

The Rainbow Times

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

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Photo by: James Dimock

Opinions

Happy Father's Day to all fathers

By: Nicole C. Lashomb
TRT Editor-in-Chief

I will start by sending a warm Father's Day wish to and all fathers throughout the country. I especially want to send my love and gratitude to the best father a girl could ask for—My father, Joe Lashomb, who is in NY and who continues to be such an inspiration in my life. I am so proud, Dad, to be your daughter.

I also want to welcome on board a new TRT

C'mon Out – Just Ask! TRT's new advice column

By: **Tetty Gorfine**/TRT Columnist

Dear Tetty,

My girlfriend and I have been together for 4 years now. We plan on getting married in the fall but I have one concern. She seems to have a problem establishing boundaries with people. She is extremely loving and always wants to take care of everyone but she will sacrifice everything for everyone, including me. I like it for myself, but when is it right to draw the line with others? She has allowed her sister to move in with us! We are in the process of buying a house and she wants to make sure that the house has enough room for her sister to stay with us. I really feel like it is time for her sister to find her own way, but whenever I bring it up



TETTY GORFINE

with her, she gets defensive and upset. She thinks I am too hard on people. Don't get me wrong, my g/f is amazing and for certain is the one for me. I just don't know how to handle her lack of boundaries. What do I do?

—Stephanie M., Springfield, MA

Hi Stephanie:

Well, you're not alone. Boundary challenges in relationships are not uncommon. When two people fall in love boundaries soften and this is natural. That's how we let others in. But as the relationship continues, both people must

See C'mon Out - Just Ask on Page 6

Love, Rights ... and the Rest of It ... Yahoo!

By: **JM Sorrell**/TRT Columnist

Yahoo to California! Yippee to New York! From the start, I sensed that the Goodrich decision in Massachusetts would have reverberations around the country. We experienced numerous victories and backlashes for over three years. It seemed that going to Constitutional Conventions at the Statehouse was a routine part of my life from 2004 through 2007.

During those years, the rest of the country watched as every politician who supported same-sex marriage in Massachusetts got re-elected. Our current governor won his election with a clear, uncompromising stance in support of full marriage rights for all couples, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

This small Commonwealth has had immense influence. Our 4-3 Supreme Judicial Court decision was a unanimous decision in New Jersey three years later. In New Jersey, there was no talk of "activist judges" since most of them were Republicans! Justice Margaret Marshall endured criticism and hatred for her leadership in Massachusetts so that others could follow an easier path.

Yes, the bigots are working to muster the energy to prevent same-sex marriage from becoming law on June 17 in California, but they represent an unpopular minority opinion. The social norms have shifted. Mainstream pollsters now say that over 1/2 of Californians support same-sex marriage. Just two years ago, 65% opposed it.

On May 28, 2008, New York Governor David Paterson ordered that state agencies immediately change policies and regulations to recognize same sex marriage. Since there is not yet a legislative decision for same-sex marriage to be legally performed in New York, New Yorkers will have to settle for get-



J.M. THE JP

ting married elsewhere. The marriage will be recognized in New York. This is akin to Rhode Island, where same-sex couples come to Massachusetts to get married and receive full recognition for their status in Rhode Island.

What irks me is the old scare tactics from Mitt Romney that still permeate in the press. According to an Associated Press article by Michael Gormley, Massachusetts "residency requirements would bar New Yorkers from marrying there..." and they "could instead flock to California."

Wrong. If the state of residence recognizes the marriage (as in Rhode Island and New York), so will Massachusetts. The residency requirement does not apply to residents of states willing to accept Massachusetts marriages as binding.

Why don't Governor Patrick and other political movers and shakers get this word out??? It's cheaper for New Yorkers to come to us, and it couldn't hurt our economy. I have officiated for numerous couples from out of state over the last several years. It is up to each couple to decide they may become residents at some point and to answer that question at the City Clerk's office, and Rhode Islanders have never been denied a license because of their intention to stay in Rhode Island.

Let's get with the program. Start spreading the news.

*J.M. Sorrell is a Massachusetts Justice of the Peace. She welcomes couples from all over and is especially pleased that New York and California have taken these steps during the month of May which marks the fourth anniversary of the enactment of same-sex marriage rights in Massachusetts. May has many holidays rooted in social justice.

The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something

By: **Suzan Ambrose**/TRT Columnist



r-e-d-room.

Gay sex. Gay marriage. Are the two exclusive of each other? Can there be one without the other? Of course, I realize it's possible and certainly probable. But, for just how long?

Does marriage change the dynamic of a couple's relationship, particularly those of gays and lesbians? I mean, really, heteros have been saying it was so for years. We've listened to our married straight friend whine about the lack of "getting some" for eons. I just assumed it was because the children my breeder friends had created in their own images had managed to invade all available time and energy that one would normally devote to makin' whoopee. Not whoopee pies with Play-Doh.

But with California's most recent Supreme Court ruling, and now New York jumping onto the "let's get hitched" disco train, it appears gay marriage is the main course on the gay menu.

"Ok, I think I'll start with a little foreplay, say, for an appetizer ... a lifelong marriage (medium rare, please!) ... and a stiff brandy to wash it all down with, thank you very much!"

And then ... on to dessert. Sweet, sensuous, luscious dessert! There's always room for that in the gay dining room!

Or at least until the bed-room meets the b-o-

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Recently there was a potluck held and we had a fabulous turn-out. Many of the people were from other states. They saw the mention in the Rainbow Times' Calendar of Events. TRT is doing a wonderful job reaching the community and making a difference. Keep passing the word EVERYONE and using the advertisers so we can keep this going. Thanks!

Sue I., Enfield, CT

Dear Editor,

We saw another local paper putting up pink triangles around Northampton. Is that your new competition?

Sonya R., Northampton, MA

Dear Sonya,

As far as we are concerned, that newspaper is dedicated to a different audience and has been dedicated to such an audience for years.

—The Editor

Dear Editor,

The Cyndi Lauper story rocked! We loved it here in Schenectady.

Steve W., Schenectady, NY

Dear Editor,

I think that Hillary Clinton's pick was ok, but I was hoping to see TRT endorse Obama. You disappointed me.

Marilyn M., Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,

Loved the coverage on the Out Film CT and your continuous support to gay marriage in CT.

Patricia O., Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,

I haven't seen many news from Vermont lately, are you still covering our area?

Jonah D., Brattleboro, VT

Dear Jonah,

Page 39 of the May issue had VT news. The April edition had the VT Women's Film Festival. All of our calendar of event's page showcases many of your area events too.

—The Editor

Same bat time, same bat channel seems all fun and (wedding) games before one says "I do"... but how many gay people want more?

I've been told monogamy can be synonymous with bad death. Specifically, I am referring to the dreaded lesbian bed death (LBD). I don't think gay men are afflicted by this phenomenon (Boys? Can you write in when you finish up with "dessert"?), but maybe all long-term relationships suffer it to some extent.

This little-talked about symptom of committed, comfortable relationships, shows it's pretty little face in many a loving partnership. Even in straight ones.

So could it be it's not just lesbians that get LBD but all women? A German study has shown that female sex drive greatly diminishes once a woman is in a secure relationship. The researchers from Hamburg-Eppendorf University Hospital found 60% of 30-year-old women wanted sex "often" at the beginning of a relationship, but within four years of the relationship this figure fell to under 50%, and after 20 years it dropped to about 20%. In contrast, they found the proportion of men wanting regular sex remained at between 60-80%, regardless of how long they had been in a relationship.

I could have told them that before they spent all that money.

Dr Dietrich Klusmann, lead author of the study, said women have evolved to have a high sex drive when they are initially in a relationship, in order to form a "pair bond" with their partner. But, once this bond is sealed, a woman's sexual appetite declines.

Professor George Fieldman, an evolutionary psychologist from Buckinghamshire Chilterns

See Couch on Page 10

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JUNE 8, 2008

In 'The Name of God'

CA ruling revives gay marriage debate, but impact on evangelical vote disputed

By: Eric Gorski/AP Religion Writer

DENVER (AP)—For conservative Christian activists, a California Supreme Court ruling legalizing gay marriage in the largest U.S. state provides an opportunity to rekindle interest in opposition to an issue that has fallen well behind the rising price of gas in the national consciousness.

But it won't be easy, and not just because of pressing secular issues like the housing downturn and an unpopular war in Iraq.

Voices within evangelicalism are pushing for a broader agenda, and evidence suggests younger evangelicals are more accepting of gays and lesbians. Meanwhile, anti-gay marriage amendments are on the ballot in only a few U.S. states and the issue does not play to presumptive Republican presidential nominee John McCain's strengths as a maverick on some conservative touchstones.

Yet gay marriage opponents say the California ruling will help them broaden their religious coalitions to include more Hispanic Catholics and evangelicals.

They say the ruling made their argument for them. State constitutions must be changed to ban gay marriage, preventing judges from sub-

verting the will of the people and reinventing a sacred institution they believe is central to society's well-being and part of God's design.

"I think the California decision does refocus our movement on the threat of marriage being redefined," said John Stemberger, who as head of the Florida Family Policy Council is supporting a proposed amendment in that state that would define marriage as between one man and one woman. It would prohibit civil unions providing the same benefits of marriage.

Unless a stay is granted on the California ruling, gender-neutral marriage certificates will begin being issued June 17. Acceptance of gay marriage is growing in the state, with a Field Poll released last week showing that 51 percent of respondents support legalizing same-sex marriage and 42 percent oppose it.

Another fight is brewing in New York, where opposition is forming to Gov. David Paterson's new directive to state agencies to recognize gay marriages legally performed in other states and countries. Gay marriage is not legal in that state, and its highest court has said such unions can be legalized only by the legislature.

Massachusetts, and California for the time being, are the only states that allow gay mar-

riage. A handful of others offer domestic partnerships or civil unions that offer some of the same benefits of marriage.

Gay marriage erupted as a national issue in 2003, when the Massachusetts Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage there. The next year, 13 states approved amendments prohibiting gay marriage. About half now have them.

Conservative Christian groups credited the marriage measures with inspiring "values voter" turnout and helping re-elect President George W. Bush. Several studies disputed that, showing partisanship, the Iraq War and national security were far more important factors nationally.

Already, activists in Arizona are looking to California to make their case a second time. In California, passage of the initiative would overrule the Supreme Court decision.

California is the third state gearing up for gay marriage amendment campaign this fall, significant because some analysts think McCain can challenge the Democratic nominee there.

"The malaise that some (conservative Christians) felt about the upcoming election has in large part been wiped away by the California decision," said Mathew Staver of

the conservative Christian legal group Liberty Counsel, who is raising money to overturn the California decision. He also co-authored the proposed Florida amendment.

The California decision not only deepens the resolve of religious conservatives, Staver said, but should anger "people who might not otherwise get involved in values. Most people do not respond well to having four judges determine the definition of marriage."

In Florida and elsewhere, efforts to broaden support to include more Hispanic Christians are intensifying. The Virginia-based Alliance for Marriage Foundation is uniting Hispanic evangelical and Catholic leaders to "stand up for marriage" at rallies this summer in Denver and Minneapolis during the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, respectively.

Polls also show, however, that younger evangelicals are more accepting of homosexuality than previous generations. Before the California decision, Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California said gay marriage was on the margins of the evangelical agenda. Now, he predicted, it will move back to the center.

Trans Pride: Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw/TRT Columnist

Saturday, June 7, 2008 is the first ever Transgender Pride for the area. The feelings of Pride are rising and it wonderful that my brothers and sisters are taking their Pride to the streets!

Having a Trans Pride does bring the Trans issues to the public. The public gets to see us who are Transgender and they can talk to us and listen to us and discover that us Transpeople are just like anyone else and we deserve all of the rights that everyone else has. Yes, they will get to finally meet that Transgender person next door! And they very well may even like us!

I am so happy that Transpeeps are willing to

come to the forefront. They are now ready to be seen and heard and loved!

Yes, it is indeed an event that was a long time coming. For too long most of us stayed deep in our closets whether it's the denial closet—where we were scared to death of coming out and we had major issues dealing with shame and embarrassment and denial because we do not want to be "found out" by others—or it's the stealth closet where we have finally made our transition to the other gender, but are once again scared to death that we will be "found out" thus denying that we ever were the original gender. It's like going from one closet to the other! But times have changed and it is getting to be ok to admit that you are Transgender. On June 7th there will be many who are way more



DEJA NICOLE GREENLAW

than ok but are actually proud to be Transgender! I entered the Trans Community in 2001 and I watched and listened to my "older" brothers and sisters. I saw where they were coming from and what they had to deal with. In those 7 years I learned a lot and have seen a lot change for the better. In a lot of cases, we no longer have to stay in our closets. We can finally be free to be who we are. And let me tell you, it is an incredible sense of peace that we find when we finally transition and it is heightened immeasurably if we are "Out". Once you are Out you no longer have to hide or cover up tracks or feel unsure etc. That's breaking out of not one, but two closets at once!

And why shouldn't we come out and be who we are? I really believe in Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence when he wrote of

"...Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Why shouldn't we pursue our happiness? I realize that there are others who do not want us to pursue our happiness and they may call us crazy or deviant or sinful or whatever. What right do they have to stop us from our unalienable right to pursuit of Happiness? I don't believe that they have that right.

No, they do not have that right but we do have ours!

So on Saturday June 7th there will be cries of Pride, feelings of peace and understanding and love. There will be smiles and hugs and joys and a feeling of Pride that most have never felt before. It will be a great day for Transgenders and we invite you to share it with us!

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* By wolfevideo.com

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6. Shelter
7. 2 Minutes Later
8. Boys Love
9. Naked-Boys Singing!

* By wolfevideo.com

The Pub: The Springfield hotspot for the GLBT community

By: Nicole C. Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

Under new ownership, new management and with a noticeable facelift, The Pub, a GLBT bar in downtown Springfield, MA, has opened its doors and arms to the surrounding GLBT community since 1971, only now with special themed nights and an atmosphere for all, according to its general manager.

"I believe the premise of the club has stayed the same as a place where men and women can come together [but] I also believe that The Pub has been able to adapt to changing times," said Brian Donofri, General Manager, The Pub, Springfield, Mass.

According to Donofri, the club already offers themed parties such as its Leather night, which is geared mostly toward men, although a Ladies night, amongst others, is in the works. The Pub's other events are meant to cater to all.

"We are planning stages of doing general themed nights at the bar such as, but not inclu-



The Pub, located at 382 Dwight St. in Springfield, besides being active in community work, is under new management and has new daring shows for the whole LGBT community. Photo by: Brian Donofri

would decorate the bar like a locker room and have the staff dressed in sports uniforms," said Donofri. "Another idea is a camp ground [theme] where the bar would be decorated like a campground."

Donofri said that other projects that are currently being discussed include bringing back the dance floor, as well as adding an intimate

organizations] such as Tapestry Health," said Donofri. "[In addition,] The Pub was a part of the May Mayhem in Springfield, a benefit for the AIDS Foundation of Western Mass. The Pub is also a sponsor of the Springfield Team of the Southern New England Friendship Softball League. The league is an active member of the NAGAAA (North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association)."

Upcoming events that you don't want to miss include the 37th Anniversary party of The Pub on July 12th; Leather nights, which are on the first and third Saturday of the month; Margarita Mondays, and Martini Thursdays.

"I know that myself, and the staff of The Pub, is committed to the gay community and our goal is to provide a place where everyone is welcomed," said Donofri. "People can expect [The Pub to be] a place that is open, friendly and warm; a place where people can come in, enjoy themselves, and have fun."

Donofri welcomes input from the GLBT community at large.

"We are constantly trying to bring new ideas to the bar so people can check our web page www.thespringfieldpub.com and if anyone has comment or suggestion [he/she] can go the web page and hit the 'e-mail Brian' button," said Donofri.

The Pub is located at 382 Dwight Street, Springfield, Mass. For more information call 413-734-8123 or visit The Pub online at www.thespringfieldpub.com.

"The Pub is proud to be part of the community and has and will [continue] to work [with



Photo courtesy of TM.

sive of, a locker room atmosphere where we

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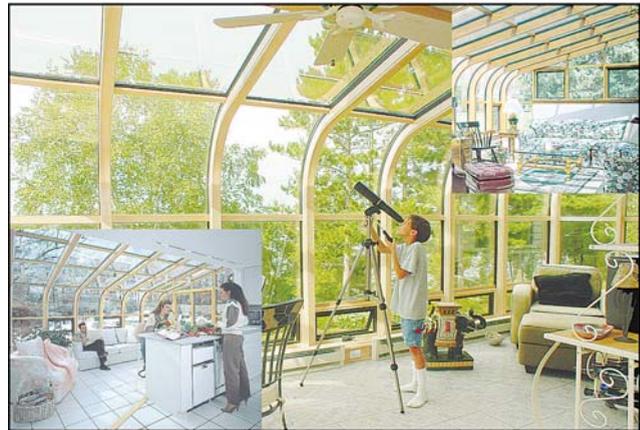
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QEntertainment

George Michael on North American tour after 17-year break

After performing 80 shows in 12 European countries for a staggering 1.3 million fans over the past year alone, legendary superstar George Michael will be bringing his smash 25 LIVE tour to North American Arenas in the summer of 2008 in support of his new retrospective record.

The new record, titled Twenty-Five, was released on April 1st and is a 29-song, 2-CD set featuring several new songs (including duets with superstars Paul McCartney and Mary J. Blige and a song from the hit TV series, Eli Stone) in addition to many of Michael's iconic songs from both his solo and WHAM! career.

TRT brings you the scoop about why this internationally acclaimed music icon has decided to, after a steady 17-year break, embark on a new tour at this point in his 25 year career and why it took him so long to do so.

Q: Why are you going on tour for the first time in 17 years?

A: I don't really think that I am doing anything other than thank you really to people because I sat in my front room one day about a year and a half ago and thought you know apart from the fact that you'll probably wish you

it while you can still stand with out help, there is going to be a day that you will regret not having done this thing that you are so afraid of, which is repeating the experience of the 80's and going out on tour living in the eye of the storm but those people that I am going to go out there and play to, know exactly why it has been a 25 year career, they know exactly why I am there to sing to them and why they are going to be coming to see me.

Q: Describe the musical arch over the last 25 years?

A: I think fairly enough that one the great success of my career musically is that it's intent really hasn't changed very much. I have the same intent that I had when I started. The difficulty artistically is learning your craft and learning about life and changing as a person and yet holding on to the basic elements about what gave you your appeal in the first place.

Q: You have been so successful throughout your career whether you have toured or not. Is it necessary still to have an audience?

A: As a musician you need people to tell you, you need people to respond to what you're doing and know that they like it. So, you need an audience, absolutely yes.



GEORGE MICHAEL

Q: Why have chosen to not perform as much in the past and why did you make that choice?

A: I think I've probably needed to perform a lot more than I would probably like to admit. And, I haven't performed for many, many years and think it's been something that I have not done it through fear and it's a shame because all

fear does is waste time really.

Q: Are you happy with the decision of going out on tour again?

A: I'm delighted that I've decided to go out and do it again, it's gone so well. It makes me realize that I probably should have done it along time ago but you know you can only do what you're capable of at the time.

The North American leg of the 25 LIVE tour will kick off in San Diego on June 17th and will continue through San Jose, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Seattle, Vancouver, Minneapolis, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, New York and several other major cities. The tour will incorporate 22 shows over the course of seven weeks and Michael will perform material taken from the entire span of his career, including some classic Wham! tracks.

Michael has recently teamed up with iTunes and Ticketmaster to produce an innovative media package, which allows fans rare access to Michael's videos, songs, and tickets to one of his North American 25 LIVE concerts. The package is currently on sale on iTunes. For more information about the 25 LIVE tour or to find out how you can get tickets, visit www.georgemichael.com.

C'mon Out-Just Ask from Page 2

find their separate needs, thoughts, wishes, etc. Working this out isn't always easy.

You and your partner clearly love one another and want this to work. Hold on to this strength and appreciate her for how she cares for you and others. As often is the case, what are our gifts can also be our challenges. Your partner is so loving she will do anything for

others. That's great. The challenge comes in because she sacrifices her own personal space and her relationship with you.

My suggestion to you is that you first ask her to wait on the purchase of your home until you BOTH agree on what size it should be. Now for the hard part. You must tell her exactly how you feel, holding nothing back ... but here's the trick. You must tell her only how you feel and

not what she is or isn't doing. It's so easy in relationship to tell the other person all about their faults and what we think is wrong with them. Try, instead, to tell her how YOU feel, rather than saying "you did" this or that. When we tell others about themselves, they get defensive. When we only speak for our own experience, others cannot disagree.

This is a start to a very complicated question. Good luck Stephanie.

Q2: What's with this "boi" thing? I have a friend I really like, but she's all into looking and acting like a teenage boy. She denies that she's a lesbian (though she sleeps with other women, and occasionally a guy), and says she's not butch, but it sure looks that way to me. Can you shed any light on this?

—Confused

Hi Confused,

Times have certainly changed in the last years. As the years have gone by our LGB community has changed immensely. Now we are LGBTQ embracing so much diversity! Our latest relative "Q" stands for queer or gender queer. Transgender and queer people are bringing such depth and texture to the term diversity. Imagine a world where there were really no limits in who we can be? There are many people today who do not want to define themselves by polarizing male and female. This way, an individual gets to express themselves by embodying both genders in a way that is right for them.

See C'mon Out-Just Ask on p. 31



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Out of Town: Great urban Inns on a budget

By: Andrew Collins

Hotel rates have doubled and even tripled in a number of U.S. and Canadian cities over the past 15 years. It can be awfully challenging to find a decent yet affordable place to stay in a number of popular urban gay destinations. There is, however, one excellent way to save money while also enjoying a more personal experience than you're likely to at a large hotel: book a room at a gay-friendly bed-and-breakfast inn.

In many world-class cities, standard rooms at big hotels - especially those that cater to business travelers - easily command \$250 or more per night. In these destinations (i.e., New York City, Boston, San Francisco, Chicago), it's fair to call a stylish inn with rates under \$150 a bargain. Consider a charming, upscale property like Boston's gay-owned Clarendon Square Inn, a sophisticated retreat whose rooms have CD players, phones with automated voice mail, high-quality bath amenities, and in some cases a working fireplace. Rates here start at \$139, which may not sound super low - but for comparable accommodations in one of Boston's top hotels you'd easily shell out \$250 or even \$350 per night.

If you're truly looking to spend as little money as possible, staying at a bed-and-breakfast in which some or all of the rooms share baths can save you a big bundle of cash. You'll rarely find a better bargain than Washington, D.C.'s Bed and Breakfast at the William-Lewis House, which comprises a pair of neighboring late 1800s town houses replete with Oriental rugs, period-style wallpapers, and fine antiques. There's also a lush and secluded deck and yard out back with a hot tub. Rates are a generous \$69 to \$159 nightly - the only catch is that all rooms share baths (but they're extremely clean and attractive bathrooms at that).

You'll find a similarly great deal at the gay-owned Willows Inn, a 1903 Edwardian house that's steps from the trendy restaurants and gay bars in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood. For as little as \$95 nightly, you can book one of the warmly furnished rooms with Wi-Fi, TVs and VCRs, small refrigerators, private sinks, top-of-the-line bath amenities, and kimono robes. Rates also include a pleasant Continental breakfast (fresh fruit, yogurt, fresh-baked treats, and such). Just keep in mind that the 12 guest rooms share eight bathrooms. Considering the inn's loyal clientele, plenty of gay and lesbian travelers out there don't mind

the slight inconvenience.

In fact, if you're willing to go the shared-bath route, you can find some outstanding deals, among them Boston's cheerfully decorated Oasis Guesthouse (\$79 and up), which draws a mostly male clientele but also some women and straights. It's well situated, a short walk from the hip South End. Another good bet is the MacMaster House (\$105 and up), on Portland, Oregon's swank King's Hill; it has both shared and private baths, and several rooms have fireplaces.

In general, you can often expect to save money by staying at a gay-exclusive property versus one that draws a mainstream crowd and can therefore market to a far larger pool of potential travelers. In Montreal, for instance, Lindsey's Bed and Breakfast ranks among the most beautifully furnished women's inns in Canada, and yet rates range from just \$75 to \$95 Canadian, which includes a superb, creatively prepared hot breakfast. The gay-oriented La Conciergerie is another Montreal favorite - it's just a short walk from gay nightlife and has well-maintained, antiques-filled rooms and a private hot tub. Here you'll pay about \$99 to \$119 Canadian for a double with a shared bath and just \$159 for a suite with private bath.

Another good reason to choose a smaller inn over a large hotel is location - in quite a few cities it's difficult to find big hotels that are close to gay neighborhoods. In Houston, you can easily walk to the lesbian and gay bars in Montrose from the attractive and friendly Lovett Inn (\$90 and up) - whereas from just about any full-scale hotel in the city, you'll need a car to reach the neighborhood. The City Inns group in Chicago has three small, recently renovated, gay-popular boutique properties all within an easy walk of the fabulous nightlife in the city's Boystown section, an area with few hotels. Rates at these three properties - the City Suites, the Majestic, and the Willows - start around \$109 and include free Wi-Fi. Factor in all the money you save on cabs from downtown hotels, and this is a pretty nice deal.

The same goes for one of Manhattan's favorite gay/lesbian lodging options, the Chelsea Pines Inn, which occupies a classic 1850s town house right in the heart of the city's

gay epicenter. Rooms with semiprivate bath (sink and shower are in your room but the toilet is shared with several other rooms on same floor) start at \$140, while private baths begin at \$175 (but the Pines frequently offers specials with even lower rates). This is truly a steal by New York City standards. And in Seattle, you'll not find a more ideally located property than the Gaslight Inn (\$88 and up), a lovingly tended turn-of-the-century house in the ultra-hip Capitol Hill neighborhood. There's a large heated pool outside, along with space for sunning.

Of course, price aside, a perfectly good reason to consider a smaller inn or bed-and-breakfast is that, at least in some cities, these smaller properties offer the most charm. This is definitely the case in Tucson, Arizona, where most of the city's inns occupy historic adobe or Craftsman-style houses. The gay-owned Catalina Park Inn is set in a 1927 Neoclassical revival inn that blends Californian and Southwestern styles to create a sophisticated but unpretentious ambience. With rates beginning at \$136 in high season and just \$106 in the spring and fall (it's closed in the summer), the Catalina makes for an ideal retreat.

Atlanta's Gaslight Inn (no relation to the same-named Seattle property), with rates beginning at \$115, is one of that city's most stylish lodging options. The gay-owned, Craftsman-style B&B in the cosmopolitan Virginia-Highland neighborhood exudes romance, with its plush canopy beds and, in some cases, whirlpool tubs and wood-burning fireplaces. Not far from Denver's leafy Cheesman Park, the Capitol Hill Mansion (from \$114) is a stately Queen Anne Victorian on an attractive residential street. Owners Jay Hadley and Carl Schmidt serve a lavish full breakfast each morning as well as refreshments and snacks in the afternoon; guests enjoy such

pleasing amenities as free Wi-Fi and fresh flowers in every room, and gas fireplaces, whirlpool tubs, and private balconies in the top units.

New Orleans is perhaps the best example of a city that's simply ideal if you love staying in smaller, historic properties. Right in the heart of the French Quarter, a stone's throw from the city's hottest gay bars, you can find rooms beginning at just \$95 at the Bon Maison Guest House, an 1830s red-stucco town house that feels completely cloistered once you get past the entrance and sneak a peak of the delightful courtyard. And over in the city's up-and-coming Mid-City neighborhood - close to City Park and a number of great restaurants - you can snag a room for as little as \$99 in summer and \$135 during busy times at the impeccably restored 1896 O'Malley House. Rooms at this gay-owned inn are spacious and filled with stunning antiques. You won't find accommodations this beautiful at any big hotel in New Orleans, no matter what you're willing to pay.

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

Pride Marches Close to our Gayborhood!

Boston Pride; June 6-15
FMI: www.bostonpride.org/

CT Pride; June 7
FMI: www.connecticutpride.org/

New England Trans Pride; June 7
FMI: www.transpridemarch.org/

Albany Pride; June 8
FMI: www.cdglcc.org

Toronto Pride; June 20-29
FMI: www.pridetoronto.com/

NYC Pride; June 22-29
FMI: www.hopinc.org/

Pride Vermont; July 7 -13
FMI: www.pridevt.com/blog/tag/parade/



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Deep Inside Hollywood: Nicole Kidman & Sigourney Weaver



By: Romeo San Vicente

Kidman Does Dusty

The planned Dusty Springfield biopic enters its next phase: the weird "definitely maybe" land of casting announcements. Not long ago, *Pushing Daisies* regular Kristin Chenoweth was the subject of much Dusty speculation, then came confirmation, then negation. And now it's Nicole Kidman's turn. Gay novelist/screenwriter Michael Cunningham, who wrote *The Hours*, the source material for Nicole Kidman's Oscar-winning performance, is working on the untitled Springfield script, and says that Kidman will be taking the lead as the troubled 1960s bisexual pop star. Now all that has to happen is for Kidman to finish the other two films on her plate, *Nine* and *Need*. Cunningham's script to be written and then rewritten, more casting, deals to be hammered out in that official, easily broken, Hollywood

way, a production start date, and on and on. These things do take time.

Sigourney Weaver Says Prayers

Sigourney Weaver's next film project could have wound up in indie film purgatory, a place where few people outside of art-house theater audiences and cable subscribers to the Sundance Channel would see what is clearly intended as a movie for the masses. Weaver will co-produce and star in the Lifetime TV movie *Prayers for Bobby*, based on the book by Leroy Aaron. The true story revolves around devout Evangelical Christian Mary Griffith, who rejected her son Bobby's attempts to come out as gay. His subsequent depression eventually resulted in sui-

cide, causing Griffith to reach out to the gay community and, in time, become a gay-rights activist. The film will be Weaver's first made-for-TV movie, and is scheduled to air in February of 2009.

A Gay Primetime Hero

If the X-Men can be gay metaphors and make their creators tons of money, then couldn't a non-metaphoric gay superhero accomplish the same thing? If it sounds like an old plotline from *Queer as Folk*, that's because it's not far from it: *Hero*, the young adult novel from writer

Judy Garland To Be Re-Born

You can run, but you can't hide: Judy Garland is going to get you. For young gay audiences, the legendary gay icon of the mid-20th century may seem to have no relationship to the post-queer present. But that's because most of them probably haven't seen George Cukor's 1954 *A Star Is Born*—until now. Warner Bros. Motion Picture Imaging has undertaken a major digital restoration of the film at 6K (which refers to the amount of picture information, measured in pixels, the current standard of which is 2K). If it all sounds too tech-geek to understand, just think of it in these terms: preservation, legacy, and more color and detail than anyone's ever seen in this movie before, coming soon to an HD home theater or an iPhone or—if you're lucky—possibly a one-off screening at an old-fashioned movie theater near you.

* *Romeo San Vicente* is often referred to as "the man that got away." He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.



Photo by: Paramount Classics

NICOLE KIDMAN

Perry Moore (who also happens to be an exec at Walden Media and co-producer of the *Narnia* films), may soon find a home on TV. Negotiations are on, Moore has network offers, and he's begun talking to the press

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Photo by: Mike Ruiz

Paradise City Arts Festival: Metal makes the art

By J.M. Sorrell/TRT Reviewer

The weather could not have been better on Memorial Day weekend in Northampton, Massachusetts. The 3-day Paradise City Arts Festival featured artists from around the country. With infinite genres and a critical selection process, this festival gets better every time. It is held twice a year at the Three-County Fairgrounds, so if you missed this one, stay tuned for Columbus Day weekend.

The tactile and visual experiences are vast. Functional art and pieces made with existing materials (aka "recycled" items) always catch my eye. I interviewed local and out-of-state artists about the phenomenon of using old metal to make art.

Deborah Kracht (www.artheadstudio.com) is based in nearby Palmer. She describes herself as a mixed media artist. She uses found, re-claimed items and has a deep appreciation for bringing new life into old objects. Her "Fallen Angels" series incorporates words with humor and spiritual wisdom, and her art is financially accessible since the objects range in type, size and materials. The tag line is, "Not your everyday angels...But they still have something to say!" She would be a huge hit at the Michigan Women's Festival. Her use of colors and eye for re-creation are remarkable.

James Kitchen is a well-known sculptor from Chesterfield. His outdoor sculptures preceded the current lawn pieces on the Courthouse grounds in Northampton. The man has more energy than most groups of ten.

He works full-time and creates his sculptures by night. I was fortunate to be at his booth when he was informed that he won Best in Show for outdoor art. I staffed his area so he could go outside to receive the award. The piece entitled "Saturn" had to be brought in by crane. Kitchen told me that it was created with over 4,000 old tools (welded together) and it took him five years to make it. He shares Kracht's love of old, crafted metal and re-using existing items to create new art.

Connie Verrusio is a jeweler and metal worker. Twenty years ago, she visited a shop in Chinatown in New York. There she found mechanical detritus that she knew were treasures, and this kicked off her jewelry making life. She now resides in the Hudson Valley region where, as she puts it, she "re-purposes objects and makes things look like mechani-



Photo by: JM Sorrell

Saturn, brought by crane, was created with over 4,000 old tools.

cal pieces." She continued, "I have such respect for the workmanship that is missing from our lives now." She pointed out watch gears over 70 years old with the glee of a small child in discovery. I met Jeff Freeman (www.jefffreemanart.com) last fall, and I loved his work so much that I bought a light/table and a side table made from recycled aluminum with a polished concrete top. This year, we had him over for a home-cooked meal, and he in turn invited me to go to the vendors' party on Saturday night. (Ken Salem opens his home and his heart to these weary travelers for a night during each show to give the artists a chance to relax, be nurtured, and to connect outside of the hectic art show setting.)

Freeman lives near Bar Harbor in Maine, and his work is commissioned by galleries around the country. He is a character-feisty

with a big heart.

For quantity, animal lovers enjoyed the Yard Birds pieces. Two men from Louisville, Kentucky hauled hundreds of pieces in a truck and trailer for the festival. They use old auto and bike parts, rusty tools, and other used metals to create whimsical animal sculptures, including a dog jockey on a horse named Big Brown. The Kentucky Folk Art Museum sells and displays much of their art.

Some of the art is beyond the average wage earner's scale. I could not buy an \$8,000 rocking chair, but I got to sit in it, to stroke it, and to appreciate the workmanship. I did buy a junkyard dog piece from the Kentucky boys for my dad (\$29) and I splurged for a \$135 fallen angel. Most notably, I broadened my sense of what appeals to me as I learned to appreciate new things. This is why it is a great festival for children. The little ones come into the world open to art and their own possibilities as budding artists.

Linda and Geoffrey Post, the festival's organizers and founding directors, have earned their #1 (nationwide) art festival accolades from American Style magazine this year. They are innovative and open to new forms and artists all the time. The Posts have welcomed local and regional food vendors, theatre performers, and musicians to enhance the festival, and the buzz from the artists is that they are well-respected for their support and skill in the art world.

For more information, visit www.paradisecityarts.com.

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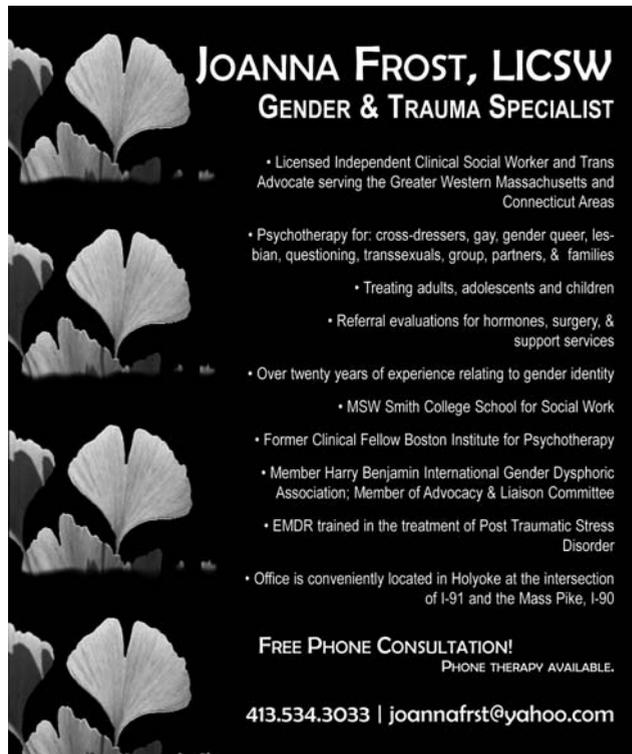
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Breaking News

Northampton's Pride & Joy store for sale, seeks buyer by summer's end

By: Nicole C. Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

Northampton's Pride & Joy, a long-time standing GLBT gift/bookstore in downtown Northampton, Mass., is officially for sale and bids are currently being accepted, according to its current owner.

"After five and a half years of ownership I feel this is a good time for me to begin a new adventure, said Mark Carmien, co-owner with husband Steve Lucas, Pride & Joy, Northampton, Mass. "I feel I've done all I originally set out to do when I bought the

store and now is a good time to turn it over to someone new. I've also decided to pursue a career I've wanted to do for a long time - help people buy and sell real estate - which is something that is best done full time without the responsibilities of owning the store."

Carmien said that hopes to sell the store by the end of the summer.

"I'm selling the inventory, furniture and equipment, logo, web site, as well as the 'good will' of 16+ years in business in the same location," said Carmien. "In addition, the lease is 'assumable' and I believe we have Northampton's best landlords. Also, I will be happy to train the new owner on how to run the store, working with our vendors, and our current record keeping practices. I'm committed to making it as smooth a transition as possible."

Carmien and Lucas bought the store in February 2003 from previous owners Karen and Beth Bellavance-Grace. Pride & Joy was pioneered by the original owner, Martha Nelson in 1992.

According to Carmien, the store is very rea-

sonably priced based on the current market trends. He also said that he and Lucas welcome in-depth discussions with anyone who is seriously interested in buying the store.

Carmien discussed the significant role that Pride & Joy will continue to have in the local community.

"Over the past 5 years, I've seen a lot of new folks moving here from larger cities and from conservative states, both to escape the expense of the cities and to come to a state where they can raise their kids, be protected by equal marriage rights, and live free of being harassed," said Carmien. "Our local community is growing rapidly and it only makes sense that the need for the services and merchandise provided by Pride & Joy will grow with it. Also, the local college LGBT community is always changing - in fact, every four years! This is a built-in customer base that Pride & Joy will serve well into the future."

Carmien said that Pride & Joy has served as a 'de-facto' community center for the LGBT community through out the years.

"I don't have any expectations for the new owner, but hope they will continue to run the store as a resource center and a 'hub' for the LGBT community in the area," said Carmien. "The store has always served in that capacity; connecting people to various organizations, promoting and sponsoring events, displaying brochures and maintaining the business and housing books. We also give donations to many local charities and are a major sponsor of the Northampton Pride celebration each year."

Carmien, a Northampton resident since 1986, has actively served the LGBT and larger mainstream community throughout his life. He was responsible for pioneering Venture Out, which ran for 14 years as a non-profit community 'outdoor activities' social group. He also served as a mentor for Pride Zone/Generation Q and has served as a board member for the LGBT Political Alliance of Western Mass., The Community Project and Northampton Pride. Carmien also served on

See *Pride & Joy* on Page 30

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The Pub
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Springfield, MA

MB
40 Grafton Street
Worcester, MA

Sin City
350 Worthington Street
Springfield, MA

Connecticut

Triangles
66 Sugar Hollow Road
Danbury, Connecticut

Chez Est
458 Wethersfield Ave.
Hartford, CT

Polo Club

678 Maple Avenue
Hartford, CT

168 York Street Cafe
168 York Street
New Haven, CT

Bar
254 Crown Street
New Haven, CT

Gotham Citi Cafe
Church & Crown Streets
New Haven, CT

Partners Cafe
365 Crown Street
New Haven, CT

New York Clubs

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Albany, NY

Club Phoenix
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Albany, NY

Joey's Bar
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Oh Bar
304 Lark Street,
Albany, NY

Fuze Box Bar
12 Central Avenue,
Albany, NY

Queer Cinema You Can't Miss!

Girls Rock! (LG&T)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not rated
Director: Parvez Sharma
Distributor: First Line Features

Release Date: 05/21/08

Notes: Premiered at 2007 Toronto Film Festival
Synopsis: A Jihad for Love is the first-ever feature-length documentary to explore the complex global intersections of Islam and homosexuality. With unprecedented access and depth, Sharma brings to light the hidden lives of gay and lesbian Muslims from countries like Iran, Pakistan, Egypt, Turkey, France, India, and South Africa.

You Don't Mess with the Zohan (Gay)

Genre: Comedy; Rating: Not yet rated
Director: Dennis Dugan
Starring: Adam Sandler, Emmanuelle Chriqui, Rob Schneider, Alec Mapa
Release Date: 06/06/08
Synopsis: Zohan (Sandler) is an Israeli soldier who

decides to start a new life in New York as a hairstylist. He falls for Dalia (Chriqui), his salon owner, and befriends his gay-coworker, played by actor Alec Mapa.

Vicky Christina Barcelona (B)

Genre: Comedy, Drama, Romance
Content: B
Director: Woody Allen
Distributor: The Weinstein Company
Starring: Scarlett Johansson, Penelope Cruz, Javier Bardem, Patricia Clarkson, Rebecca Hall, Kevin Dunn and Chris Messina
Status: to be released in Spain fall 2008 before coming to the United States
Release Date: 09/05/08
Synopsis: A painter (Bardem) enters a relationship with two American tourists (Johansson, Hall). Conflict ensues when the painter's jealous ex-wife (Cruz) returns to Barcelona, but she finds herself drawn instead to one of the women.

Marriage from Page 2

University College sums it up this way: "The rational for why a woman's sex drive declines may be down to supply and demand. If something is in infinite supply, the perceived value would drop."

Well, that bites. Come on... haven't they invented a pill for this yet? Pharmaceutical companies are always itching to come out with a "Just One More Thing You Have Wrong With You That We'll Say Cures You As Long As You Buy Our Pill" kinda thing. Where are the researchers to help women get a little more Snickerdoodle Pie?

You don't hear too many people admitting they've had trouble in the bedroom, but just look at the erectile dysfunction ads. What a PR job they did on that! Why, it almost looks like a great good time to be stuck (Or is that struck?) with an erection for 12 hours or so!

I don't think marriage is the primary culprit here, although marriage does change the energy between two beings. The "chase" is gone, the "dream" finalized. And isn't that the most thrilling part to most people? In fact, isn't that what makes affairs so attractive? (Bad. Bad

Kitty, for even thinking that. Where's my gay spanking?)

Ten months ago, British pop star Pete Burns was the latest celebrity to marry his male partner. Burns, previously married to a woman for 28 years, is now splitting with his male lover, stating gay relationships were a "commercial break" compared with the "full movie" of (straight) marriage. He also thought promiscuity was much too prevalent in the gay world to make unions meaningful.

Just a commercial break? That's ... what? 5 minutes? Longer than the relationship some men have with their right hands, if you get right down to it. And these days, most commercials do add up being longer than the shows themselves!

Royally, since we're speaking of the Brits.

How dare someone attack my ability to have a meaningful relationship, just because they didn't share the same experience? (And P.S. I tend to think of my life more as a drive-in theater, with the moonlight shining down, complete with a big screen, surround sound and a bunch of friends all huddled around with their families, waiting to see just how this double feature ends! "Lights! Action! Camera! We're rolling!")

Because it seems that there's something truly magical afoot out there... in Canada, Massachusetts, Vermont, Amsterdam, and now New York. And so many other states with civil unions and domestic partnership. It seems clear that there are plenty of people eager to sign up for that "full movie" Pete Burns decided he himself wasn't capable of watching all the way through.

But I'll take some popcorn and a large root beer with that, thank you. And lots and lots of dessert afterwards.

* Suzan Ambrose can be heard on her call-in talk radio program, *The Naked Truth*, Mondays at 8 pm, and Tuesdays at 2 a.m., on 103.3FM, Northampton, or on via the web at: www.valleyfreeradio.org. For more of Suz's thoughts, check out: www.nakedtruthshow.com Got feed-back? suz@nakedtruthshow.com

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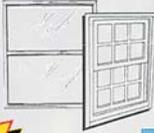
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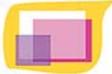
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CT PRIDE 2008 ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP

HOSTED BY:

BARBRA SEVILLE

Barbra Seville is one of Arizona's most recognized entertainers, as a former Miss Gay Phoenix-America (1996), Miss Gay Arizona-America (2000), and Miss Gay Arizona USofA (2007/2008). She is as known for her commitment to community as her quick wit and trademark mountain of blonde hair, she was recently crowned Arizona's Entertainer of the Year 2008.

A seven time winner of Echo Magazine Readers' Choice Award for Favorite Female impersonator, Barbra (aka Richard Stevens) is a 35 year old gemini, who enjoys politics, drag, drag politics, and biographies.

She judges, emcees, and performs at pageants, festivals, and events across the country and is thrilled to return to CT for her 4th appearance. She hearts Bryan Cousins and everyone at the Chez Est!



PERFORMANCES BY:



stage with Natalie Merchant, the Go-Go's, REO Speedwagon, Antigone Rising, and Van Zant.

Carrie is well versed to perform solo with just her acoustic guitar or lead a full accompaniment of musicians. She has an innate ability to read the crowd and move them with her unique style and charisma, her energy on stage is hard to ignore.

In 2003, Carrie teamed up with Grammy winning producer/engineer Peter Moshay, and producer/engineer Matthew Russo to record *Modern Day Gypsy*. With her wide-ranging vocals and the raw emotions of her lyrics, her dedication to self-improvement was more than apparent on this CD.

In 2007, Carrie collaborated with award winning musician/producer Kevin Hupp, President of Kevco Music Group, LLC and the owner of the Groove Room Recording Studio in Brewster, NY to write and produce by far her best work to date. From the opening title track Truth Is to the soaring ballad I Wish It Would Rain, Carrie's music takes the listener on an incredible musical journey. The power rock influences in the infectious, hard rocking *Can't Stop* leaves them breathless and wanting more. This record has something for everyone, proving Carrie to be a formidable competitor in the national music arena.

She cites her musical influences as Joan Jett, Suzi Quatro, and Melissa Etheridge among others. "Music for me is like breathing, and I feel that with this record I'm able to convey the emotion I feel when I sing. Working with such amazing artists has really broadened my musical horizons, and I feel like "truth is" definitely shows that."

CARRIE ASHTON

Carrie Ashton's passion for music has been long standing. She began performing at local and regional talent competitions at the age of thirteen and has never looked back. She has been performing professionally for over twelve years, perfecting a stage show that is unpretentious and captivating. She is currently performing in top showcase rooms in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, has appeared as a featured guest on several college campuses throughout New England, and has shared the



MEGA HIT RECORDING ARTIST ABIGAIL

Abigail is back and she is hotter than ever on the 10th Year Anniversary of *Let the Joy Rise*, one of the biggest dance club anthems to ever hit the nation.

Abigail has been described as "a devastating diva with a difference" since she released *I Feel You* on All Around The World Records in 1992. *Could It Be Magic*, on Klone Records, shortly followed and debuted at #1 on the U.K. NRG chart. After a taste of success, Abigail released a cover of K.D. Lang's *Constant Craving*. This was her foray into the American dance scene. The single was so big that the import was #1 on Dance Music Authority's 'Hi-NRG' International Chart for 19 weeks. Her next release, a cover of REM's *Losing My Religion* brought Abigail additional critical acclaim in ten countries and firmly established her as a Hi-NRG dance artist in America.

Following the cover song route, she then released the dance version of Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit*. The single reached #29 on the UK national charts and peaked at number 2 on D.M.A.'s 'Hi-NRG' Chart.

Abigail released her debut album *Feel Good* on Klone records and soon earned awards for Best New Artist, Best Newcomer and Best Female Vocalist. In 1998, Abigail signed to Interhit Records in Los Angeles and began working with producers Chris Cox and Barry Harris who had just formed the legendary remix team, *Thunderpuss*. Their first collaboration, *Let The Joy Rise*, co-written by Janice Robinson (*Livin' Joy*) is still a huge circuit anthem.

Abigail moved to *Strictly Rhythm Records* and followed up with a second *Thunderpuss* production - *If It Don't Fit*, which reached #1 on the Billboard Club Play Chart. Abigail's next Billboard #1 came shortly after when *You Set Me Free* soared to the top spot.

Abigail's latest release is a featured vocal performance on *Lay Down* with production team *10 Monkeys*. Remixers featured are Hex Hector, DJ Tracy Young and Josh Harris.

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CT PRIDE 2008 ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP

MORE PERFORMANCES BY:

SHADED SOUL

Shaded Soul is a high-energy 9-piece band that has been established since 1985 by owner/keyboard player Renee Prescott. The unique vocal stylings and dynamic stage presence of our lead vocalists Bobby Davis, Patricia Thompson and Carlos Carrion captivate audiences and keep the dance floor filled all night long. Shaded Soul has one of the hottest rhythm sections in New England consisting of Bob Hill on drums, Tom Perrone on lead guitar, and Dave Laport on bass guitar, laying down a funky groove to artists like Marvin Gaye, The Commodores, Patti LaBelle, and Alicia Keys. Last but not least is our "Funktified" horn section with Jonathan Hand on trumpet and Bill Rude playing tenor and alto sax throwing down horn lines from Earth Wind & Fire, Average White Band, and James Brown.



Shaded Soul is known all over New England for our stage show and versatility in musical styles ranging from the 40's big band music to the top 40 of today. Shaded Soul has been the opening band for The Four Tops, Howie Mandel, Three Dog Night, Mario, Alicia Bridges, and Sister Sledge. We are also active in the community doing benefit and charity work with the following organizations: Hartford Riverfront Recapture, Nutmeg Big Brothers/Big Sisters, American

Cancer Society, Mercy Housing and Shelter, MDA, UConn Health Center Pediatric HIV program, just to name a few.

Audiences say "Their energy is pure", "Everybody from my Grandparents to my little kids enjoyed their performance", "Amazing & fun to watch", "We give them a triple A+!"

TOMAS



Tomas has been working almost non-stop since 1991. Beginning as an actor and choreographer, Tomas traveled the US in touring productions as well as performed Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway.

In 1996, Tomas began Tomasian Ent! as a vehicle to promote his musical, theatrical and choreographed endeavors. He traveled the US doing shows in clubs, at colleges and for corporations and developed a reputation as a diverse and multi-faceted artist.

Musically, Tomas has been compared to Prince as he writes, produces, and performs all his own music. By combining powerful pop vocals with a story telling lyrical style all served over infectious dance floor grooves, Tomas' music moves your body as well as your mind.

SWEET

Original songwriters, musicians, and performers "Sweet", embrace a modern rock-based acoustic sound featuring sincere lyrics and passionate vocal performances. The band has created a sound of their own, complimented by the ability to capture the spotlight as true performers.

"Sweet" can be heard at a variety of venues featuring their acoustic, modern rock sound. The band is versatile in their ability to offer audiences a mix of popular rock favorites along with emotionally infused original music. Ready to seize the spotlight, "Sweet" will entertain any crowd.



ARLENE WOW!

ArleneWow! "wowed" everyone at Pride last year. When her dynamic set was finished, she jumped right in and helped out, pouring beer in the Beer Garden and assisting the Pride committee in any way she could.

ArleneWow! is an affable, natural performer with signature vocals. Born and raised in New Haven Connecticut, *ArleneWow!* has performed with many local groups such as *Milk*, *The Unexpected*, *Vertigo* and *Little Queen "The Ultimate Heart Tribute"*. She has released self

titled CDs with *Milk* as well with *The Unexpected*.

ArleneWow! is now a solo artist and performs in the tri-state area. Her debut CD "The Red is Becoming" has brought her immediate recognition and notoriety among fans and fellow musicians alike. "The Red is Becoming" is quite possibly one of the most beautiful debuts this year. Each song takes the listener on a journey of varied dimensions while maintaining a flow that fills the heart and gently soothes the mind. *ArleneWow!* has a signature voice and poignant lyrics that attract fans from many genres of music.

LEAST COMPLICATED



These friends have a passion for making music and decided to collaborate together recently to perform songs from all three favorite artists.

These girls can really harmonize well together and they have been



inspired by many artists, in particular, the *Indigo Girls*, *Sarah McLachlan*, *Shaw-Blades*, *The Waifs* and *Heart*. Least Complicated is an acoustic rock duo, with Michelle on guitar and vocals and Janet on Lead vocals.

JEN TAYLOR

Original songwriter, musician, and performer Jennifer Taylor, embraces a modern rock-based acoustic sound featuring sincere lyrics and passionate vocal performances. With two original full-length recordings and a third with an anticipated Fall 2008 release, Jennifer has created a sound of her own, complimented by her ability to capture the spotlight as a true performer.

Playing nearly 200 shows per year across the Northeast, Jennifer can be heard at a variety of venues featuring her acoustic, modern rock sound. Whether solo, with her band Sweet or with duo Carrie Ashton, Jennifer offers audiences a mix of popular rock favorites and emotionally infused original music.

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Queer Justice: Buying a house

Dear Queer Justice:

My wife and I were trying to buy a house. After making an offer the buyer accepted the offer but then "changed" their minds and refused to go forward. What can we do?

—Beth, Southampton

Dear Beth:

First I would like to make a correct to last month's column. I neglected to tell my readers that Living Wills are not valid under Massachusetts law. So if you want to make sure your wishes are granted, and you live in Massachusetts you should execute a Healthcare Proxy.

Ok, Beth, your situation is unfortunate, albeit not uncommon. The short answer is you may be able to sue the owners and force them to sell you the house. Lucky for you, when the purchase of land is concerned, "specific performance" is a remedy you can seek. What this means is that if you choose, you can sue the owners of the house to honor their promise. This remedy can only be sought when the purchase of land is concerned.

My first question would be though, after the acceptance of your offer, did both parties sign a purchase and sale agreement? If a purchase and sale agreement was not signed then technically the offer to buy and the acceptance of that offer constitutes a verbal contract.

A purchase and sale agreement is a written contract which governs the conditions and terms of the sale of the home. As long as the purchase and sale agreement is not contingent upon the occurrence of a separate act (i.e.: the



ATTY. JENNIFER DEXTER

purchase of the new home is contingent upon the sale of your home) giving the buyer an easy out, the contract should control (meaning both parties are bound by the terms) and the purchase of your new home should happen. You might have to file a lawsuit asking for specific performance though. If this is the case, you should consult a real estate attorney of advice.

If the purchase and sale agreement was not signed and all you had was a verbal contract your situation is a bit more difficult. Albeit under the law you have a contract, it is more difficult to prove your case. Again you should consult a real estate attorney for advice. Good Luck!

**Attorney Jennifer L. Dexter earned a B.A. in Psychology from The University of Central Florida. She moved to Massachusetts to attend law school at The Western New England College of Law in Springfield, Mass. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and has a Solo General Practice in the Pioneer Valley Area. The information contained herein is intended for educational purposes only and does not represent legal advice. Should you need legal advice, please contact an attorney. If you have legal questions that are unanswered, send your questions to: queerjustice@comcast.net*

Q Puzzle: "Opened Marriage"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15				16					17				
18			19					20					
21					22				23				
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30				31	32				33	34			
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51				52	53				54	55			
	56		57		58				59	60			
61				62					63				
64						65					66		
67						68					69		

Across

- 1 It might go right to the bottom
- 5 Cut down to size
- 10 Ancient erection
- 15 Barbra's *Funny Girl* guy
- 16 Olympic award for Louganis
- 17 Candy in stockings
- 18 Marriage is one of these, per 37-Across
- 21 Atlas blow-up
- 22 Rent sign
- 23 *American Beauty* director Mendes
- 24 Decks out
- 26 Apple tool
- 28 Composer Rorem
- 30 Give some lip to
- 31 Long in the tooth
- 33 "That's a wrap!"
- 35 It shouldn't come before the horse
- 36 Foucault's farewells
- 37 Body that made the ruling of this puzzle's theme
- 42 Uncut
- 43 Bard's river
- 44 Peter the Great, and more
- 45 Whale finder
- 47 *Frasier* actress Gilpin
- 51 Oral input
- 52 Eat away at
- 54 Master Bates
- 56 Your, to Proust
- 58 Alaskan tongue
- 60 Police actions at Stonewall and other bars
- 61 1967 ruling of this puzzle's theme
- 64 Cleis ____
- 65 Gay former NFL player Tualo
- 66 Shakespeare's "anon" updated
- 67 Neighbor of the land of the cut
- 68 Looked straight in the eye, say
- 69 Language of Wilde's land

Down

- 1 Reid pseudonym
- 2 Bearse of *Married ... with Children*
- 3 Gay rodeo accessories
- 4 411 sources of old
- 5 Where to see a Sharon Stone movie, perhaps
- 6 "____ ever so humble ..."
- 7 Family news magazine
- 8 Person in the Navy
- 9 Queen of mysteries
- 10 ____-fi (Samuel Delany's field)
- 11 Puts out, like Billy Bean
- 12 Viagra, e.g.
- 13 Cry from the closet
- 14 You can't be straight or lesbian without this
- 19 Cigarette pkg.
- 20 1 from Ogunquit to Boston
- 25 What Muscle Marys get into?
- 27 Hazard to your family's home
- 29 Article used by Marlene Dietrich
- 32 Bruin Bobby
- 34 Lucy of *Charlie's Angels*
- 35 Use the Divine Miss M's name in vain?
- 36 Nut from Oak Lawn
- 37 Leaving a bad taste in the mouth
- 38 Spend the night
- 39 What one becomes after kneeling before a queen
- 40 Jockey
- 41 NASA outing
- 42 They could come from Uranus
- 45 Got to the bottom of
- 46 Ukrainian seaport
- 47 Shower with kind words
- 48 Key of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5
- 49 Cockpit needs
- 50 Nuts
- 53 This publication, to detractors
- 55 NGLTF or HRC, e.g.
- 57 Emphatic affirmative, to Frida
- 59 Rubber on a rim
- 61 Treasured Garland disks
- 62 Crack code-cracking org.

Solution of Puzzle on Page 27

- VERMONT'S GLBT LIBERATION SHORT FILMS FEST -

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Northampton Pride: Successfully marched with Pride

By: Lindsay WilsonTRT Reporter

On Saturday May 5, an estimated 7,500 people braved unseasonably cold weather to attend Northampton's 27th annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride March and Rally.

The march began at Lampron Park and ended at the Armory Street parking lot, behind Thomes Market, where the rally began. The event was emceed by Suzan Ambrose, radio talk show host of "The Naked Truth" and included appearances by The Wicked Queeah Band, Lipstick and Dipstick, Jesse Molina, Rachel Maddow, Kristen Price, and Brian Kent. The event's main sponsors were *The Rainbow Times*, *Baystate Health* and *Web-Tactics*.

This year's theme, "Vote with Pride," was visible in the (cardboard) forms of the two democratic candidates, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. For a \$5 donation, pride goers were photographed with the two presidential hopefuls.

Northampton Pride Chair, Melinda Shaw was just glad that it wasn't raining and commented on the importance of volunteering for Pride.

"Every year it's a small group of volunteers and we really could use a lot more people. If everybody gave just an hour of a four hour shift or two hours out of their time here at Pride we would really be able to make this thing function smoothly," said Shaw. "So, considering the number of people here, we could use a whole lot more community partic-



Al & Kathy Blanchard at NoHo Pride with son Danny. Photo by: Lindsay Wilson

ipation."

Northampton's Mayor Claire Higgins called Pride "another great year."

"I think it affirms the diversity of this community and the acceptance of this community of a wide variety of people," said the Mayor. "I'm glad they're enjoying Northampton and I hope folks come back for more than just Pride."

Lipstick and Dipstick, the advice columnists who were voted the #1 column in *CURVE* magazine, made an appearance at Pride as part of publicity for their new book, "Lipstick & Dipstick's Essential Guide to Lesbian Relationships."

Lipstick, (Gina Daggett) said she believes events like Pride are important for a lot of reasons.

"It's really important just building a really strong community spirit and just celebrating - most importantly, celebrating together. Everyone [here] is really nice. They are not

always that nice," she said.

"It's great for the people who are out to come out and to celebrate who they are and to have a safe place to see other queer people who they may not see in their everyday life and for those people who aren't out," said Dipstick (Kathy Belge).

Al and Kathy Blanchard, core members of "Always our children," a support group for LGBT people and their friends and families, marched in the parade in support of their son, Danny.



Lord Russ performed at NoHo Pride on May 3rd. Photo by: Barbara Allen

CineSlam, Vermont's 3rd Annual Gay Film Festival is part of June Pride

This year's 3rd annual Gay Film Festival in southern Vermont has consolidated itself into a shorts film festival. Sponsored by the Kopkind Colony and scheduled to screen in the Organ Barn in Guilford on Saturday June 14th, this all day event is being programmed by local filmmaker, John Scagliotti, who has a number of films coming in from around the country. However Scagliotti is trying to emphasize locally produced films too.

Scagliotti explains the change of format "as the reality of living in a rural community." "We noticed that our short film sessions had many more people, especially those with local filmmakers and themes. So we dropped the longer feature films, which are harder for filmmakers to bring into a smaller community like southern Vermont. And with the growth of Internet sites like 'You Tube', short films have become very popular," he said.

This year's local entries include Dave Hall's *Stomach=Heart*, a delicious look at how food in the form of the "potluck dinner" has brought hundreds of guys together for the Men's Program, an outreach preventative group run by the Southern Vermont AIDS Project. CineSlam will present the world premiere of *Diversity Dance*, where local video makers

June Millington and Linq rock out the community. There will also be a rap up of the first New England Transgender March screened.

From further a field comes *Joe Wilson's We Belong*, the story of a rural teen that has the courage to stand up to bigotry in his school and director Yun Suh presents *Freedom on the Rocks* that follows the intersecting lives of Israeli and Palestinian patrons at Jerusalem's only gay bar.

The *CineSlam* festival is being broken down into three sessions of shorts with the first film being presented at 11a.m. The registration table at Tree Frog Farm opens at 10 a.m. and the ticket for the day includes a BBQ meal and ends with a classic 70's Tea Dance in the Barn with Guilford DJ Buck. The winner of the Best Short Film will receive the Chessie Award, named after the Chessie Foundation, which is supporting the festival, and will receive a cash prize of \$750.

There is limited seating in the Organ Barn, so it is advised to make reservations and get directions by contacting John Scagliotti at stoneval@sovernet.net (Ticket Price is \$10/person for adults over 18 only and includes a BBQ dinner and Classic Tea Dance). For more information please visit: www.cineslam.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(NY) **Capital District Prime Timers**; Provides social, cultural, and recreational opportunities for mature gay and bisexual men, 21+. FMI: jallsn2@nycap.rr.com or CDPT 595 New Loudon Rd #202 Latham NY 12110

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

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

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

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

FMI: 518-462-6138.

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

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

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

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

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

(MA) **EAST COAST FEMALE-TO-MALE GROUP (ECFTMG)**; 2nd Sunday of every month from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. FMI: 413.584.7616 or email: betpower@yahoo.com. FTMs or SOFFAs who have never come to one of the meetings should call and introduce themselves to Bet before attending. Meetings are open to ALL masculine-identified, female-born persons, our significant others, family, and allies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(CT) **RainbowRoom** is open every Sunday from 3:00pm-6:00pm and is located at 1841 Broad St., Hartford. RainbowRoom is an affirming and safe place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning teens and young adults 13 to 21.

(MA) The Men's Resource Center offers a weekly drop-in support group for gay/bisexual/questioning and gay/bi-identified transgendered men every Monday from 7-9 pm in our center at 236 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst. It is facilitated by trained volunteer facilitators. A donation of \$5 or more is requested. FMI: 413-253-9887 x33;

www.mrcforchange.org.

(VT) June 6; **QUEER TALES** - An LGBTQ Literary Evening: 7-9 pm, Hooker Dunham Theater, Main Street, Brattleboro VT, \$5 donation. Five Brattleboro-area LGBTQ authors and poets read their work. Suzanne D'Corsey, Walter Kathan, Dolores Kiaich, Lynn Martin, and Alexander Potter will read. Limited seating. Call Alex at 254-4444. Reservations will be held until 6:45pm. All seats \$5 donation. Refreshments will be available. Not a Men's Program event.

(NY) June 6; Romaine Brooks Art Gallery Opening - First Friday featuring: The PRIDE Show! 5-9pm; @ Romaine Brooks Art Gallery @ CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Ave., Albany; FMI Michael at RBG@cdglcc.org.

(MA) June 7; First New England Transgender Pride March; Downtown Northampton; Armory Street parking lot, Northampton, MA. FMI: www.transpriedemarch.org BSCC plans to meet at Allendale and carpool to the Parade. FMI: 413-822-7268.

(MA) June 7; Simply Tifani Presents Gay Pride Celebration RuPaul Live Only @ The Hippodrome; 1700 Main St., Springfield, MA. DJ Frank Nitty. Doors Open at 9-til 2 am. Tickets \$25 at all FYE Locations, more at the door. 18 to party, 21 to drink. FMI: hdrome.com or 860-416-1224.

(MA) June 7; Transgender Rights Reception; 5-8 00 pm; join Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defender to celebrate the launch of GLAD's new Transgender Rights Project. Meet friends and allies and GLAD Senior Attorney Jennifer Levi. Free. RSVP to jcooley@glad.org.

(MA) June 7 & June 21st; **Springfield Invasion**; Are you Afraid Yet? Join us for our interactive demos, if you are man enough! Come and experience what everyone is talking about! The Pub @ 382 Dwight St. FMI: 413-734-8123.

(VT) June 7; **BIKE & BBQ**: 11am and 2pm, Brad Banks' place in Peterborough NH. An easy rails-to-trails bike ride (road bikes okay) along an improved bike path which follows the lovely Contocook River. Followed by Brad's popular gay BBQ on his serene 10 acres with pool, hot tub, lawn games, and bonfire! This event is attended by various members of the NH Gay Men's Chorus, the Men's Program, Gayoutdoors.org and Chiltern Mountain Club. The ride starts at 11:00am. Ride ends about 1:30pm. The BBQ "starts" at 2:00. No official ending time. Bring along something for the grill, or a dish to share. FMI: goldwolf@surglobal.net

(NY) June 8; **Capital Pride 2008**; Parade and Festival; 12noon-5pm, Rain or Shine; Join Capital Pride in Washington Park in Albany once again for this exciting annual event! More info soon so save the date! FMI: www.cdglcc.org/capride.htm

(MA) June 8; **LGBTQ tea dance** (with optional lesson) at Dance Northampton; Second Sunday of every month; 3-6 pm; \$8 (includes lesson at 3:00). FMI: (413) 586-2422.

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

(MA) June 9; Taste of the Nation: No Child Hungry; 6:00pm - 10:00 pm; 116 Pleasant Street Eastworks Building; Easthampton, MA 01027. General Admission - \$75; VIP Admission - \$100. FMI: 877-26-TASTE.

(VT) June 11; **NEIGHBOR NIGHT**; Doors open at 5pm, the Ceilidh House, Westmoreland NH. The Pub is not normally open on Wednesdays, so this is a private event for the gay community and allies. Doors open at 5pm, DJ music begins at 7:30pm, and the pub will be open until midnight.

Not a Men's Program event.

(MA) June 13-15; Taste of Amherst; FMI: www.amherstarea.com

(VT) June 14; **CINESLAM**: Vermont's GLBT Liberation Short Films Fest, 11am, Tree Frog Farm, Guilford VT. BBQ and Tea Dance to follow. CineSLAM will be a great day of short films, followed by a BBQ and Tea Dance. Go check out Dave Hall's film about the Men's Program and potlucks! Seating is limited. Tickets are \$10. We expect this event will sell-out, so reservations are required. FMI: stonewall@sover.net or www.cineslam.com.

(VT) June 15; **TRANSGENER SUPPORT**: 5:30 - 8:30pm; Meeting in Brattleboro the third Sunday of every month. Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary, including transpeople of all sexual orientations/identities. Not a Men's Program event. FMI contact Benjamin Robin: robin@benjaminrobin.net

(MA) June 19; **AFTER-WORK HIKE**: 6:00 pm; Kennedy Park, Lenox, MA. Meet at the parking lot, West Dugway Road (north of the Arcadian Shop). All are welcome. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes.

(VT) June 19; **BOOK CLUB**: 7pm, at the Menspace. The June book is **HOUSECLEANING**, by Dan Boyle, which is available in paperback and has had great reviews. FMI: Curtis, 802-254-2400.

(VT) June 20; **SPIRITUALITY**: 6:30pm, the Menspace. This month, we'll be watching Groundhog Day, then discussing. All welcome. Please bring an open mind and respect for all approaches.

(NY) June 21; 2nd Annual Black and Latino Gay Pride Celebration hosted by In Our Own Voices: The celebration will take place from 9:00am - 5:00pm; venue for the after party will be announced very soon. FMI: Jason at (518) 432-4188.

(VT) June 21; **Pride event; SOLSTICE CRUISE**: 5-8pm, Harriman Reservoir, Wilmington VT. Once again, this is a joint effort between Queer Community Project and Bennington Pride. \$15 reservation in advance. FMI: Lindsay at 802-376-3792 or lindsay@sover.net to make your reservation. If the \$15 presents a financial hardship, contact Lindsay. We will gather on the boat dock at 4:45pm, please be on time! Not a Men's Program event.

(MA) June 21; **What's Next for Me as a GLBT Person?** Free workshop for anyone who wants to fully claim his/her own personal gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered identity. 10am to noon, Men's Resource Center, 236 N. Pleasant St, Amherst. To pre-register contact Allan at allan.arnaboldi@mrcforchange.org or call (413) 387-9930.

(VT) June 22; **SUMMER POTLUCK BEACH PARTY TEA DANCE**: 1-7pm, Chris Holman's in Fitzwilliam NH. Chris Holman is hosting a summer Potluck Beach Party Tea Dance at Rockwood Pond. Bring bathing suits, towels, warm dry clothes, and your favorite dish. FMI: chholman@hotmail.com or call him at 603-852-6185.

(VT) June 27; **PRIDE DANCE**: A Dance Party for the GLBTQ Community, 9pm - 1am, American Legion Hall, Main Street, Brattleboro. \$5 entry, cash bar, great raffle prizes. Brought to you by the Men's Program and the Queer Community Project.

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

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

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

Lesbian Notions: Pride in numbers, or is it all a hoax?



By: Libby Post

I've always taken solace in Kinsey's finding that we make up 10 percent of the population. I like being part of a double-digit community. Somehow, 10 percent makes us seem much more substantial than five or eight.

So, when I read *Findings from the Hunter College Poll of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals: New Discoveries about Identity, Political Attitudes and Civic Engagement*, I was, to say the least, a little shocked to see that the study reduces us to 2.9 percent.

I thought to myself, "This can't be right." So I called up Ken Sherrill, one of the study's authors and a professor of political science at The City University of New York's Hunter College, and asked, "What happened to 10 percent?"

"Ten percent, to whatever degree that was accurate, was based on behavior, not identity," said Sherrill. "It's one thing to have same-sex experiences, but another to think of yourself as lesbian, gay, or bisexual."

Oh, right, there are those folks who like messing around with people of the same sex, but then don't come crashing out of the closet. I keep forgetting about them, because coming out for me forged my political and social

identity as a lesbian so indelibly that I can't even fathom separating sex and sexual identity. Clearly, I'm in the minority of our minority.

According to the study, of the 2.9 percent who identify as L, G, or B, there's a 50/50 split between women and men. But two-thirds of those who say they identify as a lesbian or gay man are men (we're not talking honorary lesbian status for supportive gay men—we're talking about all the people, both men and women, who said they were lesbian or gay).

Conversely—and for me, this is quite disappointing—two-thirds of those that consider themselves bisexual are women. I hate to see lesbians lose any market share whatsoever.

Thankfully, very few of the 2.9 percent want to change their sexual orientation, but, according to the study, "a great many LGBs do not feel a strong sense of shared fate with other lesbians, gays, and bisexuals." For instance, only 29 percent think that their membership in the LGB community is "an important reflection of who I am."

"What we should all recognize," Sherrill told me, "is that everyone has multiple identities, because identifying in terms of sexual orientation doesn't get transmitted in the home. It's an identity that comes later in life. We still have our professional lives, we have all kinds of sources of identity. In terms of

rational calculus, [sexual orientation identification] may not be the most important thing in people's worlds."

Honestly, I find that really sad. I've always thought of myself as part of a vibrant community. It was great to be on the media truck for the 1987 March on Washington, and to look down the street to see a sea of lesbians and gays marching for our rights. It was wonderful to be part of the million who converged on our nation's capital in 2000. To think that a good portion of our community doesn't feel like we're all in this together is a sad commentary on the effectiveness of our organizations, from local community centers to the national groups.

It's no wonder we're still struggling for some bread crumbs of legal rights. Despite our best efforts, we still aren't coming together as a strong, united voice. That's a wake-up call for all of us. We need to build more bridges within the diverse subsets of our community so that we can one day speak with one voice and demand the rights and responsibilities we deserve.

The study was not all doom and gloom, however. It found that we're younger than the average American and more highly educated. It also found that we're more likely to consider ourselves Democrats and liberals, and that we're more interested in political and public affairs than the rest of America.

"Our data indicate that our respondents are much more liberal right across the board on a

whole range of issues that have absolutely nothing to do with being lesbian or gay," said Sherrill. "We're talking about issues like opposing the war, protecting the environment—even if it costs jobs—and favoring government spending to protect minorities."

OK, so we don't feel connected, but we do like politics. That's a good thing. Now, if we could only connect the dots and get our community politically involved fighting for our own rights!

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

Q Puzzle Solution from P. 23

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NY State backs same-sex unions from CA, MA & Canada

NEW YORK—The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center last week issued the following statement concerning New York State Governor David Paterson's action to order all State agencies to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions:

The Center's Executive Director, Richard Burns, explained, "Governor Paterson has proven himself once again to be a true ally to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and to our families. As we await New York State's pending legislation legalizing same sex marriages, I want to thank Governor Paterson on this bold move. Changing policies among state agencies is a giant step forward in recognizing that LGBT people are raising children and forming families that need the support and protection of the state."

"Governor Paterson's announcement today directs all state agencies to begin to revise their policies and regulations to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions," continued Burns. "This directive will make a significant difference in our community's ability to access legal protections in recognition of our families. As same-sex couples struggle

to access the same rights and responsibilities as straight married couples in New York State, this acknowledgement by our governor is a tremendous show of support for our civil right. These revisions will likely involve as many as 1,300 statutes and regulations in New York governing everything from joint filing of income tax returns to transferring fishing licenses between spouses," concluded Burns.

The Center is the heart and the hub of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) society in New York City, and this change in policy among the state's agencies will have a dramatic effect on the wellbeing of thousands of couples who are waiting to legalize their unions.

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QReviews

Camp David: Many hats worn by 27-year-old Dante's Cove star

By: **Mikey Rox***/TRT Special

As Toby Moraitis, the love-scorned central character on here! TV's Dante's Cove, Charlie David fights the magical manifestations of Tresum, an ancient religion practiced by witches and warlocks.

But in real life, the multitalented entertainer faces even darker forces - trying to make it as an out actor in a peculiar place called Hollywood.

In a recent interview, David discusses this dubious distinction - from his beginnings in a Canadian boy band, to making the decision to publicly declare his sexuality, to landing the starring role on his popular—if not über—campy—supernatural show, season three of which is available June 3 on DVD.

And, no, homo-sex spells are not included. **MIKEY ROX:** You were once a member of a Canadian boy band called 4Now, which opened for Destiny's Child, Black Eyed Peas and P!nk. Obviously the band was somewhat successful to land those gigs. Given that success, was there pressure from people behind-the-scenes to stay in the closet to maintain a certain image for your fan base?

CHARLIE DAVID: I always feel like the experience of being in the band happened in a different life. It seems so remote and foreign to me now. We did have a great time and it allowed me to stretch myself creatively in different ways, but music for me is an enjoyable pastime; not my passion. Our sexuality was never discussed with our team, but there were definitely strong hints that we should appear single and available—which really translated to

CHARLIE DAVID

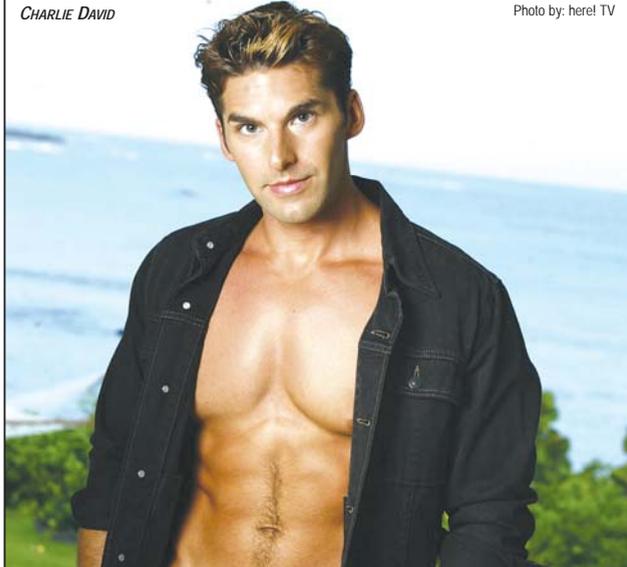


Photo by: here! TV

no relationships or dating of any kind—whether boys or girls. The straight guys in the band suffered just as much as me. I mean, come on, we were 19 years old, living in Las Vegas with a lot of testosterone pumping through us.

Boys have to be boys, and when you deny them that, the obvious end is implosion.

MR: What prompted your decision to publicly come out in 2005?

CD: I had just been offered Dante's Cove, and

[I] knew that by doing a new gay series on a new gay network I was going to get the questions from the media. At that point I was just really ready to embrace my true identity, both privately and publicly. It seemed like the right time and opportunity to do it.

MR: How did your Catholic upbringing factor into that decision. And how did your family receive the news?

CD: I came out to my family when I was 16, so any residual Catholic guilt or indecision was long up the river by that point. I have an incredibly supportive and loving family, and although it took a lot of conversation and mutual growth, they are my biggest supporters. The really are the foundation I've built up from.

MR: Now that you're out, how has Hollywood treated you? Do you think there's still an element of homophobia within the industry that prevents you from getting certain roles?

CD: Of course I'm sure I've gained roles and lost roles due to my open sexuality. I don't dwell on it as I feel that creates a negative space. The most proactive way I can contribute is by being open and honest and to help tell and create stories that are important to me.

MR: You're here! TV series, Dante's Cove, has finished up three seasons, the latest of which is now available on DVD. How has your character, Toby, changed over the past three seasons?

CD: Toby's true love has always been Kevin, played by Gregory

See Camp on Page 31

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The OutField: Fearless photos of gay athletes



By: Dan Woog*

The athletes stand strongly, staring straight ahead.

Scott, the cross-country team captain from Wisconsin's Madison West High School, is shirtless, glistening with sweat in the woods following a workout.

Cynthia, the heavily padded softball catcher at the University of Pennsylvania, breathes heavily after an afternoon spent squatting and throwing.

Greg, the soccer captain at Auburn High School in Massachusetts, cools down after working out on a humid day, his ball, water bottle, and bag at his feet.

All three look confident, as athletes should. They know who they are; they feel comfortable in their own skin.

But getting to this point—posing for the camera—has not been easy. They—and 52 other athletes on the website www.fearlesscampustour.org—are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. Now the world knows it, too.

The site is the brainchild of Jeff Sheng. The young photographer has spent five years assembling "Fearless." He's crisscrossed the country, tracking down and shooting openly GLBT athletes who play on high school or college sports teams. The results are displayed on the Internet, and in exhibitions at colleges, high schools, and fitness centers around the nation.

Gay athletes are close to Sheng's heart. Ten years ago, he was one of them. A tennis player good enough to compete on the Southern



JEFF SHENG

California junior circuit, he nonetheless felt constricted by homophobia. He stopped playing as a high school senior—even though he'd been voted captain by his teammates.

"It was always there in the background," Sheng says of the conflicts he felt between his sexuality and his sport. "Our team was pretty macho. They made fun of a rival coach who was a little flamboyant. As a 17-year-old, that was challenging to me." He quit the team—and tennis altogether—though he now plays in a gay league.

At Harvard University, he met Mike Crosby, an "incredibly closeted" water polo player. They dated for a while, though having to pretend to be "a friend of a friend" to attend Crosby's games wore on Sheng. Crosby later came out - so far out, in fact, that he appeared on the cover of *Genre* magazine.

Sheng planned on being a civil-rights attorney, but courses in film and photography helped him realize the power of media to influence society. Crosby's intercollegiate water polo experience—and Sheng's own with high school tennis—gave Sheng the idea of photographing openly gay athletes.

"It was a great concept," he says. "But it was very hard to execute."

A major problem was finding subjects. First, he had to get the word out; then he had to convince them to participate. After that came the issue of traveling all over the United States to photograph them in their athletic milieus.

"It's one thing to find someone. But it's a huge step to get them to agree to be photographed," Sheng says. "They can't be anonymous anymore. There's no invisibility. Your name, your school, and your sport are all out there."

It was a frustrating process. In 2004, he went nine months without a shot. But gradually he amassed 55 photos. His goal is 100.

Sheng does not turn anyone down. Many athletes are not classically good-looking. The result is a focus on the body and the sport, rather than a close-up portrait. "Each person is incredibly attractive in some way or another," he explains. "I try to accentuate the most beautiful part. I'll light things a certain way, or use the setting to their best advantage."

A hallmark of Sheng's style is an honest look into the camera lens. "When you're first out, you often think everyone's looking at you," he says. "You break their stare by looking back. It's important for them to give me that same confident, self-assured look."

It helps that he takes his photos after his subjects have worked out. "They have a great glow then," he says. "Sometimes just working out can be very liberating."

Getting the perfect shot takes time. Sheng spends hours with his subjects, understanding

who they are and how they've gotten to that point in life. He takes at least 100 photos, and hopes they appreciate the one he selects. He is thrilled when they thank him for providing the opportunity to participate.

Sheng is delighted with the current generation of out athletes, and amazed by the potential of photography to influence others. "If you're 16 or 17 years old and struggling, and you see 55 out athletes staring back at you, that can be incredibly empowering." It is a feeling Jeff Sheng never had as a high school tennis player—but one he is proud to pass along, a decade later, to others.

(Athletes interested in being photographed can send an email to: jeffsheng@jeffsheng.com.)

* 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.

Pride & Joy from Page 10

the city's Personnel Advisory Council, Human Rights Commission, and the Senior Center Building Committee. He is also active in the gay men's bowling league and the summer volleyball league.

"We live in a unique, gay-affirming place where we have small-town charm with big-city amenities, and a high quality of life with a relatively low cost of living," said Carmien. "These are combinations that are very rare to find anywhere in the United States. I think the future is very bright for our community and I'm excited to be here and be a part of that growth."

For more information about the sale of Pride & Joy or to find out how you can make a purchase offer, contact Mark Carmien at (413) 585-0683. Pride & Joy is located at 20 Crafts Avenue, Northampton, Mass.

Q Classifieds

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Queertations: Say what?!

By: Rex Wockner

"This is very exciting, I gotta say. Yesterday, if you haven't heard, the California Supreme Court overturned a ban on gay marriage. So I would like to say right now for the first time, I am announcing I am getting married. OK, thank you. I am-I will- thank you, I'll tell you who the lucky guy is soon. And, uh, I'm so excited. If I'm this emotional now just saying it, I can't imagine how that's gonna be, but it's something that I've, of course, we've wanted to do, and we want it to be legal and we're just very, very excited."

—Ellen DeGeneres on her TV show, May 16. Fiancée Portia de Rossi in the audience grinning.

"Marry me. I mean it. I don't wanna wait. I don't wanna—I wanna make this official. ... I'm completely, completely in love with you. I even love the things about you that I hate. Because you make me feel like I don't have to be anyone other than who I am. And, to me, that feels like family, and that's what I want us to be. I want us to be a family, because that never ends. ... Scotty, I am asking you, Will you please marry me?"

—Character Kevin Walker to character Scotty Wandell on the hit ABC-TV series Brothers & Sisters, May 4. Scotty said yes.

"I think that to get married to her (girlfriend Christine Marinoni) would be a little act of rebellion. It's like if you've never had the vote and then you get it you're going to run out there and vote. ... If it becomes legal (in New York) I think we would."

—Cynthia Nixon of *Sex and the City* fame to London's Daily Mirror, May 12. She plays Miranda.

"I've never seen a worse job of lobbying done by the transgender community (than on the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ENDA). They seem to think that all they had to do was to get the gay and lesbian community to say 'OK.' I think they thought that this was a train, and that they were a car on the train. I said to them, 'You've got to work this, you've got to lobby people.' They did a terrible job of lobbying, and so we didn't have the votes."

—Openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., to the Oregon gay newspaper Just Out, May 2. A GLB-only version of ENDA has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is pending in the Senate.

"The changes will provide for equality of treatment under a wide range of Commonwealth laws between same-sex and opposite-sex de facto couples. They will make a practical difference to the everyday lives of a group of our fellow Australians who have suffered discrimination under Commonwealth laws for far too long."

—Australian Attorney-General Robert McClelland announcing April 29 that Australia will change some 100 laws to extend equal rights to same-sex couples.

C'mon Out-Just Ask from Page 6

Can't we all find a male and female part of ourselves?

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 in *The*

Rainbow Times.

* Tetty has been a psychotherapist since 1980. She has worked extensively with LGBTQ individuals, couples and groups and has supervised both clinicians and therapists in training. 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.

Camp from Page 28

Michael. Over the course of the three seasons their relationship has been tested in every conceivable way, from cheating to love potions to being kidnapped by a warlock. I feel that my arc in season three is the biggest change, in that Toby has finally decided to move on with his life and pursue it aggressively—even if his heart is still torn in two. There's an interesting love triangle now between Toby, Adam (Jon Fleming) and Kevin. There are really loyal fans of both relationships, which will be interesting to watch in season four.

MR: Why do you think Dante's Cove—and your character, in particular—resonates well with the gay community?

CD: I think there are a lot of guys who respect Toby's pursuit of true love and monogamy. In terms of the show itself, it delivers a healthy dose of camp, sorcery and shirtless boys - so most guys don't have complaints.

MR: Are there any plans for your character to crossover to Dante's Cove—connected The Lair?

CD: Dante's Cove is a union show and The Lair is not. For that reason I'm unable to work on The Lair unless they went union with it.

MR: What can fans expect in season four? Any new characters or relationships to report?

CD: I don't have specific script info on season four, and due to an impending SAG (Screen Actors Guild) and AFTRA (American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) strike, when we go to production is still up in the air.

MR: While we're on the topic of relationships, I've never heard you mention anything about your personal life. So I have to ask—are you committed, dating?

CD: I think there's enough drama that happens in the TV shows and films I do without putting my personal life into the mix as well.

MR: In addition to singing and acting, you're also a writer. Mulligans, a movie that you wrote and in which you star, finished up filming last year. In anticipation of its impending release, what can you tell your fans about this movie? I hear your character causes quite a bit of drama.

CD: We had our world premiere in Toronto for Mulligans recently, and I'm actually [doing this interview] from my lanai in Honolulu where we're screening today. I describe the film as The Graduate for a new generation. An affair between a father and his son's best friend threatens to tear a family apart. We are doing the film festival circuit this spring and summer and are planning on a late fall release.

MR: Another hat you wear is business owner—specifically Border2Border Entertainment—which you co-own with producer Linda Carter. How is that venture progressing, and what projects are on its slate?

CD: I absolutely love the business side of show business, and after producing my first feature, Mulligans, I can't wait to do it again. We have several TV series and films in development and are currently putting together our next film to shoot in spring 2009.

MR: At 27 years old, you've accomplished a lot. But, considering that you don't plan on retiring and becoming a recluse anytime soon, what else do you have up your sleeve?

CD: Don't call me J-Lo, but I have a clothing line called Kreater in the final stages of development. I'm very excited to be working with a strong brand in the United States to market it this coming year. Otherwise I'll continue with my travel series, Bump, and putting together my next films to produce. I feel very fortunate to do what I love everyday!

* Who is Mikey Rox? Who gives a \$#@! But you can find him at www.mikeyrox.com.

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