Giroux said.

Giroux wants to provide job training for workers, help homeowners who are facing foreclosure, and streamline state government, which he believes will save money and provide better services for residents.

Giroux grew up in Woonsocket and Cumberland and later graduated from URI with a psychology degree. For awhile, he ran his own advertising company.

He wants others to be able to enjoy the same opportunities.

"I had a good education," Giroux said. "My parents gave me a great life."

Giroux has been working as a contractor for



PHOTO: JOE SIEGEL

Todd Giroux, candidate for RI Governor

the last 20 years, continuing the business started by his father. Giroux specializes in performing restoration and maintenance services for historic properties including Aldrich House, the Providence Public Library, and Trinity Repertory Theater.

Giroux expressed frustration with the ongoing fighting among Democrats and Republicans in Congress.

"It's not leading to solutions," Giroux said, noting society was not teaching our children how to solve problems.

When Giroux speaks, he focuses on accountability, a quality he feels has been lacking in the state's public officials.

He thinks his experience as a businessman has demonstrated his ability to be accountable to his customers as well as his understanding of how to spend money wisely.

Giroux does not believe his lack of political experience is a hindrance, but rather a benefit: "I'm not a career politician. I'm just an average guy."

Todd Giroux's web site can be accessed at <http://rigovernor2010.com>.

Tisei and Baker from page 11

accommodations. Opponents warn that the bill would invite sex offenders to lurk in public restrooms, endangering the safety of women and children.

"Charlie believes that we should treat everyone fairly under the law and is a friend of the LGBT community and ultimately our campaign will win over a great deal of votes from across the political spectrum," Tisei said. "We don't agree on everything, but we have had – and continue to have – a healthy discussion about the issue."

Tisei took an interest in politics at an early age.

"When I was a senior in high school, I was chosen by my classmates to participate in Student Government Day at the State House and served as the 'State Representative for the Day,'" Tisei recalled. "That experience really inspired me and I became very interested in politics and government."

Tisei felt the Republican Party shared his values. For him, President Ronald Reagan served as a role model.

"Ronald Reagan appealed to me growing up, especially his philosophy of limited government, free markets and individual responsibility," Tisei explained. "In addition, as a small business owner, I believe the Republican Party better understands the challenges faced by those risk takers and job creators who are the backbone of our economy."

Tisei remains optimistic that the voters will choose Baker and himself to lead the state for the next four years.

"The response has been tremendous across Massachusetts and I am confident that we'll be successful in November," Tisei added.

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8. Sometimes in Life
9. Word is Out
10. 8: The Mormon Proposition

Gay Best Sellers

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2. Boy
3. BOYCRAZY
4. 8: The Mormon Proposition
5. Mr. Right
6. A Single Man
7. The Butch Factor
8. La Mission
9. Word is Out
10. Homewrecker

Mitchell hopes to win in 2nd Rhode Island Rep. bid

Rhode Island News

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Kevin Mitchell is an openly gay candidate for State Rep. for District 48, which encompasses North Smithfield and Burrillville. The 33-year-old Democrat ran twice before, in 1998 and 2000. Although he was unsuccessful, Mitchell feels he has gained the skills to become a stronger candidate.

"I would never pass up the experience that I had before but 10 years later, I know more, I'm older, I'm more experienced," Mitchell said. "It's been positive. I think people know more about me."

Mitchell is a Patient Care Manager at a medical clinic in Providence. He attended Roger Williams University, where he studied Political Science, and is currently studying nursing at CCRI (Community College of Rhode Island).



PHOTO: WILL SCHNORR - REKINDLE PHOTOS

Kevin Mitchell, candidate for RI State Representative

"I've always been very active in my community," Mitchell said, noting public service was something he had been interested in for a long time.

Mitchell is running against an Incumbent State Rep. (Brian Newberry, R), who he feels has been inattentive to the needs of voters in the district.

"I have the ability to be there and listen," Mitchell said. "I think that's what lacking in a lot of elected officials, in particular the gentleman I'm running against now - no one has seen him, no one has heard from him."

Mitchell acknowledges he does not have all the answers to the state's problems, but he is willing to sit down and discuss solutions with others.

"In Northern Rhode Island, our biggest issue is bringing small businesses to the area," Mitchell said, explaining he wants to reduce property taxes for residents.

Rhode Island was the first of the New England states to go into a recession. The unemployment rate of 12.5 percent is one of the highest in the country. Mitchell is unhappy with the way the General Assembly has handled the economic downturn.

"We had the opportunity to be the first out of (the recession), and the leaders in the state

- all of them, both parties, dropped the ball," Mitchell said. "I think we can bring the state back to life by lowering our taxes, such as gas taxes and sales taxes."

Mitchell said the state's small businesses are being hurt by residents crossing the border into Massachusetts; where the tax rates are lower, to carry out business.

Mitchell believes party labels such as Democrat and Republican should be discarded when state officials meet to discuss various issues. He is willing to listen to any ideas, no matter who proposes them.

"If it's good for the state, who cares who gets credit for it," Mitchell said. "We should focus on listening to each other and coming together."

Mitchell likes the fact that Rhode Island is such a small state.

"I can go from the ruralness of Burrillville to the beaches of Newport in an hour," Mitchell noted. "From a political aspect, it gives us a lot of opportunities to show the rest of the country how things can be done because it's a small area where you can test things out and see what works."

RI Pride Grand Marshals 2010

PROVIDENCE, RI—This year's grand marshals were selected by the membership of RI Pride because of their outstanding service to our community, state and nation. Though the policy of "don't ask, don't tell" was enacted in 1993 as a compromise to restrict the witch hunts of secretly gay, lesbian or bisexual service members over 13,389 people have been discharged. So whether they were out or served in silence, the fact remains they have always served. Some have served this nation with great distinction such as Margarethe Cammermeyer and Daniel Choi only to have their talents and service cut short. Others have served to their own detriment such as Petty Officer 3rd Class Allen Schindler by having their lives snuffed out in a murderous rage. Despite threats to life and limb, they have always served.

RI Pride is please to honor our LGBT Armed Forces Veterans, these brave men and women, as Grand Marshals for this year's 2010 Parade



PHOTO: RI PRIDE

and invite them to come out to lead our parade as we celebrate this year's theme: EQUALITY - Imagine The Possibilities! Likewise, by this choice we admonish our President and Congressional delegation to take the lead in repealing this ban!

2010 Pride Marches & Rallies in our local Gayborhoods & beyond

The change of seasons welcomes in many Pride Marches, Rallies and Celebrations to the immediate region and beyond. Some of the closest to our gayborhoods are:

Rhode Island Pride or Pride Fest 2010, will take place on June 19th. PrideFest and the Night Gay Pride Parade through Providence basically functions as Providence Gay Pride and Newport Gay Pride all rolled into one statewide celebration. For more information, visit www.prideri.com/

New York City Pride 2010 celebrates Gay Pride for a full week: June 19 to June 27, 2010. As with previous years, this 2010 Pride honors what many consider to be one of the foremost events in the history of lesbian and gay rights, the Stonewall Riots. For more information visit: www.nycpride.org.

24th Annual Southern Maine Pride Parade & Festival will take place on June 19th. The Parade will start at Monument Square in Downtown Portland, ME. For more information, please visit: <http://www.southernmainepride.org>.

Pride Toronto 2010 celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The week long celebra-

tion starts on June 25 and ends on July 4. Pride Week features 10 days of world class arts and cultural programming, community activities, one of the world's largest street festivals, Pride Parade, Dyke March, Family programming, Blackness Yes and Youth and much more. To learn more about Pride Toronto visit: www.pridetoronto.com.

South Coast Equality Pride, taking place on June 26 in downtown New Bedford, Ma. From 1-7 p.m. at Custom House Square in the heart of historic downtown New Bedford. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/scepride

Worcester Pride 2010, will take place on Sept 18th this year. For more information about this great Pride, visit www.worcesterpride.com/.

Pride Vermont 2010 will be celebrated on July 24th, 2010. TRT will be at the celebration. To know more about VT's celebration, check out their website: www.pridevt.com/.

For a more comprehensive list of all of the Pride Events in the U.S. and abroad, visit Interpride at: <http://www.interpride.org>.

happy 2010
rhode island
pridefest!!

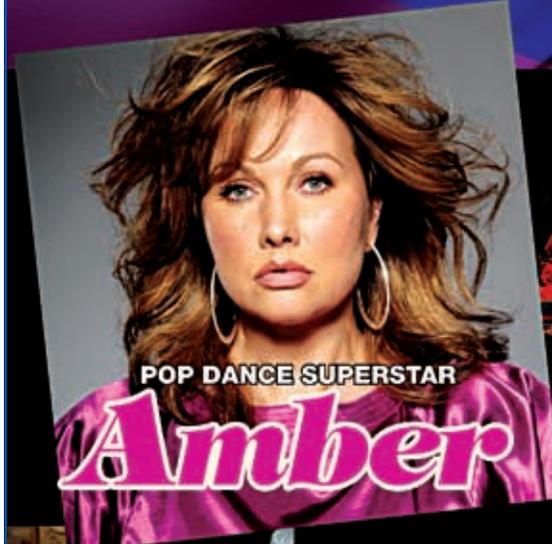


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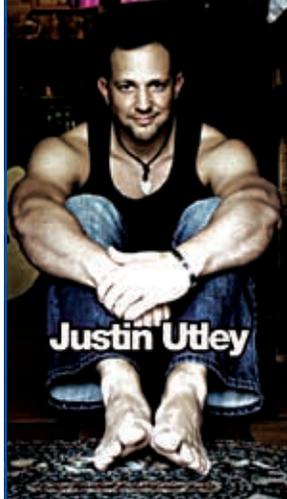


Saturday, June 19, 2010

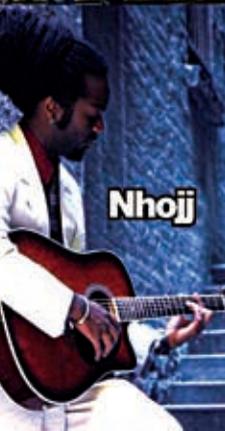
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The OutField: Gay softball, bi any other name, plays same



Dan Woog

By: Dan Woog*

This sounds like one more story of discrimination based on sexual orientation in the sports world.

Three bisexual men filed a lawsuit after they were disqualified from playing in a Softball World Series tournament. And, they say, because they are bisexual their team forfeited its second-

place trophy.

But hold on. As in Alice's Wonderland, the world of athletics is not always what it seems. The defendant is the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association. The event was the 2008 Gay Softball World Series in Seattle. The bisexuals claim they were discriminated against not by straight people, but by gays. They say they were kicked out not for being gay, but because they're not gay enough.

The men are being represented by the National Center for Lesbian Rights. That group is involved, says its Sports Project director Helen Carroll, because the NCLR cares deeply about making sure that bisexuals – men as well as women – are welcomed and included in the gay community.

The lawsuit says the NAGAAA asked "intrusive" questions about the three men's sex lives. (NAGAAA rules limit each team to no more than two heterosexual players.) An NAGAAA official then allegedly said, "This is the Gay World Series, not the Bisexual World Series."

A host of through-the-looking glass issues are involved here.

The NAGAAA's own Articles of Incorporation says it is "dedicated to the promotion of amateur sports competition, particularly softball, for all persons regardless of age, sexual orientation or preference." That seems pretty straightforward (pun intended).

In addition, NAGAAA attorney Beth Allen was quoted on the Queerty blog as saying the NAGAAA strives to create an environment in which athletes can "play ball together...(and not) face any type of discrimination." The OutField is not a lawyer, but kicking bi players out of a tournament – and recommending sanctions against both their team and their entire San Francisco league – seems, well, discriminatory.

"Public vs. private" issues come in to play too. Attorney Allen says that if the NAGAAA were a "public accommodation" they could not enforce rules based on sexual orientation. But because they are a private organization, "seeking to provide a forum for gay and lesbian athletes, or those who would like to become athletes, to play ball together in an environment where they don't face any type of discrimination," they can, well, discriminate.

Yet the tournament was played not on a private field in Seattle, but at public venues. Washington state law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations.

The public/private debate reminds The OutField of another controversy. The Boy Scouts

of America has been roundly criticized for its refusal to hire gay leaders or administrators – and its ouster of gay Scouts. When the BSA claims that it is a private organization, the gay community replies, "But you use public facilities!" (So far, the Scouts have prevailed.) As in Wonderland, things get awfully weird when they're examined through a different end of the looking glass.

The mind reels. What would the NAGAAA say if someone tried to organize a tournament that allowed only two "homosexuals" per team? Or even no more than "a combination of two gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and/or transgender persons"?

Who made the NAGAAA the arbiter of sexual orientation anyway? When did they decide that bisexuals are not members of the gay community? And, by the way, what is the definition of "bi"? Is there a hard definition of bisexuality? A percentage or number of encounters above or below which one qualifies as "gay" or "not gay"? And where do fantasies fit in all this?

Taking this Alice-like further down the rabbit hole, what if a team really, really likes three or four straight players, and those guys really, really want to join a gay team? Would it be OK if they lied and said they were gay? Would they have to prove it by going to gay bars? Making out on the dance floor? Or is it OK just to crank up Lady Gaga?

Of course, we all know gay guys who pass as straight. They're married, they've got kids, yet they're all over Craigslist. Where do they fit in? Do they count as gay – 'cause they are – or as straight, which is the way the rest of the world sees them? It's all so confusing.

Maybe the solution is to forget about labels and apply a simple test. When someone wants to join a softball team, just ask: "Pitcher or catcher?"

If he laughs, he's in – no questions asked. If he says, "Actually, I'm a center fielder," tell him you're not interested in that position.

*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.



Helen Carroll

Homo Kisses from page 2

these men to have sex with other men because they really see themselves as straight and feel why not get paid to do what they do at home for free (masturbate)? This gives new meaning to: "Groan ... I gotta get UP for work."

Naturally, they get paid more for boy-on-boy sex and it doesn't take long for them to get addicted to the money...or is that just what they tell themselves after a *hard day at work*?

As we go to press, Sandra Bullock is in the news after happily sucking face with Scarlett Johansson at the MTV Movie Awards. This is exactly what the Christian Right rants about: it could be catchy! Taste of the forbidden fruit or the real reason for her break-up with husband Jesse James? Lesbians everywhere are standing by.

Perhaps this is just the way things are with every generation...there are these periods where everyone is getting their hair cut a certain way (Dorothy Hamel anyone?) or similar tattoos (Butterflies and purple roses? Tweety Bird or the Tasmanian Devil?), piercing locations and now maybe, it's the year of the gay kiss. Everyone

Express Yourself from page 2

turn your way showing what new will come. Grief is painful. I am sorry for your pain. Being human means we will grieve the losses in life.

Your hurt and pain of this loss prompted you to say things you now regret. It is good that you feel remorse. It shows you are capable of admitting you are human and make mistakes. To be capable of intimacy, we need to know that we can be wrong sometimes. This does not mean you are a bad person or that you are screwed up. Todd, we all make mistakes, we are all capable of saying things in moments of hurt and despair that we later regret. Being human means we will hurt each other, not intentionally of course, but because we are separate beings with different needs, desires and temperaments. When an important person shows us that they must do something that supports their integrity and it conflicts with your wishes, of course hurt will follow. Sometimes reacting from pain can make any one of us say something that also creates hurt. Hurting one another will happen from time to time.

The issue is not that we hurt one another and make mistakes. The issue in relationship is whether we can repair those mistakes. The fact that you feel regret is great, I really mean it. Three little words can mean so much and they are of course, I am sorry.

Part of the repair also, Todd, is in having compassion and understanding for the pain that caused your words to begin with. I would also suggest that you tell your dear friend about your hurt and grief. Talk openly about all your feelings. There is a very good chance your friend will understand. Surely if he were in your place he would feel some of the same.

should try it at least once, like caviar or snails. Katy Perry may be the Nostradamus of today.

But there may be something else at play here as well.

Celebrities that scream out "Pay attention to me!" are not perhaps, really gay-lite, but playing so for the media spotlight. A career boost or whatever it takes to sell albums or movies may be why we see an increasing number of folks jumping on this 'chew-chew' train.

Being gay for pay isn't just limited to the porn industry, although with 17-year old Cyrus' new look, there could be debate about that. Some things should be tamed before they see the light of day.

*Suzan Ambrose always enjoys a good Sandra Bullock movie and Mickey Mouse Club reruns when she's not writing diligently for *The Rainbow Times*. Questions or opinions on my columns? Let me know at: SuzanAmbrose@gmail.com. Catch Suzan live on her radio show "Queer Energy" Tuesdays from 5:30-8 p.m. on WMUA 91.1 FM, streaming live at www.wmua.org.

Next talk about what you hope for as your friendship continues. Do you want to ask for special times during the week that are just for the two of you? Perhaps you need to hear from him about his continued commitment to you. Ask him how he feels about this change. You might be surprised.

This change in your relationship does not have to mean devastation. Talking about, listening to each other and respecting each others needs could actually deepen your relationship. Your relationship might take a different form, but it might get even better if you both use this challenge as a means of deepening communication and care for one another.

We can't stop life and we cannot stop change. The question always is how we can work with it. Best, Tetty

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

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

Classifieds:

"What did the penis say to the condom?"

"Cover me, I'm going in!"

Contact

Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective about HIV Counseling & Testing

www.hglhc.org

P: (860) 278-4163

Personals:

Hi there!

I'm a White male, 46 years old, Gemini, with many interests. I live in Worcester and would enjoy meeting other sincere, genuine men for friendship, dating.

Call Gary at

1-774-641-1935. Thanks!

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