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INSIDE**

# The Rainbow Times

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

PHOTO: SUZETTE TROCHE-STAPP



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## KATHY GRIFFIN

**"In fact, Cher wants me to take it down a notch, that's how gay I am now."**

PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

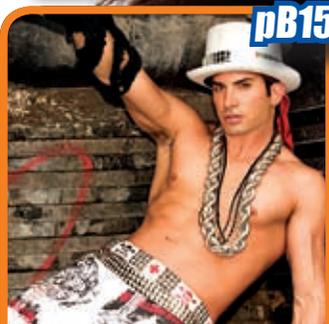


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## PROJECT ONE

**Launches Campaign With Forum On Bullying And Suicide Prevention**

PHOTO: KIDDMADONNY.COM



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## DJ KIDD MADONNY

**Mans The Decks At Machine's BOSTON PRIDE PARTY Friday, June 11th**

**Chatting with  
CeCe  
Peniston Headlines  
Boston Pride 2010** p7

PHOTO: COURTESY BOSTON PRIDE

## Ask, Don't Tell? You might get what you asked for

By: Susan Ryan-Vollmar\*/TRT Columnist

Anybody miss the front-page *Wall Street Journal* photo of U.S. Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan playing softball? You can see it here {<http://politi.co/b0Bahx>} Kagan has excellent form: she's got her eye on the ball and she's choking up the bat. She's wearing jeans, sneakers, and a loosely buttoned denim shirt with the sleeves rolled up. She's looks like a lesbian. Which is likely the point.

As soon as Kagan's name was put in the mix to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens, political insiders were gossiping about Kagan as the first gay justice.

And from there, the rumor took on a life of its own. It hit the mainstream when CBS News blogger Ben Domenech matter of factly described Kagan as the country's "first openly gay justice."

The White House fueled the fire when spokesman Ben LaBolt described Domenech's post as making "false charges" – which angered LGBT politicians, who wanted to know why being described as openly gay constituted a charge. Things turned truly bizarre

when *Politico*'s Ben Smith reported that Kagan was straight. One his sources? Disgraced former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer, who emailed this to Smith about his college days with Kagan: "I did not go out with her, but other guys did. I don't think it is my place to say more."

As Washington Post media critic Howard Kurtz put it: "I'm not sure he's the guy you want out there talking about sex."

Indeed.

You can read whatever you want into the "is she or isn't she" reporting about Kagan's sexual orientation: the media is sexist (why can't a woman be single and successful without also being a

lesbian?); the media is just doing its job (it's a legitimate question and it needed to be asked); the media is homophobic (why is the sexual orientation of a potential Supreme Court justice relevant?).

But I think there's another interpretation. The Kagan kaffuffle is a sign of the LGBT community's influence. Regardless of what you think

See Kagan on page 13

**Kind of like the first black president. And the first female justice. Firsts matter. Why pretend otherwise?\***

## Time for action to make promises matter and enforce consequences

By: Jason Lydon/TRT Opinion Writer

When it came time to vote for a theme for Boston Pride I was one of those who was excited about the idea of the word "riots" coming off the tongues of queer and transgender people throughout Massachusetts. I was excited to be part of remembering the role riots have played in our movements, most famously being Stonewall, but also the Compton Cafeteria riot that occurred in August of 1966 when transgender patrons fought back against police repression and exclusion by the Compton Cafeteria.

However, the way the theme is titled, "From Riots to Rights," implies that the need for rioting is over, and I could not disagree more.

In the Broadway musical "Rent (which has its own issues worth discussing in another column) Maureen's *mooino* filled performance

piece challenges Benny, the assimilating landlord; "although he once had principles, he abandoned them to live as a lap dog to a wealthy daughter of the revolution."

In many ways I think that she could be challenging the far majority of the current LGBT movement.

The numbers of transgender women of color getting brutally murdered around the country keeps increasing, there was yet another woman murdered in Puerto Rico on May 24th.

We do not need to organize to pass more

See Promises on page 28



Jason Lydon

## C'mon Out – Just Ask! Advice Column

By: Tetty Gorfine\*/TRT Columnist

Hi Tetty,  
I'm a freshman in college and I'm having an extremely tough time dealing with my current situation.

The whole self-acceptance process is relatively new for me (within the past year) and I had come out to my mom only 3 months ago. My mom tries to seem supportive, but I can sense her disdain and disbelief at the fact that I'm gay. I knew it would take her time to come to terms with it and that it was as much of a process for her as it was for me, but I'm not dealing with it very well. We've always been very close but I feel like it's been straining our relationship; as I feel as though I'm always on the defense for just being who I am.

I still feel like I'm in the closet, but I really want to just live my life freely. For the most part I've attempted to cope with it on my own,

through books and what not, but it hasn't seemed to help.

Any thoughts or suggestions on how I should go about with this?

—C

Hello C:

I can feel the strains and growing pains as you come out and cope with the tensions between yourself and your mom. I also hear that you are trying to "come out" in general, and this too is difficult.

Being yourself is courageous and I applaud that you are doing this despite the difficulties.

See C'mon Out on page 21



Tetty Gorfine

## The Controversial Couch

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

By: Suzan Ambrose\*/TRT Columnist

Imagine a new item on the menu at your local fish and chip-ateria: "All You Can Eat Fish (undetermined) with a tangy light Gulf Coast oil coating" brought to you from BP. Beyond Petroleum/British Petroleum, the world's second largest oil company and one of the world's largest corporations, is responsible for this disgusting ooze we are just starting to see show up on our beaches and marches in the Southern states.

It's Day 36 at the time of this writing, and so far, BP has done precious little to impede the flow of the "oh so thick oil from its pipe, 1 mile below the ocean's surface." Watching the live feed gives one a sense of just how little is being done to stop the daily continued pollution *there ain't no one doin' anything there!* Oh sure, I know they've been trying, and there's a tube siphoning a fifth of what is coming out, but it's precious little ... but with a huge price tag someone will have to pay.

And those "some ones" will be us.

We'll start pay by paying more for fish, more unemployment benefits to working fisherman, and tourist-starved vacation beach towns. Then we'll pay through higher taxes to clean this up after BP has walked away, laughing all the way to the bank. We'll pay by seeing our precious resources and fragile ecosystem destroyed, unusable and stinky for years to come. We'll be angry and shaking our fists that "someone must



pay". Besides all the marine life, that is ... lifeless and washing up onto the not-so-beautiful beaches.

I know this is an uncomfortable truth. We'd almost rather NOT

look and see this happening, like a varicose vein on your leg ... don't look and perhaps it will go away. Not.

In fact, we may not have even noticed much about this impending disaster, as BP has not allowed media into the area, or any other investigative team to collect data and evidence against them, when it all comes time to go to court to see how MUCH they will pay. But the sins of the father are washing up on shore for all to see now.

How many more environmental disasters of our own making can we continue to ignore? Nuclear waste that isn't properly stored has a consequence, along with oil drilling and pipeline leaks, coal mining and mountaintop removal, air pollution and acid rain.

As we slowly destroy our clean water, air and soil, and at the same time, continue to reproduce more humans at a staggering rate, it's a circle of destruction with a not-so-rosy forecast.

This is one more chapter in the struggle for human rights. Human rights, you say? Yes, human, animal, and vegetable. Planetary rights that start and end with humans smack in the middle of it. Our planet needs us to become

See Couch on page 4

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge, THANK YOU, to Gricel M. Ocasio, Publisher and to *The Rainbow Times* for the outstanding story about our documentary in your May 20 edition.

We are, indeed, grateful because we were starting to lose hope that the Gay media was not interested in our story. Gricel proved otherwise and because of her gracious and informative story, we have others in the media, both gay and mainstream, who have focused attention toward our work.

Our main reason for filming, *A Cross Burning in Willacoochee*, was to share our story about what happened to us and to remind people that these types of hate crimes are still happening today. Not only did you feature our story, you also placed a copy of our DVD on the cover of *The Rainbow Times*. We feel we will receive much more attention and requests once the readers see your great paper. We also have passed along many copies that Gricel sent to us.

Again, words cannot deeply express our feelings toward the kindness shown to us from our friends, Gricel and *The Rainbow Times*. We will never forget your graciousness and support. Your paper will thrive because you have people there who truly care. Please know we are here for you as well.

Thank you again, Roy Kirkland & Doug Sebastian - [www.dspmovies.com](http://www.dspmovies.com)

Dear Rainbow Times,

Thank you for Half-Lady Lisa's article on transgender children (May 6th edition). Too often the lives of transgender people are ignored or appear in the media only in sensationalized accounts such as the Boston Herald article Lisa mentioned. I applaud *The Rainbow Times* for its coverage

See Letters on page 7

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# Project One launches with forum on bullying and suicide prevention

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

Project One, a community initiative with the slogan *Building a healthy community ONE child, ONE family, ONE issue at a time* launched May 26th with a forum on bullying and suicide prevention. Held at the *MassMutual Center* in Springfield, the gathering brought together many who are concerned by a troubling trend that cost the lives of two Western Mass. young people and contributed to the recent passage of anti-bullying legislation.

William M. Bennett, the Hampden County District Attorney, explained that two new laws aim to reduce harassment. *An Act Relative to Bullying in Schools* specifically addresses harassment of students, while *An Act Relative to Harassment Prevention Orders* relates to any victim of harassment—in or out of school.

Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno also stressed that the public can make a difference.

“What you can do is be the voice out there on the street,” Sarno told the audience. “Pay attention to your kids. Listen to your kids. Be part of their lives.”

Mary Pat McMahon, co-chair of the *Western Massachusetts Chapter of the American Foun-*

*ation for Suicide Prevention*, spoke of her pain and shock at losing a child to suicide 19 years ago.

“A great smile and jokes can hide depression. Achievement can hide depression,” she said.

McMahon urged people to ask young people the tough question—“Are you thinking of hurting yourself?”

“Be prepared for the answer to be yes,” she said. “Be prepared to take action.”

Dr. Barry Sarvet, Chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at *Baystate Health* and President of the *American Foundation for Suicide Prevention*, told the audience that experts consider bullying to be a big factor in youth suicide—and a significant number of students are routinely bullied. Sarvet cited a 2001 study in which 17% of students in 6th-12th grades reported being bullied frequently.

Sarvet also cautioned against overreacting to “normal childhood aggression” which includes behaviors, such as teasing and excluding, that are frequently perceived as bullying.

“We have to be careful not to equate these behaviors with bullying. Bullying is something more,” Sarvet said.



PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

**Dr. Barry Sarvet, Chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Baystate Health, shared professional insights into bullying**

The difference, he explained, comes down to pattern and power. True bullying involves a pattern of repeated aggressive behaviors and a power difference between the victim and the aggressor.

Sarvet praised the new anti-bullying legislation for defining bullying in a way that is consistent with professional literature on the subject.

Yet, in a March joint statement, *GLSEN*, the *Family Equality Council* and *PFLAG* said the legislation did not go far enough to protect LG-BTQ youth.

“The bill falls short as it fails to enumerate the classes of persons who have historically and disproportionately been the subjects of bullying and harassment,” read the statement (available on the Greater Boston PFLAG website). It also cited the *Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, which determined that the most common form of bullying and harassment in Massachusetts schools is based on actual or perceived sexual orientation.

Sarvet also named gender expression and sexual orientation as serious factors in bullying. While stigmatized children—especially those who are overweight—are the most common targets of bullying, he said that gays, lesbians and people who don’t conform to gender norms “are a close second.”

“We need to try to develop a culture where everyone belongs, where there are no winners or losers,” Sarvet said.



PHOTOS: TYNAN POWER

**Bill Corbett, president of Cooperative Kids parent education network, spoke of being bullied as a child**

For more information about suicide prevention and help for survivors of suicide, visit the *American Foundation for Suicide Prevention* at [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org) or call the *National Suicide Prevention Lifeline* at 800-273-TALK.



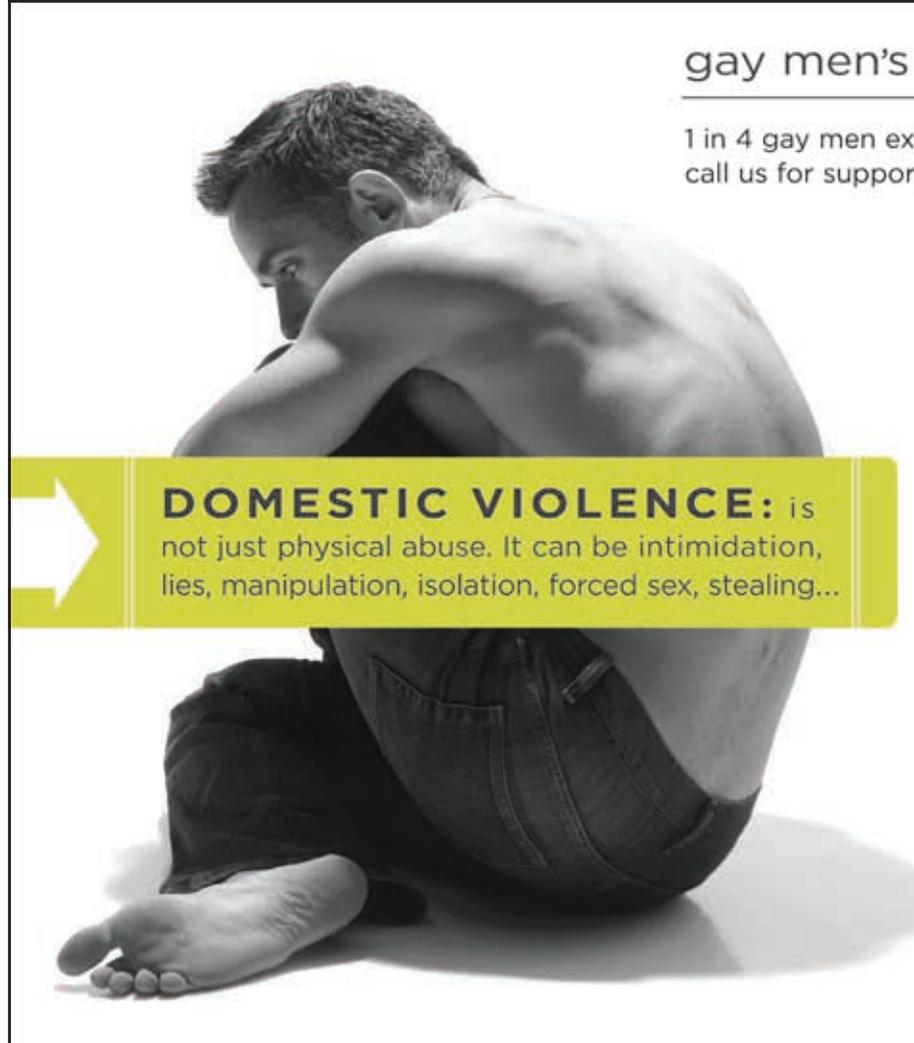
PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

**Springfield Mayor, Domenic J. Sarno, addressed the audience at Project One launch**

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# Faith, Family, and God: Awe-inspiring experiences

**In the Name of God**

By: **Paul P. Jesepe**\*/TRT Columnist

**R**abbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote that one way of living is "to experience" everyday occurrences as "spiritual adventures." In doing so a sense of "awe" and "wonder" is always in your life. In case there's any confusion, he did not mean the spiritual adventures and experiences from the gym, seeing Madonna, visiting Provincetown, or salivating over a new product line at Crate and Barrel. Those spiritual experiences are in a class of their own.

He meant that individuals must be "constantly aware." Awareness empowers the person to see the daily miracles and wonders that are too often overlooked or taken for granted. Constant awareness goes beyond sight and touch. It includes a deeper, unspoken consciousness.

This year the trees seem particularly green to me. Not just one kind of green, but multiple shades of it further highlighted by sunshine that changes the shapes and colors of leaves ever so slightly depending on the time of day and the number of clouds in the sky. A tree's branches reach toward heaven, its trunk is firmly in our world, and its roots are deep in the earth's rich, dark bosom. Its life is never static.

Observe tree tops and you can see a grace, rhythm, and majesty in motion. The approach of a storm changes the atmosphere. The air be-

comes more intense, more dramatic, and more passionate. The internal chemistry of trees changes as they respond to the energy.

This is one example of an awe inspiring experience that can be a regular adventure when walking or even driving on the highway. Yet the extraordinary shades of green, the complexity of these living gifts, the manner in which each tree grows, and the varieties and beauty of different types are overlooked. Instead, we tend to stay focused on the petty, trivial, or annoying that happened at work and is likely to hang over our evening.

**Awareness empowers the person to see the daily miracles and wonders that are too often overlooked or taken for granted. Constant awareness goes beyond sight and touch. It includes a deeper, unspoken consciousness.**

We risk losing the mysticism around us. We risk not nurturing the mystic within ourselves. We can want a beautiful day or starry night, but forget to embrace the wonder or indescribable feeling that makes us want to be outside, to connect with something in this unique creation that will end in several hours. Since the dawn of time no two days or nights have been identical.

There are many ways to find and nurture awe. The next time you pick up a book or magazine in the evening try reading it by

candlelight without background noise like radio or television. You'll find it a very unique, quieting experience. Try eating dinner without the television with some soothing music in the background instead. Dine by candle light at home a few times. Use few if any electric lights. Get up in the morning and don't turn on the radio or television. Drink your tea, coffee, or diet cola to the waking day as the birds sing their gentle songs. Change your routine.

Gadgets, technology, and the inability to keep perspective about the annoyances of life rob us of the experiences that can nurture

awe, wonder, and spiritual adventure. Toys, tech, and problems can prevent us from finding a deeper sense of self and connection to something much bigger. Rather than see yourself separate from these experiences, appreciate yourself as part of the greater whole by celebrating the awe found in each day. You were meant to be here just like the birds, trees, mountains, the cosmos, and the seven seas. Try to imagine the world without the oceans. It's impossible. Your place in the world is no different.

*\*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He may be reached at [Dilovod@aol.com](mailto:Dilovod@aol.com).*

**that track from last night?  
TRT's DJ Top 10  
[therainbowtimesnews.com](http://therainbowtimesnews.com)**

**Couch from page 2**  
more conscious or our species will be directly responsible for the extinction of countless other species, up to and possibly including our own.  
There are some that believe there is a correlation of increased numbers of homosexuals, as well as infertility issues in heterosexuals when Nature wants us to "slow down" in the breeding department. And, it does appear there are vast numbers of us popping up all over the world, and I'm not sure it's just that we're more visible now. Perhaps there's really something to the theory (although plenty of us are reproducing these days!)  
Perhaps our consciousness and our own struggles, that have made us fiercely independent thinkers, need to be heard and passed on. Perhaps it is the time for our genes to take the helm in this brave new world, leading the charge in a world that needs to be reminded about humanity. Human rights, civil rights, animal rights with planetary awareness.  
Whatever you believe, know this: it will take every last one of us to change the direction our people are headed. We need to have energy to survive, but does it have to kill a whole new next generation for us to live today? Surely we can do better than the menu option BP is giving us.  
I think I'll pass on the shrimp special, thank you very much.  
  
*\*Suzan Ambrose, writer, dreamer and visionary, enjoys ocean kayaking in crisp, clean water and vegetarian meals when she's not writing diligently for The Rainbow Times. Questions or opinions on my columns? Let me know at: [SuzanAmbrose@gmail.com](mailto:SuzanAmbrose@gmail.com).*

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# Northampton Mayor will honor The Topp Twins at Academy show

Northampton Mayor Clare Higgins will present to The Topp Twins a Certificate of Recognition for their decades of political activism for human rights, LGBT equal rights, and the environment at their live concert on Saturday, June 12, 8 pm, at the Academy of Music Theatre.

"This will be a great moment in the show. The Topp Twins do amazing work around the world advocating for human rights and they deserve to be recognized for their political work as well as their musical talent," states Jaime Michaels, executive producer of Out! For Reel LGBT Film Series, who is producing the concert. "They are very excited about their performing in Northampton given that the city's nickname is Lesbianville, USA."

The Topp Twins are talented singer songwriters and comedic performers who happen to also be lesbian twin sisters. Their off the chart popularity in their native New Zealand has won them best Country Western Music Album, their own prime time television variety show, and induction into NZ's Music Hall of Fame.

Famous for their laugh out loud character sketches, beautiful harmonies, and amazing yodeling, the Topp Twins re-invent themselves on stage, changing character and gender with ease, and deliver visually funny humor often through song. Spontaneity is a vital ingredient of the Topp Twins magic on stage and audience participation a trademark. As the Topp Twins maxim is "we send up rather than put down", their "guests" always feel safe on stage while unpredictable fun breaks loose.

"In New Zealand, the whole family will go to a Topp Twins concert. Children and adults, LGBT and straight, women and men, liberal and conservative all love the Topp Twins. Their humor and music appeal to everyone," Michaels states.

"A friend's young son loves the Topp Twins," says Michaels. "He thinks it's wonderful that they are so successful by being themselves on stage. He said they inspire him to be himself no



CREDIT: THE TOPP TWINS

**The Topp Twins, lesbian twin sisters, who are award-winning musicians from New Zealand, will perform live in concert on June 12, 8 pm, at the Academy of Music Theater, Northampton**

matter what people think. I love that the Topp Twins have that impact on people of all ages."

The Topp Twins tickets are \$25 Advance / \$30 Door. Advance tickets can be purchased online at [www.OutForReel.org](http://www.OutForReel.org) or at the Academy of Music Box Office.

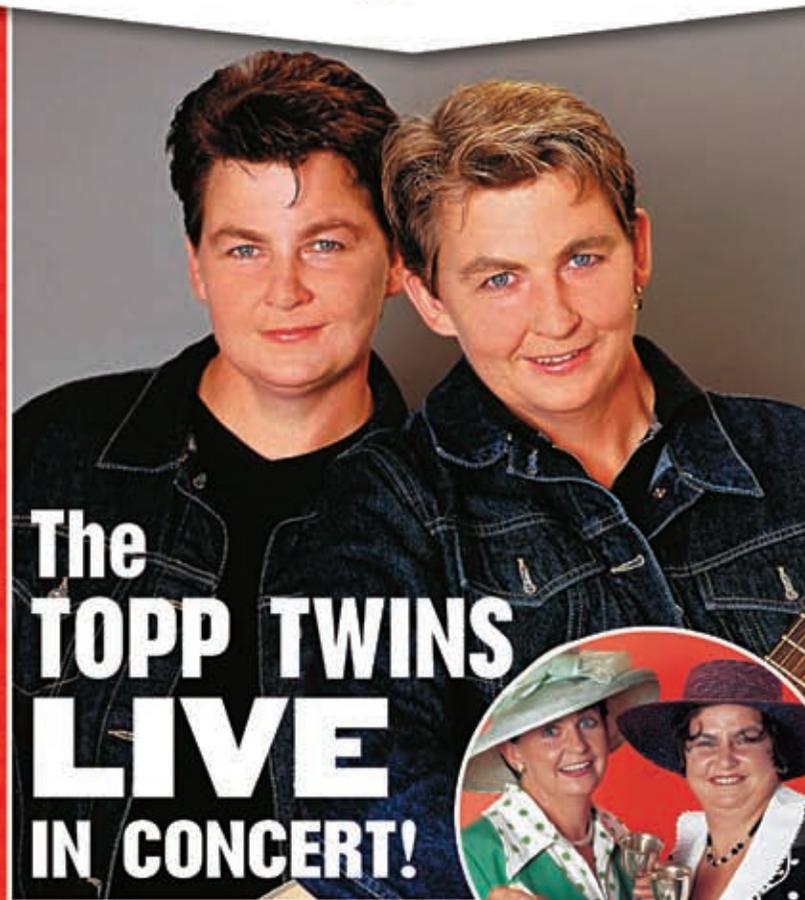
For more information, to watch the trailer, and to buy tickets, visit [www.OutForReel.org](http://www.OutForReel.org).

"It's a really fun and upbeat way to wrap up our second season by having the Topp Twins live in concert," Michaels states. "People are going to have a great time."

*Out! For Reel, based in Northampton and the largest LGBT film series in the U.S., screens the best in award-winning lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender films from around the world on a monthly basis during a ten month season, beginning each year in September. The dates for 2010-2011 Season Three can be found on the OFR website.*

*Out! For Reel welcomes community support in many forms including advertising sponsors and volunteers. For more information, visit the website or email [info@outforreel.org](mailto:info@outforreel.org).*

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# Happy Father's Day to Transwomen who are Dads

Trans Opinions & More

By: **Deja Nicole Greenlaw**/TRT Columnist

There are a number of us older transwomen who are fathers. While we were keeping our true selves "in the closet" for decades we also tried to live life like your average man and many of us met someone, fell in love and started a family. We did the best we could in supporting our families, going to work every day, working overtime, maybe getting a second job, caring for, supporting, feeding, loving, laughing, playing, sharing and sacrificing for the good of the family. Oh, we may not have done the most perfect job (Who does?), but we did the best we could. After all, it's for our family!

Our title was "Daddy" and we eagerly accepted that title. Here were these cute little souls who required lots of love and attention. Having children is awesome! There are some great memories being a Dad, like the funny, crazy, cute things that they did and I smiled.

Time goes on and years pass and our children grow up and go out on their own. The time came once when our "transgenderism" came to the forefront of our beings. It was now "go time" to deal with being trans. It usually started very discreetly, never letting the children know but, then it grew and it grew and we were "suddenly" transwomen. Then along came a holiday such as Father's Day, which brings the family together.

Family gatherings may be very nice but,



**Deja Nicole Greenlaw**

more often than not, there is a strain when Dad becomes a woman. It is very hard for most children of trans fathers to accept their Dad in this new form. Try to imagine your own Dad telling you that he is now a woman and will dress as a woman from now on. It's tough!

It is difficult telling your children that their Dad is really a woman. If it was you, how and what do you say to your children? There really is no easy way. Being direct without getting too much into details is, by default, probably the best way to do it, but it still is awkward.

In most cases our children have their own lives to live and, especially in this world today, many of them are living far away. Not seeing Dad all the time it's not really such a big deal, but then a birthday or a holiday or Father's Day comes and then reality hits. What do we say? What do we do? Suppose Dad is wearing a skirt? Does Dad have breasts now? Can we still call "him" Dad? How do we introduce Dad to others?

Some of us still keep our title of Dad. Others prefer Mom or maybe Jenny Boylan's invention, Maddy, (a combination of Mommy and Daddy) or something similar. Once the name is settled then the other questions can begin to unfold. I personally prefer the title of Dad since that is who I feel that I am to my children. For clarity's sake I choose to use the title "Dad" throughout the rest of this article.

We all have been taught that we should respect and love our Dads. I believe that this still rings true, but there are other circumstances in the mix now. Dad being a Transwoman does open up a whole new way of looking at everything! Yes, the family memories are still there; however, suddenly things seem different now. I think that it really depends on how one sees the changes that occurred in the transwoman. Some folks believe that the male part "dies" and the female part is now "born." In this way children may feel cheated, threatened, have anger or even resentment that this transwoman has "taken away" their Dad. Maybe they may feel embarrassment and shame much like us transwomen did when we were dealing with our identity. There may be many unresolved issues which may bring out awkwardness.

Still others may see the change as a positive life improvement for the transwoman. The children might say "As long as you are happy, Dad, I am happy!" Unconditional acceptance and unconditional love are the keys here. Unfortunately, these are very, very hard concepts for most of us to grasp. Bless the children who are able to respond in this way!

I think about the children of transwomen (and of my own) and what they might go through when a friend sees them and asks them about their family. What are they going to say? Are they going to say that their Dad is a woman now? Might they say that Dad wears women's clothing now and goes by a female name now? In some conversations the other party might respond favorably and go on about how wonderful the news is. In other conversations it might lead to shock and disbelief. Still other conversations would lead to other feelings like disgust or expressing sympathy or

some other non positive feelings. Chances are slim that it's a pleasant conversation.

Some children just simply say that their Dad died or that Dad is living far away now and is not heard from much. This is a sad but true statement.

Most of us get at least a card and/or a phone call on Father's Day. Some transwomen even get to see their children on that day. It really isn't that different from most non trans fathers, I suppose. After all, children do travel for their job opportunities or for the job opportunities of their significant other, so distance is indeed a fact of life in many cases. In that light, a phone call and/or a card is really in order, but still there may be unresolved issues and feelings.

Anyway, it is what it is and hopefully we will all deal with occasions like Father's Day in the best way that we know how. The best way usually includes understanding of all parties' viewpoints, willingness to accept all parties' feelings and, above all and number one, LOVE



## Ask a Transwoman: Equal rights for transgender people now!

By: **Lorelei Erisis**\*/TRT Columnist

Dear Lorelei,

Considering these hard economic times and the ugly factor of discrimination in general across the board; How much more difficult is it to be transgender looking for employment now compared to a few years ago, and what can a transgender do to overcome these obstacles?

—Lynn B.

Thanks for the super-timely question Lynn! As usual, I'll give you all I've got and I'll even try to fit it all in, in under 900 words! There's a lot to say on this particular subject, especially right now, so hang on to your seats!

What I see now is a pretty dire situation. We face an overwhelming amount of discrimination in all areas. And, as frightening as it may be to consider, from what I have read and the stories I've heard from the older generation, trans people are probably better off now than we have ever been before. Given how bad that is, I shudder to consider how hard it must have been for those who came before us.

The situation we have now as transgender people in this country is that we have an al-

most improbably high rate of unemployment. Just a glance at the stats was enough to make me have to pour myself a very large glass of strong Irish Whiskey.

The preliminary findings from a *National Transgender Discrimination Survey* conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality with the *National Gay and Lesbian Task Force* and published in November of last year are simply shocking. The unemployment rate nationally for transgender people ranges from nearly double the national average to more than triple that average for trans people of color.

The poverty rates are much the same, with 27% reporting incomes of \$20,000 or lower and 15% reporting incomes of \$10,000 or lower. As compared to only 7% of the general population that's making \$10,000 or lower.

I won't even dwell here on the housing instability figures or the lack of health insurance and access to proper care because the truly horrifying number is the 97% who, "have experienced mistreatment, harassment, or discrimination on the job including: invasion of privacy, verbal abuse, and physical or sexual assault."

Ninety-seven percent!! OMG! That's simply staggering! It is so shocking that I'm reduced to internet slang to indicate my horror. And the details of what that includes are even worse than this brief summary conveys! I would strongly recommend going and looking at these findings yourself. You can find this same survey at: [www.thetaskforce.org](http://www.thetaskforce.org)

Additionally, there are only

12 states in this country that have any employment discrimination statutes to protect transgender people. That leaves 38 where we have no protections at all. Including here in Massachusetts where we are progressive enough to allow for Same-Sex Marriage, but continue to leave transgender people out in the cold.

My own experience has been pretty rough. After I started transition I lost my semi-prestigious Hollywood job of several years and found myself fairly well unemployable. I'm an actor, so unemployment is frankly nothing new to me, but this was much, much worse. I have an exceptional resume; I've run companies and have a wide range of expertise. But, no one would even look at it.

It took me three years of constant searching, continuous rejection and simmering discrimination as well as a stint of having to live with my parents again before I was able to find someone who would even give me an interview. I worked it like the search for a job was a job and I could fill out all the applications I wanted, but heard the same lines over and over. Even places with a "Help Wanted" sign in the window would be mysteriously, "not really hiring right now, just taking applications."

That person, who finally did interview me and looked at my resume, hired me practically on the spot! But, I was lucky to find the 1 person in 1000 who was willing to take a chance.

I've told this story many times in many plac-



**Lorelei Erisis**

es, including at *The Statehouse* in Boston in support of our own bill, HB1738, which would provide protections for transgender people in Massachusetts against discrimination in employment, housing and services, as well as against hate crimes. But, what I want to get to, while I still have space is what can be done about all this.

It is my belief that if we are going to start making things better for ourselves as transgender people here in this country, we need to come together as one voice, one movement. We need to set aside our differences and our grievances and work towards one goal—Equal Rights For Transgender People now!

We can start by putting our full support behind a Trans-Inclusive ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act), despite its notable flaws. We should not let go of the demand for full-equality, but we must lay this foundation so the carpenters can build. We need it.

As trans people or allies you should get involved personally. Call, write or visit your Congress people. Urge them to support a Trans-Inclusive ENDA. Then contact your local orgs like The Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition and volunteer your time or make a donation.

There are simply too many of us who are forced to do whatever we must to survive while we are denied the most basic of human rights.

We must not be quiet. We must never stand down.

Slainte!

\*Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009 and she can be contacted at: [loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com](mailto:loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com).



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# Chatting with CeCe: Peniston headlines Boston Pride

## Boston Pride News

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Multi-platinum recording artist and dance floor favorite CeCe Peniston will be headlining at Boston's 40th Pride celebration on June 12.

Peniston took some time out from her recording sessions for a new album to speak with *The Rainbow Times*.

The 40 year-old singer has had an endless stream of hit songs, beginning with her 1992 breakout hit, *Finally*, which went all the way to number one on the pop charts. Peniston's album of the same name was certified gold (500,000 copies sold) by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

Peniston was just beginning her dominance of the music charts. She continued to achieve Billboard Top Ten status with singles like: *We Got A Love Thang*, *Keep On Walkin*, *I'm Not Over You* and her hit single released in 2001, *Lifetime To Love*, which skyrocketed to #2 on the Billboard charts. All of her other singles released have achieved Top 40 status including: *Inside That I Cried*, *Crazy Love*, *I'm In The Mood*, *Hit By Love*, *Movin' On*, *Before I Lay (You Drive Me Crazy)* with MCA recording artist JoJo of KC & JoJo, *I Know That He Loves Me Too* and *Nobody Else*.

Peniston appreciates the success she has enjoyed in her career.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BOSTON PRIDE

Peniston will perform at Boston Pride on June 12.

"I feel great about it, but I feel like I want more," Peniston told *The Rainbow Times*. "I think that as an artist you always feel like there's another place you can still go."

Peniston has toured all over the world and performed to sold-out venues nationally and internationally including the Philippines, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Korea, Australia, South Africa and Italy. She has made nine music videos, contributed her voice to numerous motion picture soundtracks, allowed the Oprah Winfrey Show to utilize two of her hits on request, and performed live for the NBA, WNBA, and NFL.

Peniston feels a sense of power from being

on a stage and sharing her music with others.

"I can do whatever creatively comes to my mind. It's such a blessing that I look out into the audience and I see people who are smiling and having a good time to my music. Those are the things I love," Peniston said. "It's like the biggest high ever."

One of the artists Peniston admires is Patti LaBelle: "She's been my girl since I was a young kid. She's so spontaneous. She goes with the flow of the crowd."

Peniston has also won numerous awards including: *Billboard Best New Artist & Best New Song of The Year*, *ASCAP Song of The Year & Pop Songwriter of The Year & Most Performed Song of The Year*, *Annual Winter Music Conference's Best New Dance Artist & Best Dance Artist Solo & Best 12" Dance Record*, *BMI Urban Award of Achievement*. She is a successful businesswoman as well: Peniston has been running her own production and publishing companies for many years.

Helping others in need is something Peniston feels strongly about.

In 1997, Peniston founded the *CeCe Peniston Foundation* and has helped to raise funding for many other organizations concerning HIV/AIDS, women and children in need, and hunger and equality.

Peniston has some sage advice for aspiring entertainers out there.

"Follow your dreams and give your all," Peniston said. "You have to do it because if you don't, somebody else will."

### Letters from page 2

of the transgender community—particularly articles such as this which provide personal insight into the experiences and problems affecting transgender children and young adults in our community.

Thanks again, and I hope we will hear more from Half-Lady Lisa.

—Marc Kirby, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

I like that you keep running stories about Domestic Violence in the GLBT community. I had that happen to me many years ago and I knew nothing about it. I just thought it didn't happen to lesbians. I see that the Network/La Red is now here for us lesbians who have been victims of violence in our relationships. It's a sad thing that happens. I kept quiet for a while because I didn't know I had resources available to me. Your story by Mr. Siegel really made me feel that I can become involved in this Network. Thank you for touching on topics that are delicate and quite important to our communities.

—L. Ramirez, Hartford, CT

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# BOSTON PRIDE 2010 CALENDAR

## Friday, June 4

Pride Flag Raising  
12 noon  
City Hall Plaza, Boston

## Saturday, June 5

Pride Day @ Faneuil Hall  
10 am  
Faneuil Hall, Boston

## Sunday, June 6

Tea-Dance for LGBT  
Seniors & Friends  
3:30 pm  
Holiday Inn, Brookline

## Monday, June 7

King & Queen Pageant  
8 pm  
Machine Nightclub, Boston

## Wednesday, June 9

Pride Idol Finale  
7 pm - Club Cafe  
  
Kick Off Party @ Latino Night  
10 pm - Rumor Nightclub

## Thursday, June 10

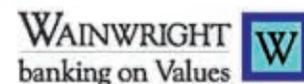
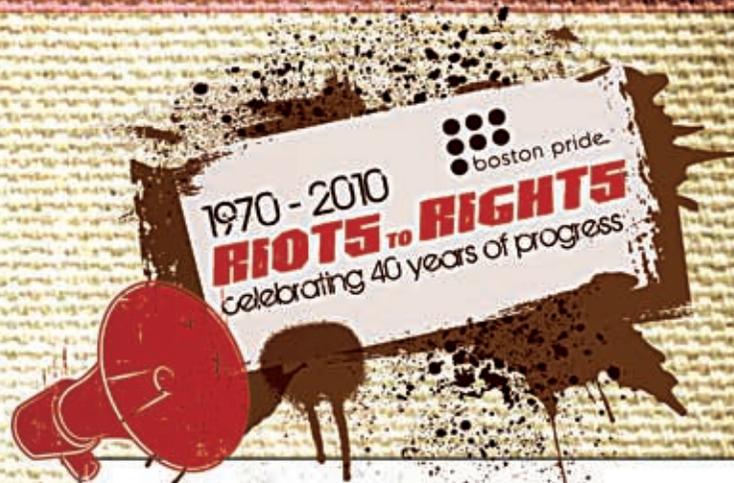
Riots to Rights Rally & outdoor  
screening of "Beyond Gay:  
The Politics of Pride"  
7 pm - Boston Common  
  
Macy's Fashion Show w/ Jujubee  
5 pm  
  
Optionz Party  
10 pm - Underbar  
  
GlamLife @ Estate  
10 pm

## Friday, June 11

Boston Dyke March  
6 pm - Boston Common  
  
Dyke March After Party  
9 pm - The Greatest Bar, Boston  
  
DJ Kid Madonny at Machine  
10 pm

## Saturday, June 12

Pride Parade  
Kicks off at 12 noon  
South End, Boston  
  
Pride Festival  
12 noon  
City Hall Plaza, Boston  
  
Esme Women's Block Party  
2 pm - Boylston Place  
  
Club SIZZLE!  
21 & under Dance Party  
7 pm - Back Bay Events Center  
  
LUSH: Comedy Show & Dance Party  
7 pm - Machine Nightclub, Boston  
  
Pride @ Night 3D Event w/ DJ Abel  
9 pm - Epic at House of Blues  
  
**Sunday, June 13**  
JP Block Party  
12 noon - Perkins St, JP  
  
Stuart Street Block Party  
12 noon - Stuart St, Boston  
  
Pride @ Night Finale w/ DJs  
Nina Flowers & Richie LaDue  
10pm - Location TBD



[WWW.BOSTONPRIDE.ORG](http://WWW.BOSTONPRIDE.ORG) - 617-262-9405

# Why Pride matters, the Boston Pride Committee addresses its importance

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Planning a Pride celebration is not an easy task. For the volunteers and others who work to put on a successful event every year, dedication, patience, and a lot of creativity play an important role.

With Boston's 40th Annual Pride Celebration just weeks away, members of the Boston Pride Committee took some time to share their feelings about the event and why Pride still matters.

Heather Mills is the Logistics Chair for the committee. Mills secures the accessories needed for Pride, such as radios, dumpsters, ice, and portable toilets.

Mills, 27, believes the LGBT community has come a long way in the past few decades.

"Words like 'gay', 'lesbian', 'bisexual' and 'transgender' did not exist in my household in the 80s and early 90s (in Washington State and California), and no one told me my mom's youngest brother was gay because my parents were afraid I'd say something at my Catholic school, and it was still early on in the AIDS crisis," Mills said. "There were few if any religious institutions that were fully welcoming of LGBT people."

Mills has a tremendous affection for Boston because of the city's open-minded attitude towards gays and lesbians.

"I can work where I want, find a church that fits, be open about my sexuality in public, go to school, go to parties, join a gym, without having to worry that someone will find out that I'm a lesbian," Mills said. "While not everything is

perfect all of the time, I have not always lived in places as welcoming in Boston, so as far as I am concerned, Boston rocks. And, from what I can tell, because people here have 'gotten over it' Pride is everyone's party—that highlights and celebrates sexual diversity."

Jimmy Yohe is the Entertainment Chair for the committee. Yohe books performers to appear on the City Hall Plaza Main Stage as well as managing the stage at the festival.

"I feel that it is our responsibility to create a line-up that encompasses as much musical and cultural diversity as possible throughout the day without sacrificing quality," Yohe said.

Yohe appreciates the progress the LGBT community has made in the past 40 years, but believes we have a way to go before we achieve full equality in society.

"The fight is not over though and it will continue," Yohe noted. "In 40 years, hopefully

people will look back and wonder how society could be so barbaric as to not allow people who love each other to marry, not allow people who can give children a wonderful home to adopt, not allow a teenager to bring someone they love to the prom, not allow someone to be themselves proudly, and not allow a patriotic person to serve their country."

Sarah Prager is the Volunteer Chair for the committee. Prager is in charge of recruiting and organizing more than 200 volunteers who are

needed to make Pride a success.

"We have 446 positions to fill from chaperoning the Club Sizzle youth event, to helping with crowd control along the Parade route, and everyone's favorite, cleaning up after the Stuart Street Block Party," Prager said. "Pride is family time. When I look around at Pride here, everyone is smiling. There is a strong feeling of community and acceptance. That is what Pride in Boston means to me."

Cale Moore is the Merchandising Chair for the committee. Moore produces all the official merchandise of Boston Pride.

"I love doing that job. I'm at nearly every event and it gives me a chance to interact with many different people throughout the week," Moore said.

Moore appreciates the sense of unity which can be experienced at every Pride celebration.

"There is something about the exclusivity of it. I just have to smile a little, as if I know a secret, when I have to explain exactly what happens during Pride week.

I can't help but think how can this ever stop - I'd like to see every LG-BTQ person be able to experience that feeling of being seen and counted," Moore added.

Linda DeMarco is President of Boston Pride's Board of Directors.

"My first pride was in the early 80's and the participant numbers were small and the crowd was very different, not just in numbers but in

support," DeMarco recalled. "Now when you march in the parade you don't have people yelling at you, or insulting you. Our community is stronger and united together."

DeMarco believes that Pride celebrations will continue for many more years: "

I feel until we are all safe, accepted and have equal rights Pride will never be obsolete."

Wilfred Labiosa is a Board Member and Vice-President of the Boston Pride Committee & Regional Director for Unidos: The National LGBT Latino Organization for Human Rights.

Labiosa joined the committee in 1998 but left for few years to help develop Som@s Latinos LGBT Coalition of Mass and Latino Pride, the oldest and longest running pride celebration of its kind in the nation.

"Pride means to me so many things but most importantly, it means that we can have the freedoms and rights that many other people like me don't have in their countries," Labiosa said. It means that I can be who I am in an open and free society."

Labiosa believes Pride will be around for many more years to come.

"Pride celebrations will always be celebrated. It may look differently and may be held in different times of the year but in some parts of the world, this tradition will be honored for years to come," Labiosa said. "It is our way to educate others on the diversity of our community and the importance of our LGBT people in the world."

All photos are courtesy of Boston Pride.



Cale Moore



Sarah Prager



Heather Mills



Jimmy Yohe



Wilfred Labiosa

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# Boston Pride's Marshals: Two Grand Marshals, a Celebrity and an Honorary Marshal

**Boston Pride News**

By: **Trystan Dean**/TRT Guest Writer

Four Marshals have been selected for this year's 40th annual Boston Pride celebration. Selections include two Grand Marshals, a Celebrity Marshal and one posthumous Honorary Marshal. Grace Sterling Stowell, along with her queer youth organization, the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth, (BAGLY), and long-time Boston gay activist Don Gorton Esq. III have been elected to serve as Grand Marshals. Both are Boston-area residents. The Celebrity Marshal is Alexis Arquette, a successful West Coast trans actress, and this year Boston Pride is honoring former Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-NA, posthumously, as an Honorary Marshal.

The selections honor those who have provided significant service to the LGBT community.

Stowell is a Boston area transwoman who has served as director for BAGLY, (Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Youth) for all 30 years of the organization's existence. Stowell says her organization is the oldest and possibly the longest-running queer youth organization in the country.

"I, and all of us," said Stowell, "are excited to be chosen."

BAGLY provides weekly and monthly social activities for GLBT young people up to age 22 as well as holding an annual Halloween dance, a Winter Ball, and the world's first - and largest—LGBT Prom. The organization also provides HIV and other STD education

and prevention programs, along with alcohol education. BAGLY connects LGBT youth with community-friendly healthcare providers and offers *The Queer Activist College*, which offers education and queer activism and leadership. Courses include public speaking, anti-racism education, meeting facilitation.

Don Gorton Esq. III has been a gay LGBT activist in Boston for more than 20 years. He currently serves on the board for *Join The Impact MA* and chairs its anti-violence project. He is a former chair of *The MA Gay and Lesbian Political Alliance* and co-chair of the *Governor's Hate Crimes Commission*. Gorton has worked on hate crimes legislation and reporting, and has written countless letters to the editor and to legislators. Recently Gorton joined *GLAAD* and *Equality Across America*. Gorton says that for him, Boston Pride is about getting together and celebrating the activism that led the LGBT Community "from riots to rights." He says it's also a time for the community to come together and celebrate itself.

"Boston Pride is a great time for me to be with my friends, including those I don't see very often," he said.

Celebrity Marshal Alexis Arquette was born "Robert" Arquette in Los Angeles, CA, and is the daughter of actor Brenda "Mardi" Olivia (née Nowak) and actor and director Lewis Arquette.

She landed her first acting job at age 12, in 1982, when she was "cast as the little kid who's on a ride with all these women and whatnot," she said, in the music video "She's A Beauty" by The Tubes. In 1986 Arquette debuted on the big screen with an un-credited part as "Alexis," the white-faced friend/band mate of the sexually ambivalent, angst-filled teenager

Max Whiteman in the comedy "Down And Out in Beverly Hills."

Six years later, Arquette landed her first major role as a transvestite named "Georgette" in "Last Exit to Brooklyn." Sixteen years after that performance Arquette transitioned from male-to-female. Her transition is documented in the film "Alexis Arquette: She's My Brother," which debuted at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2007. Arquette is also known for her work in the hit film "The Wedding Singer" and VH1's "The Surreal Life."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy served in the 101st through the 110th Congress representing Massachusetts until his death last summer. He was a strong champion for Civil Rights throughout

his legislative career, which began in 1962.

Kennedy was a consistent advocate for the LGBT community, leading the charge for ENDA, (the Employment Non-Discrimination Act) and the recently passed Matthew Shepherd and James Byrd Jr. Crimes Prevention Act, and opposed DOMA, (the Discrimination Against Marriage Act) and the Federal Marriage Amendment. The Human Rights Commission gave Kennedy a perfect 100 percent score for all 10 of his legislative terms in office. Thanks Ted!

Boston Pride Parade and Festival takes place on June 12, 2010 in downtown Boston. Organizers expect the event to draw nearly a million participants.



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## entertainment from the 2010

## boston • pride • stage

## Performance Schedule



- 12:05PM .... **Kit Yan**  
 12:25PM .... **Seacoast Repertory Theatre**  
 12:40PM .... **Sariah**  
 1:00PM ..... **Booty Vortex**  
 1:35PM ..... **Mrs Danvers**  
 2:00PM ..... **God-Des and She**  
 2:45PM ..... **Odaiko New England**  
 3:10PM ..... **All The Kings Men**  
 3:35PM ..... **Me and Joan Collins**  
 4:05PM ..... **Nemes**  
 4:35PM ..... **TraniWreck/Truth Serum**  
 5:00PM ..... **CeCe Peniston**  
 5:30PM ..... **Kristine W**

ALL PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BOSTON PRIDE

## CeCe Peniston

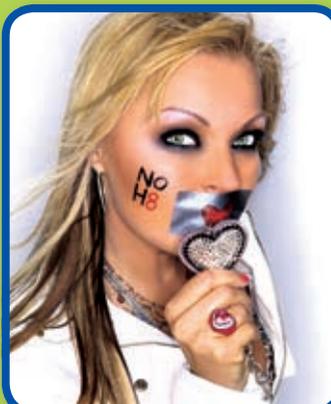


CeCe began her recording career with A&M Records. Her debut album, "Finally," achieved U.S. RIAA GOLD certification. The album's first single, "Finally" was a #1 Billboard hit and went multi-platinum worldwide. In addition to being featured on more than thirty compilation albums, CeCe thrived past the one-hit wonder mark and continued to achieve Billboard Top Ten status.

CeCe has successfully toured with Grace Jones, Peabo Bryson, Tasha Scott & Tony Terry. CeCe has also lent her talents to the theatre, in plays like "The Wiz," "Treat Her Like A Lady" and "When A Woman's Fed Up". She has also been requested personally by former President Bill Clinton to perform at both of his Presidential Inauguration Ceremonies in Washington, D.C., and performed at the Vatican for Pope John Paul. CeCe made history when she was the first female artist to perform in South Africa following the end of apartheid.

In the midst of such overwhelming success, CeCe has also been bestowed numerous awards including: Billboard Best New Artist & Best New Song of The Year, ASCAP Song of The Year & Pop Songwriter of The Year & Most Performed Song of The Year, Annual Winter Music Conference's Best New Dance Artist & Best Dance Artist Solo & Best 12" Dance Record, BMI Urban Award of Achievement. CeCe also has been a member of ASCAP since 1991 and has been successfully running her own production and publishing companies for many years.

## Kristine W



Kristine W - A fixture on the dance scene since her 1996 hit-packed, Rollo produced debut album, "Land of the Living" - is a rare blend: a showy singer with astounding vocal fire power and a confessional song-writers ethic.

Kristine has proven she can survive. She's topped the Billboard dance chart fourteen times; nine of which were consecutive, breaking records previously held by Madonna and Janet Jackson.

Kristine went on to pursue her educational and musical dreams in Las Vegas, where she found success headlin-

ing her own show at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Numerous awards followed, including several 'Las Vegas Entertainer of the Year' wins and being officially sanctioned as the entertainer who performed more live shows at the Las Vegas Hilton than any other performer in its history—including Elvis. This award led to June 28th being officially sanctioned Kristine W day in the state of Nevada. After conquering Las Vegas, Kristine reached the top of the dance charts in 1994 with the now classic anthem "Feel What You Want" landing at #1 on Billboard's Dance Chart and holding at the top five in more than ten countries worldwide. Signing with RCA Records and releasing the 1996 critically acclaimed album, *Land Of The Living*, Kristine catapulted to the top of the dance music spotlight with two more singles, the beautifully spun "One More Try," which won Kristine an ASCAP Award for co-writing, and the album's title track "Land Of The Living," in which the artist shares real experiences of survival and overcoming life's obstacles.

Kristine eventually passed superstars Madonna and Janet Jackson (each with seven #1 dance songs in a row) to rack up eight consecutive chart-toppers.

## Sariah



Sariah's story begins in a world of manners and manicures. Hailing from the blue-blooded Brookline neighborhood of Boston, Sariah always craved a little more flavor than the white-bread backdrop of her childhood could provide. At a young age she joined a hip-hop dance troop, and quickly popped & locked her way into the urban scene. Sariah discovered New York City, and simultaneously herself. In this new world of asphalt and strobe lights, her daily rhythm a non-stop mash-up of culture and sound, she set to work crafting her songs and wearing holes through her dance floor kicks.

Today she is an urban pop empress, serving up gem-encrusted beats to a sweaty crowd of booty girls, pretty boys, hip-hop heads, and street elite. "It's always been about the performance," Sariah says, "that's what got me into music in the first place. I love the idea of transforming from a powerful woman to a no-holds-barred onstage sensation."

With Mariah Carey and Alicia Keys fueling her love for epic power jams, Sariah floats effortlessly amidst genres. Her debut single, *Deep N Luv*, produced by Mass Ave Productions, transcends labels of urban, hip-hop, diva-soul, or gyrating dance princess.

Sometimes an epic love ballad, sometimes an anthem style banquette stomper, Sariah's music is always straight from her heart. "All of my songs are inspired by personal love stories, both good and bad."

Sariah's music is the soundtrack of today's modern love story. Whether she's igniting the dance floor or flickering the flame of a new romance, one thing is certain: this Queen of Hearts has just begun her reign of night-life supremacy.

## TraniWreck



TraniWreck is a Boston's boundary busting, drag, burlesque, performance art, variety show and dance party. The all gender, all genre extravaganza features MC Heywood Wakefield with Becca D'Bus, Frieda Fries, Johnny Blazes, Stella Swingline, Madge of Honor and a special guest or two. Plus Boston's hottest established DJs paired with Boston's up-and-coming DJ stars. You'll be lovingly assaulted by brilliantly revealing costumes, hair extensions of

astronomic proportions, polyester, gold lamé, opera, comedy, aerial arts, debauchery and more attitude than a \$13 cocktail.

TraniWreck was named Boston's Best Gay Night 2002 by the Boston Phoenix. Come see why! You can find more information at Truth Serum Productions [www.truthserum.org](http://www.truthserum.org). Our next dates are Friday July 16 and Friday Aug. 13 at Oberon.

## Booty Vortex



Booty Vortex is a musical powerhouse of funk, soul and disco - playing the best dance tunes from the 70's, 80's and beyond. Their high-energy, fun-filled shows compel anyone with a pulse to get up and shake their groove thing! The band was started in 2004 by a group of friends who just wanted to play good music and have a good time. Since then, Booty Vortex has sold out clubs around Boston and shared its special mix of fun and funk at fundraisers,

private parties, weddings and corporate events throughout New England and New York. By day, its 11 members are computer engineers, music teachers, a construction worker and a video producer. By night, they throw on their funkier fashions, grab their instruments and put on a musical extravaganza that guarantees to get every booty on the dance floor!

## Kit Yan



Recently featured in the HBO documentary *Asians ALOUD*, Kit Yan tells stories through slam poetry from the lens of a transgender Asian American from Hawaii now lost in the big city of New York. Through touching love poems, dirty sex accounts, and comedic tales of his childhood - Kit takes you on a journey that is raw, real, heart-wrenching, and unforgettable.

Curve magazine describes his work as "incredible slam poetry" and *Bitch* magazine

says: "The eloquence of Kit's spoken-word delivery lies in the anti-racist, anti-homophobic, gender-inclusive, language that ties his lyrics together."

Kit's work has been taught at universities coast to coast, from San Francisco State to Harvard. He spoke to over 200,000 from the stage of the 2009 National Equality March, performed on the San Francisco Pride main stage, and earned a spot in as a top three finalist at the National Queer Slam. Kit Yan is the reigning Mr. Transman 2010, the first person to ever hold this national title.

# entertainment from the 2010

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## Me And Joan Collins



A four-piece indie rock band from Cambridge fronted by singer/guitarists Bo Barringer and Jen Grygiel, the band released their acclaimed debut album, "Love. Trust. Faith. Lust." in 2009.

Full of 60's-pop-by-way-of-80's-college-rock hooks, their album also betrays a love for prickly post-punk, glam rock riffing, and shoegazing grandeur, inviting comparisons to groups like Spoon, Pulp and Of Montreal. These tendencies are sweetened by the pair's prominent boy/girl harmonies (her Blondie to his Bowie). The band is anchored by the veteran rhythm section of Jim Collins (bass) and Jason Marchionna (drums) who bring dynamics and muscle to the group's "bravado-oozing, glam inflected Britpoppy rawk." (Boston Phoenix) Their live show has received accolades like, "the best band from Boston right now ... a compelling package of music and charisma that's hard to deny." (cheaphrillsboston.blogspot.com). The band is wrapping up the follow-up LP, due out this fall, which promises even more "face-melting riffage" (thelimitsofsience.wordpress.com/) coexisting with "heart-on-sleeve vulnerability." (Boston Phoenix) The album features songs written by both Barringer and Grygiel and a cover of Sparks' new wave-era classic, "Angst in My Paris." For more information please go to: <http://www.myspace.com/meandjoancollins>.

## NEMES



Nemes is a 5-piece violin driven pop punk band originally from Worcester now living in Boston. Many of us started playing because we love to play and connect with others through music and it is all that we want to do with our lives, plus it's fun.

The band has a wide array of influences from Blink 182 and Four Year Strong to Foo Fighters, Underoath, and even Nuetral Milk Hotel. Nemes started with Dave Anthony (vocals, guitar) and his brother Chris Anthony (drums), later the two met Josh Knowles (vocals, violin) in high school. After a lot of line up changes the band found the right chemistry with another high-school friend, Sam Corner (guitar) and a local promoter by the name of Greg McKillop (bass). After this current line-up got together we put out our first official release "865" and have been playing awesome shows ever since.

We released "865," a 4 song EP in the summer of 2008. In 2009 we went into the studio with Mike Poorman of Strangeways Studios (Therefore I Am, TREOS) and recorded a 2 song EP including "Pipe Song" and "Sheep "Sheep."

Shortly after we released "865 Squared," a remastered, repackaged album including the 2 previous EPs with one extra song. This upcoming summer we are releasing a new album with some un-recorded fan favorites and a few brand new songs.

Nemes was voted the #5 best unsigned act in the country by readers of Alternative Press, and have shared the stage with some amazing acts like The Ataris, Therefore I Am, From First to Last, and Lights. We have also had the honor of becoming very involved with amazing local scenes all around the northeast and can't wait to tour further.

## All The Kings Men



The wildly popular, award winning, all female cabaret troupe *All The Kings Men*, ATKM, is both thrilled and proud to be performing for the third time on the Boston Pride stage for the 40th Anniversary! From London to New York to LA this Boston based troupe has been performing to sold out crowds and standing ovations since 2002.

Two parts Tracey Ullman, a cup of Carol Burnett, a hint of Jim Carrey and a huge dose of inspiration, these Victor/Victorias master every point on the gender spectrum with a collection of performances as poignant as they are audacious. Outrageous, hilarious, dynamic and gifted, a whole lotta woman AND man, an All The Kings Men show will have you laughing long and loud and will also make you think. Back in town for the summer, ATKM will be performing full shows May 28-30 at Art House in Provincetown and more locally in Cambridge on June 6 at Oberon. Always come expecting the unexpected and count on hilarious and provocative characters, spot on dance, tongue-in-cheek burlesque, biting satire, and poptastic performances in a modern Vaudevillian spectacle that critics call "just plain amazing."

## God-des and She



*God-des and She* have always been unique; A female hip-hop/soul duo whose sound varies as widely as their subject matter. With their third album, appropriately titled *Three*, *God-Des* (the rapper) and *She* (the singer) now embark on a journey to cross over from substantial underground success to the mainstream. In making that transition, the group has managed to both hone their existing sound and expand into an eclectic mash-up of other styles, including hyper-active dance music ("Drum Circle"), all-American rock ("Change"), thematic electro ("Radio Up"), and feel-good, windows-down pop ("Get Your Bike").

Bred in the Midwest, *God-des and She* have played to packed venues all over the world, from Lacrosse, WI, to Stockholm. Ever since they appeared on *Showtime's* "The L Word" four years ago, performing their infamous single "Lick It," the pair haven't had a moment's rest, selling over 30,000 albums, and holding down the #1 song spot on *MTV LOGO* with their song "Love You Better."

## Seacoast Repertory Theatre



Seacoast Repertory Theatre is the only year round award-winning professional producing theater between greater Boston and Portland, Maine. The Rep produces a broad mix of classic comedy, drama and Musicals including recent Broadway hits and new work, as well as a wide range of educational programming, for people of all ages.

## Mrs. Danvers



*Mrs. Danvers* is a real rarity: a gimmick-free all-female band who makes unashamedly catchy, genre-bending dance/rock. Borrowing their moniker from Hitchcock's sinister maid in *Rebecca*, *Mrs. Danvers's* sound is dancey and melodic, and reflects the varied influences and trained musicianship of its members. They count Elvis Costello, The Beatles, Metric, Meshell Ndegeocello, Django Reinhardt, Of Montreal, and Cake as prime influences.

Having formed a year ago, *Mrs. Danvers* has already built a cult following in Boston, headlined at the Boston Dyke March, opened for *The Clinks* at the *Middle East Downstairs*, shared their music beyond Boston in Brooklyn and Martha's Vineyard, and began a college tour, playing at Harvard, Emerson, Wellesley, and Simmons Colleges. Their music and following has earned them buzz from blogs and publications such as *The Weekly Dig*, *TeaParty Boston*, *Boston Band Crush*, *Cheap Thrills Boston*, *Bay Windows* and *Metro*.

Mer+ge clothing, a t-shirt company which specializes in graphic tees with a message, responded to the band's empowering music and diverse lineup, and sponsored the band.

In the fall of 2009, *Mrs. Danvers* released their debut EP, *What Did I Do*. The EP, which was recorded by LA-based producer, Drew English, features the title track, a dark disco-pop anthem as well as fan favorites "Trophy F&%" and "Wicked One." The CD is available for purchase at *Mrs. Danvers* shows and digitally on iTunes and other online retailers.

## Odaiko New England



Odaiko New England (ONE), based in Woburn and established in 1994, has become one of the premier Japanese taiko drumming groups on the East coast. By combining Japanese aesthetic sensibility with the bold American spirit, ONE is forging its own modern distinctive style and voice as it challenges the very definition of the art of taiko.

Through a wide range of powerful and interactive programs including workshops, school demonstrations, residencies, corporate programs, recreational classes, and full-length concerts, ONE proudly shares its heritage in the hopes that it will enrich the lives of those who are touched by the sound of the taiko.

Offering over 100 performances and cultural enrichment programs annually, ONE shares its energy, spirit, and heart with hundreds of thousands of people throughout the northeast. Their most notable clients include; the Boston Red Sox, Herb Chambers, Boston Pride, the Walk for Hunger, Boston Children's Museum, Dragon Boat Festival, Bank of America, First Night, and the Cambridge River Festival.

Experience the visceral power of Odaiko New England as the drummers move and drum in unison, creating a sensation that can be felt as much as seen and heard.

The powerful sound of taiko, combined with dynamic movement, makes for an exuberant and energetic performance that is sure to delight and mesmerize audiences of all ages and cultural backgrounds. For more information, please see at [www.onetaiko.org](http://www.onetaiko.org).

## Seacoast Repertory Theatre rocks Boston Pride

Seacoast Repertory Theatre is the only year round award-winning professional producing theater between greater Boston, MA and Portland, ME! The Rep produces a broad mix of classic comedy, drama and Musicals including recent Broadway hits and new work, as well as a wide range of educational programming, for people of all ages.

### RENT

Jonathan Larson's smash hit RENT takes the Seacoast Repertory Theatre stage June 18 and plays through July 18, 2010. Winner of four Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Book & Best Score, six Drama Desk Awards, including Best Musical, Best Book & Best Score, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama Jonathan Larson's ground-breaking work follows a year in the lives of seven friends in New York's East Village as AIDS and its physical and emotional complications pervade their lives. A powerful musical that touches all generations, "Rent" has, by itself, made musical theater joyously important again.

### ALL SHOOK UP

Elvis Presley rocks the Seacoast this summer in ALL SHOOK UP playing July 30 - August 29, 2010. Shakespeare meets James Dean, set to the music of Elvis! A mysterious motor-cycling stranger changes a small Midwestern

town forever. Hound Dog, Jailhouse Rock, Can't Help Falling In Love, Don't Be Cruel and Heartbreak Hotel are just a few of Elvis' hits that make this mega-musical rock.

### HEDWIG

Adding a little edge to the summer the Rep presents HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH, Sundays at 7:30pm July 18 - August 22nd. This groundbreaking Obie-winning Off-Broadway smash also won multiple awards for its hit film adaptation. It tells the story of "internationally ignored song stylist" Hedwig Schmidt, a fourth-wall smashing East German rock 'n' roll goddess who also happens to be the victim of a botched sex-change operation, which has left her with just "an angry inch." This outrageous and unexpectedly hilarious story is dazzlingly performed by Hedwig (née Hansel) in the form of a rock gig/stand-up comedy routine backed by the hard-rocking band "The Angry Inch." Using songs and monologues, Hedwig tells her story. It's a rocking ride, funny, touching and ultimately inspiring to anyone who has felt life gave them an inch when they deserved a mile

*Tickets for all events at the Rep are currently on sale online at [www.seacoastrep.org](http://www.seacoastrep.org) or through the box office located at the Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth or by calling 603.433.4472*



CREDIT: COURTESY BOSTON PRIDE

### Kagan from page 2

about whether or not the possibility that Kagan was a lesbian was relevant to her nomination, you've got to admit this: the idea that a lesbian had been nominated to the nation's high court was exciting. Kind of like the first black president. And the first female justice. Firsts matter. Why pretend otherwise?

And as a result of LGBT influence, the mainstream media, the White House, and Kagan, through intermediaries like Spitzer, was forced to address the issue directly.

That didn't happen in 1990 when David Souter was nominated by President George H.W. Bush. Given Souter's age (he was then 50) and his marital status (single), his rumored homosexuality (which is what it was called back then) sparked a similar round of gossip among the chattering classes. The rumors were so persistent that they even popped up in a *Time* magazine report about his nomination. As a post for the *Washington Post's* Politics and Policy blog recently recounted, Margaret Carlson, in a 1990 column, wrote that Souter "had barely left the podium in the press room of the White House before Republican Party officials were raising 'the 50-year-old bachelor thing,' which was widely interpreted as a way of introducing speculation that Souter is homosexual."

But that was the extent of the public speculation. There were no power LGBT politicians demanding an answer to the question, "is he or isn't he?" as Andrew Sullivan did about Kagan in a widely circulated post that was painstakingly dissected in the pages of the *Washington Post*. There was no LGBT blogosphere (or,

well, any blogosphere to speak of) simultaneously publicizing the speculation and demanding answers. As one reader put it to *The Advocate* in the comments section of its website: "[I]t's too much to ask that your reporters actually compose an article informing the GLBT community on something like this?"

In the 20 years since the 50-year-old, never married David Souter was nominated, the LGBT community has grown in numbers and influence. And we saw evidence of that in how the press was forced to deal with the rumors about Kagan: by reporting on them.

**As soon as Kagan's name was put in the mix ... political insiders were gossiping about Kagan as the first gay justice.**

As for that *Wall Street Journal* cover shot, when *Politico's* Smith asked *Journal* editors if they had published a 17-year-old photo of Kagan playing softball as a nod to the rumors that she was a lesbian, *Journal* Deputy Managing

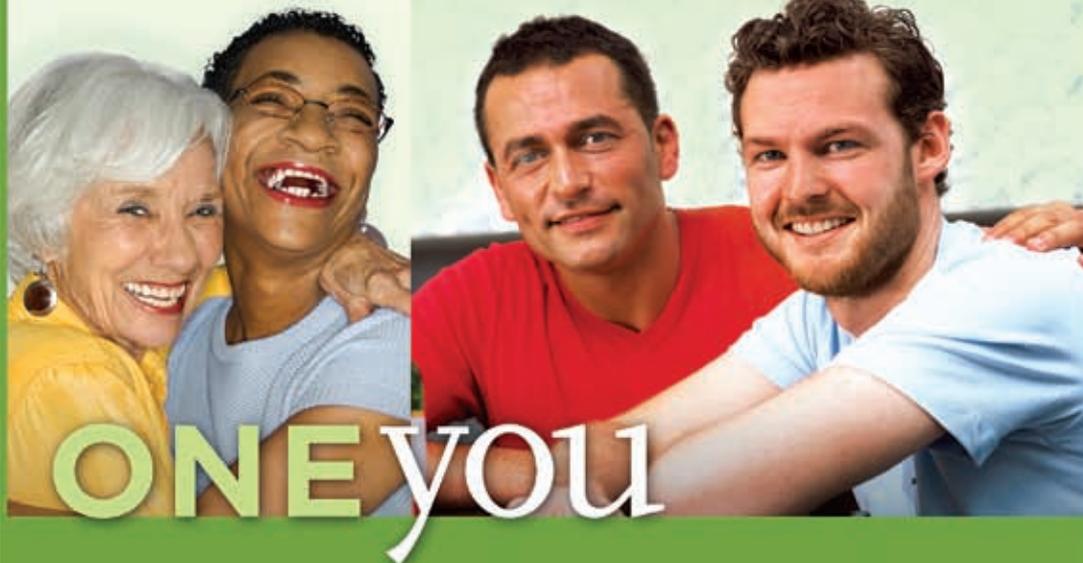
Editor Alan Murray replied via email: "I think your question is absurd."

Maybe. But no more absurd than the decision to run a 17-year-old photo of a Supreme Court nominee playing softball to accompany a story of her nomination.

Say what you will about the reaction to the Kagan-is-a-lesbian story. But it surely shows us that the gays have clout. So much so that even the *Wall Street Journal* was forced to play along.

*\*Susan Ryan-Vollmar is the principal of Influence Consulting LLC, a strategic communications and media relations business. She was formerly the editor of Bay Windows and news editor of the Boston Phoenix. She lives in Arlington with her wife and two children.*

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# How 'Mo Can Kathy Griffin Go?

By: Chris Azzopardi

Out-gaying Cher takes someone with a strong allegiance to the queer community. Someone who's played lezzy, and maybe undergone some plastic touch-ups. Someone like Kathy Griffin, the funny fag hag who's shamelessly self-deprecating about her D-list status, always adding to her Hollywood hit-list and, now, even too gay for Cher.

The comedian's also a memoirist, a voice in the latest *Shrek* film and down with doing some girl-on-girl action, as she showed on a recent episode of *Law & Order: SVU*. Still got a Kathy craving? The sixth season of her wildly successful, Emmy-winning Bravo reality show *My Life on the D-List* airs this summer, premiering June 15.

Griffin gave us a peek into what she's calling the gayest season of the series, including her involvement in the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal. She also chatted about how she discovered her queer cult, being inspirational and why she was a "Gleek" before they took over the world.

**Chris Azzopardi:** I noticed something on your Twitter recently.

**Kathy Griffin:** On my t\$%&? Oh, thank you!

**CA:** No, no. I'm gay. I don't notice those kinds of things.

**KG:** Oh yeah!

**CA:** So on your Twitter – not your t\$%t – you actually remind people that there's swearing at your shows. Isn't that like saying there'll be gays, too? It's pretty obvious, don't you think? I had walkouts in Biloxi, Miss. People stormed out. So I just feel that it is incumbent upon me – as a very serious artist – to remind people that when they come to see me they're not seeing *Mamma Mia!* or *The Lion King*, because I get to play these really beautiful theaters (laughs).

**KG:** I just want to make sure everyone knows what they're in for. I just feel it's fair. Yeah, there's swearing, but swearing is sort of an understatement. I just did my ad for Vegas, because I'm doing the Colosseum like I'm f&%Sing Celine Dion or something ...

**CA:** How gay!

**KG:** It's beyond gay. In fact, Cher wants me to take it down a notch, that's how gay I am now. But anyway, I actually had them put in the ad, "Kathy Griffin: *D-List* star doing her stand-up comedy show. Hopes to offend."

**CA:** You sell out shows everywhere and you've won two Emmys but you still claim you're on the D-list. How the hell?

**KG:** I know I'm on the D-list. I'm reminded, I wouldn't say on a daily basis, but a good twice a week, when I'm called Kathie Lee Gifford. There are still a lot of talk shows I can't get on. And these are the same shows that are happy to have Heidi and Spencer on, but that's more of a Hollywood thing. The D-list in my life: I was literally called Kathy Lee Griffith last night. I went to see Ricky Gervais at a theater and I was parking and they said – (Griffin's cell phone cuts out for several minutes before we reconnect.) Chris, that was a bit of a D-list moment!

**CA:** No kidding! Crappy phone?

**KG:** Yeah, I have an unbelievably cheap phone and it's now officially broken. I've been on an emotional journey with that phone and now I have to realize it's time to let go. What's great is that I'm now using my old-fashioned princess phone that I probably got at Sears like 20 years ago. But you know what? This f@#%& works. Where were we?



CREDIT: MIKE RUIZ

Kathy Griffin channeling Betty Page

**CA:** The D-list and Ricky Gervais.

**KG:** Right. Parking attendant. Kathy Lee Griffith. So I had to keep convincing him that I was on the list if he would just get the name part correct.

**CA:** And then there was the moment during the *Shrek Forever After* premiere recently.

**KG:** Yeah, that was very A-list until my, of course, D-list moment of standing next to Ryan Seacrest. I really had a moment of thinking; here I am in this room with Cameron Diaz and Antonio Banderas and Mike Myers and Eddie Murphy. And then it's time for the photo and sure enough, I'm standing next to Ryan Seacrest.

**CA:** In that movie you voice a witch?

**KG:** I'm the head witch, which I'm excited about. I took the other witches down.

**CA:** That sounds about right.

**KG:** It's just like my life.

**CA:** When did you realize you had your gay audience?

**CA:** It was really before stand-up, because I would do anything – anything! – to be on stage somewhere. I would go any place that would have an open mic night, and that's when I kind of discovered the gay club scene because I just went wherever they had open mics. I didn't care if it was a black club or a gay club or a comedy club or a music club. And then I started going, "Oh, these audiences are better!"

Actually, I write about this in my book (*Official Book Club Selection: A Memoir According to Kathy Griffin*, now available in paperback), the whole question of which came first, the chicken or the egg? How did I find the gays? How did they find me? And it's sort of a combo: I just always gravitated toward gay people as long as I can remember.

It certainly started in high school with the musical theater clique and then keeping those friends after high school. I had a great nerd clique in high school and I'm still friends with them today. And we still have our middle fingers up to the cheerleaders. Basically, it was *Glee*; I was a "Gleek" before that show was on.

**CA:** Since June is Pride month and you've been a regular on the circuit, can you share your fondest memory of playing one of the festivals?

**KG:** Last time I did Orlando Pride, it was outdoors with about 5,000 guys – and a few of the ladies showed up. By the time I got out there, they were still dancing. Anyway, my favorite part was as I was walking out they were still dancing and then one guy just passed out and fell on the grass. And, you know, those gays did not even move to help him! They just danced around him. I was worried! I was like, "Uh, someone passed out in front." And somebody yelled: "He'll be fine, girl!" And I said, "OK, only at a gay Pride fest."

See Kathy on page 15

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**Kathy from page 14**

**CA:** Celebrity photographer Mike Ruiz recently took some pics of you as Bettie Page. How did that come about?

**KG:** He really is an artist. One of the best. And he has shot everybody. So he called me with this idea and I'm like, "How could I possibly channel Bettie Page?" But, boy, obviously he pulled it off. It was great. He flew the hair and makeup people in from New York, he got the outfit, and he came up with the whole vision. And I was thrilled, and so we covered that on the *D-List*.

**CA:** He said he was trying to bring out your "inner vixen." Do you see yourself as a sex symbol?

**KG:** (Laughs) I do when I'm with Mike Ruiz. I mean, boy, he's the one who got away. Mike Ruiz is the very reason that you have these women saying they're either married or gay because when you look at Mike Ruiz you just want to take a bite out of him.

**CA:** Are you shooting more of *My Life on the D-List*?

**KG:** Of course. It's the show that never ends (laughs).

**CA:** The last season of the show was probably the gayest so far. Will this upcoming season out-gay that one?

**KG:** I fear it might be gayer (laughs). First of all, in Episode One we have Liza Minnelli. So out the gate, we're pretty fucking gay. And she's fantastic. And she's Liza. And we get to go to her New York apartment, which is a dream come true for any gay boy such as yourself - or me.

**CA:** How about the episode in Washington, D.C., involving the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"?

**KG:** I'm really proud of that one. I go to Washington, D.C., and do my part to repeal "Don't

Ask, Don't Tell," because I, of course, have many gay friends in the military and seeing the way that policy has impacted their lives is heartbreaking.

Before I started this episode I really thought these men and women left the military or left their service or were even kicked out because they came out. I didn't understand that currently you can actually be kicked out if one person makes a compelling argument and just basically says this person's gay.

So when I went to my first Senate hearing, I heard so many of these men and women testifying saying, "You don't understand. I didn't come out." So John McCain, who I lost total respect for, kept trying to imply that these men and women had been flaunting their sexuality. They didn't have one single person testify that actually came out; they only had people testify saying, "I didn't even come out! Nobody was asking, and I wasn't telling." It was shocking. A few of them had their personal e-mail accounts hacked into. It was really interesting to watch that process.

What I really learned was, honestly, the best advocate to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is Sen. Carl Levin from Michigan. He was so great during the testimony, and John McCain was not (laughs). It was one of those great episodes because we thought it was going to go one way and then this took a turn, and this took a turn. I really learned a lot and it was great.

**CA:** You actually received some advocacy tips from Melissa Etheridge during the last season of *D-List*, and she recently said she finds you inspiring. Do you think you're inspirational?

**KG:** (Laughs) She's a little more in the inspirational category, but I do like to inspire people to be more profane, to be more foul-mouthed and to be more inappropriate. I'm an inspiration for everything wrong.

## 2010 Pride Marches & Rallies in our local Gayborhoods & beyond

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

**CT Pride 2010** takes place on June 5, 2010 at Bushnell Park. TRT will, once again, design the CT Pride Guide this year and will the next too. To learn more about entertainers and CT Pride, please visit [www.connecticutpride.org](http://www.connecticutpride.org).

**Boston Pride 2010** celebrates its 40th Anniversary, will also be one of the biggest celebrations in the commonwealth. TRT will be a media sponsor and will be at Boston Pride this year too. Boston Pride will happen from June 4-13th, 2010 this year. For more information, and to see what will happen throughout the week please visit [www.bostonpride.org/multicalendar.php](http://www.bostonpride.org/multicalendar.php)

**Worcester Pride 2010** will take place on Sept. 18th this year. For more information about this great Pride, visit [www.worcesterpride.com](http://www.worcesterpride.com).

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

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

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

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

**Pride Toronto 2010** celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The week long celebration starts on June 25 and ends on July 4. Pride Week features 10 days of world class arts and cultural programming, community activities, one of the world's largest street festivals, Pride Parade, Dyke March, Family programming, Blackness Yes and Youth and much more. To learn more about Pride Toronto visit: [www.pridetoronto.com](http://www.pridetoronto.com).

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

# RIOTS TO RIGHTS RALLY

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# Award-winning journalist Mikey Rox launches MommyDearestLetters.com

By: TRT Staff

Mikey Rox and his mother never see eye-to-eye.

"My mom and I are completely different people, but we have very similar personality traits," Rox, 29, says. "Those differences – and, coincidentally, similarities – often lead to heated arguments."

This tepid, sometimes tumultuous, relationship with his mother is what led Rox to launch a new project called *Mommy Dearest: Letters from children to the women who raised them*. The blog, which publishes letters and poems from participants all over America, aims to explore the vast range of emotions that children feel toward their mothers and mother-like figures. The content on *Mommy Dearest* is heartwarming, nostalgic, reminiscent, painful, apologetic, happy and sad – in other words, a compilation of whatever feelings the submissions' authors have that compel them to participate in Rox's project.

"I came up with the idea because there were things that I wanted to say to my mom, but I didn't know how," Rox, an award-winning journalist and frequent *The Rainbow Times* contributor, explains. "These unresolved issues go back to when I came out of the closet. But I let them fester for so long that I didn't know how to approach the situation again."

"In thinking about what I want to say to her," he continues, "I thought there must be other adult children out there who are in the same

situation. You never want to hurt your parents, no matter what they've done to you, but you have to get some things off your chest."

Late last year, Rox, who is the owner of *Paper Rox Scissors*, a copywriting and creative consulting company in New York City, started piecing his project together – designing the Web site, registering the project's name,



Letters from children to the women who raised them

and soliciting submissions by posting ads on Craigslist. Within weeks, he had received an inbox full of messages that proved his idea worthy of pursuing. Today, *Mommy Dearest*, which officially went public on Mother's Day, features posts that run the gamut – letters that honor mothers, poetry that expresses undying gratitude, and notes that induce heartache. For every letter that Rox categorizes as "loved" – a distinction on the site that helps visitors choose the type of letter they want to read – there is an "unloved" letter. And it's the latter that Rox says truly hits home.

"The 'loved' letters are nice, but it's the 'unloved' letters that deliver the raw emotions," says Rox. "Some of the things I've read are incredible – and I sincerely hope that my project brings the authors of these letters some mea-

sure of peace."

Among these "unloved" letters is a submission from a lady named Zannetta (Rox only uses first names to protect the innocent, and the authors can remain anonymous if they wish), from Brooklyn, N.Y. Her letter starts, "Mother Dearest, I'm sorry to disgrace you with my lesbianism" and ends with, "Please don't judge me because you don't understand... because what came naturally for you and was applauded and accepted didn't fit my being."

"That letter was particularly touching," Rox admits, "because it sort of hit on some of the issues I had with my own mother. She didn't want to accept me when I came out, and it hurt. I could feel Zannetta's pain. She's strong and independent and she accepts herself, but she yearns for her mother's love. We all do. Thankfully, I now have that love from my own mother, but I didn't always feel it."

Though the site has recently launched, Rox isn't certain how long *Mommy Dearest* will last. But he is hopeful that whoever comes across the site will take away something positive – or choose to participate themselves.

"More than entertainment to readers, I want this project to empower children to say what they need to say to their mothers," says Rox. "Whether it's thank you and I love you, or I wish you were a better mom, we all have something to say to the women who gave us life or raised us. Life's too short to keep it bottled up inside."



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# Creep of the Week: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder



D'Anne Witkowski

**By: D'Anne Witkowski\***  
**O**K “family values” politicians, I don’t care if you cheat on your wives. Frankly, that’s between you and your wife and whomever else you’re humping. But when you hold your pecker up as the holy grail of one-man-one-woman marriage, then your affair becomes my business.

U.S. Rep. Mark Souder (R-Ind.) is the latest anti-gay politician to be caught with his pants down. After it was revealed that he’s been screwing a staffer he announced his resignation – you know, for the good of his family.

“In the poisonous environment of Washington, D.C., any personal failing is seized upon, often twisted, for political gain,” he said in a statement. “I am resigning rather than to put my family through that painful, drawn-out process.”

Aww, how sweet. What a good guy. You know, I wouldn’t be surprised to learn that this whole affair was a ploy to get closer to his wife and kids. Because of how much he values families. Except gay and lesbian ones, of course.

Souder, who has compared gays to alcoholics, voted in favor of the Constitutional marriage ban, filed an amicus brief against D.C.’s marriage law, and last year he claimed that

giving government employees domestic partner benefits was just a sneaky way to redefine marriage.

According to his website: “Studies consistently demonstrate that it is best for a child to have a mother and father, and I am committed to preserving traditional marriage, the union of one man and one woman.”

Committed to preserving traditional marriage for the rest of the country. Not for him so much. Not that anyone should take this whole affair thing and try to use it against him.

“By stepping aside, my mistake cannot be used as a political football in a partisan attempt to undermine the cause for which I have la-

blames D.C. for the fact that Souder humped a woman who wasn’t his wife.

“If Mark Souder is capable of sexual misconduct, it could happen to anyone. The frat house environment on Capitol Hill does nothing to encourage accountability. Most members do not live with their families while they are working in D.C. during the week,” Nance said in a statement.

True, politicians on Capitol Hill have it rough when it comes to seeing and being with their families. But you know, a lot of people have jobs that take them away from their spouses for days and weeks at a time and manage not to screw anyone else.

Nance also challenges family values candidates and incumbents to “guard their hearts and reputations and to live by higher standards that reflect the traditional moral values our country holds so dear.”

In other words, “OMG! WTF? Every time I turn around another one of you has cheated on your wives or propositioned men in public restrooms or hired prostitutes. Knock it off, assholes. You’re making us look bad.”

Remind me again how it’s gays and lesbians who threaten family values?

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

## Remind me again how it’s gays and lesbians who threaten family values?

bored all my adult life,” he said.

I’m not sure how calling out a so-called “family values” politician about cheating on his wife is partisan. Hypocrisy bleeds across party lines.

Did I mention that Souder made a video with his mistress praising abstinence-only education?

Souder does have defenders, however. Penny Nance, CEO of Concerned Women for America, a virulently anti-gay conservative group,

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# De Protesta a Derechos: 40 años de lucha por igualdad

**Visión Latina**



Por: Wilfred Labiosa\*

La Celebración de Orgullo en Boston celebra 40 años de movimiento que tomará lugar del 4 a 13 de junio con el lema, "De Protesta a Derechos".

En verdad sólo estamos celebrando los primeros 40 años de nuestra lucha ya que queda bastante por hacer para poder celebrar total igualdad.

Desde Stonewall, nuestro movimiento ha batallado tantas cosas. Desde aceptación por el gobierno a la epidemia del VIH/SIDA, desde Matthew Shepard hasta los crímenes de odios en contra de nuestro/as hermano/as transgéneros, desde el lenguaje discriminatorio hasta la homofobia de parte de religiosos y religiones. La homofobia continúa todos los días; de no tener ninguna prensa escrita a tener revistas, periódicos, canales de televisión y tantos libros enfocados en la comunidad LGBT. ¡Pero queda tanto trabajo por hacer!

En este mes de Orgullo GLBT, como Latinos GLBT, debemos celebrar nuestras visiones, nuestros logros y los trabajos próximos a realizarse. Celebramos nuestros logros, como el que hemos celebrado ya seis veces la Semana de Orgullo Latino en Nueva Inglaterra, la más añeja y larga celebración de su clase en esta nación; por la cual esta columna va a celebrar dos años; matrimonios legales en nuestro estado, ahora por

seis años, y en otros estados más y tanto más por celebrar.

También necesitamos celebrar el trabajo a continuación; nuestra lucha por una inmigración positiva y justa; la legislatura a favor de la comunidad transgénero y que nuestras voces se escuchen altas y claras.

Necesitamos sentirnos orgullosos/as de nuestros logros, ya sean grandes o pequeños y tomar energías de éstos para el trabajo que se aproxima. Necesitamos mantener vivo nuestro optimismo y energía para continuar educando a otro/as de nuestra lucha.

Me siento orgulloso de la visión de mucho/as de nuestro/as aliados y miembros de nuestra comunidad GLBT, pero estas personas necesitan de nuestro apoyo. Las organizaciones como la *Coalición Política de Transgéneros de Massachusetts* y *Oíste* necesitan que nos eduquemos en el trabajo que ello/as están haciendo para poder apoyar lo/as.

Estas son solamente dos organizaciones aliado/as a nuestra lucha. Necesitamos unirnos más para tener diversidad en nuestro movimiento y lucha política. Necesitamos trabajar con organizaciones como estas dos y *Boston Pride*, *Unid@s: La Organización Nacional Latina GLBT* y la *Coalición de Somos Latin@s* LGBT de Massachusetts para mejorar nuestra representación y reclamar la igualdad que merecemos.

Cuarenta años de protesta no significan que ahora detenemos nuestra lucha – sino que ahora más que nunca tenemos que unirnos en protesta

y seguir la lucha que nuestro/as hermano/as comenzaron en Stonewall.

Nuestra lucha de ahora debe ser unida y organizada con un eje inclusivo. Debemos tener un movimiento con gente de todas clases sociales, grupos étnicos y de todas profesiones. Tenemos que seguir el ejemplo de las organizaciones que incluyen personas de diferentes razas, grupos étnicos, profesiones, religiones, impedimentos, lenguajes, y color, ya que estas organizaciones son las que han podido movilizar nuestra comunidad y alcanzar sus metas. Es cuando un grupo de personas se unen bajo una misma misión y se

organizan que hemos podido alcanzar igualdad. Por ejemplo debemos aprender del movimiento hacia la aceptación de matrimonio gay en CT y MA. Debemos aprender de Stonewall ya que esta protesta comenzó el movimiento GLBT que ahora tenemos; aprendamos de Act Up y de Harvey Milk. Estos/as movimientos/personas cambiaron la faz de nuestra comunidad GLBT.

Como gente de color y GLBT, intentamos traer balance a nuestras vidas en un país desigual. Nos esforzamos en sobrevivir en un lugar clasista, con dinámicas de poder e -ismos que son parte de la norma. Somos inmigrantes que elegimos vivir en esta nación ya que nos brinda otras oportunidades a las que nuestros países de origen, o donde vivíamos anteriormente, no nos ofrecían. Pero, ¿somos iguales? Algunos individuos pueden contestar que "sí" pero la mayoría contesta "no". Este último

grupo ha decidido desarrollar organizaciones y movimientos para ayudar traer equidad e igualdad en su "nuevo hogar". Los grupos de individuos se congregan para abogar por la igualdad y la equidad. Si no te sientes igual que a otro/as, entonces únete al movimiento. En vez de quejarte por qué cierto grupo y/o persona en la política no hace esto, o lo otro, entonces únete al grupo y trae el cambio que quieres.

Los latinos GLBT están aumentando en números y ahora es el momento para unimos y traer la equidad e igualdad que merecemos. Necesitamos reunir a nuestro/as aliado/as en nuestra lucha y educarlo/as. El movimiento, cualquiera que sea, necesita incluir la diversidad reflejada en nuestras comunidades. Ahora está en nosotros/as el pedir (y exigir) un asiento en la "mesa", y reclutar a otra/os para que se unan a nuestra lucha como aliado/as. Toma un tiempo para hablar con los representantes de las mesas informativas del festival en la celebración de Orgullo de Boston (y en otros pueblos y ciudades) para aprender más sobre organizaciones que luchan por ti; aprende sobre la lucha nacional y local.

Únete no sólo en este mes de Orgullo pero durante el año entero. Celebramos no sólo nuestro orgullo como personas Latinas GLBT, pero también los aspectos únicos que tenemos como comunidad e individuos. ¡Feliz 40 al movimiento GLBT y Feliz mes del Orgullo a todo/as!

*\*Escrito en ambos idiomas por Wilfred W. Labiosa; editado por Gricel Martínez Ocasio.*

*To read the English version of this story, please visit: [www.rainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionjune3](http://www.rainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionjune3).*



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# And you, and you, and you ... gotta give 'em hope

By: Mikey Rox\*/Special for TRT

Before I knew what gay meant, my idea of pride consisted of a family of lions.

Of course, as I began to understand my sexuality and subsequently accept it, pride took on another meaning. But I'm still not someone who celebrates the entire month of June surrounding myself with all things gay. In fact, I'm rather repulsed by pride celebrations – especially the parades – because, admit it or not, they're less about demonstrating dignity and self-respect than they are about waving dildos and glorifying sex.

That's not to say that I'm not proud to be gay. I am. Very much so. I just choose to mark my diversity differently – by fighting for equality, for instance.

On Valentine's Day, my fiancé and I became engaged. If you're an Internet junky, you may have read about it. I proposed to him via an article titled "5 Financially Savvy Steps to Popping 'The Question'," which was published on the budget-living site LifeStyler.com. He responded in an appropriately techie fashion by accepting on Facebook. As I expected, we received criticism for our non-traditional engagement from anonymous haters, but by and large the media loved it. We were featured on LGBT gossip site Queerty, as well as mainstream outlets such as MediaElites, Nerve and Gothamist.

Later that day, while the euphoria of deciding to commit our lives to one another was still fresh, we entered Crate & Barrel's \$100,000 Ultimate Wedding Contest. The contest had recently launched and at the time there was only one other same-sex couple vying for the prize – they were friends of ours and they didn't



PHOTO: COURTESY PAPER ROX SCISSORS

Author Mikey Rox and his fiancé Lt. Everett Earl Morrow enjoy soul food at Harlem staple Sylvia's restaurant.

want us to enter. But that didn't stop us. I'm not afraid of a little friendly competition, and we figured we had just as fair a shot at winning as any other couple – gay or straight.

and After Elton, among a host of other sites.

With so much exposure, we knew we had a chance to do some good. While we were fully vested in competing in the contest, it also

**Except I get it now. Before I became engaged, marriage equality wasn't on my radar. I felt like it wasn't my battle, so someone else should fight it.**

Upon entering, we received an overwhelming amount of support – from family, friends and, again, the media. In the weeks after throwing our proverbial hat into the ring, we were featured on the blogs Joe. My. God., Wicked Gay Blog, What Would Tyler Durden Do?,

provided us a platform to talk about some the issues that we face as gay people, including marriage equality. I was invited to write an op-ed making a case for marriage equality in my hometown newspaper, and we seized every opportunity to promote fairness toward same-

sex couples within the context of the contest and America in general.

The concept that we're accidental advocates is rather interesting to me, however. I've always been annoyed by people who don't care about an issue until they're directly affected. It happens all the time. Someone's family member succumbs to cancer and they become the next Nancy Goodman Brinker, participating in every 5K that comes to town and begging for money via e-mail. Except I get it now. Before I became engaged, marriage equality wasn't on my radar. I felt like it wasn't my battle, so someone else should fight it.

Perhaps I would still feel that way if I weren't poised to marry the man of my dreams. I'd still be sitting back, letting others do the dirty work. But things have changed. I can't remain idle when discrimination affects my immediate future. We want – no, we deserve – the same rights as everyone else.

It was then that my fiancé and I started thinking – what else can we talk about with intelligence that will progress, however minutely, equality initiatives? Thus, as a Navy lieutenant (hands off, boys; he's taken), he bravely decided that it was time to come out publicly and discuss in open forums "don't ask, don't tell."

In the months since he took a stand against the outdated, offensive DADT policy, he's given interviews to Seattle Gay News and Oklahoma's Metro Star News; we published a unique piece together, wherein I interviewed him about his time in the Navy, that appeared in many LGBT publications across the country; we were the subject of a documentary project

See Equality on page 21

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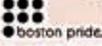
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**Equality from page 20**

by two Columbia University students; he filmed a PSA for Cyndi Lauper's Give a Damn campaign; and we marched (and he delivered a speech) at Harvey Milk Day of Action near our home in New York City.

These opportunities have brought us closer.

We're not just two gay guys cohabitating anymore. We're partners who are invested in equality – for us and for others – and we're committed to doing whatever we can to further advance these initiatives. It makes our relationship more fulfilling, more rewarding and – brace yourselves – more passionate.

That's because we're passionate – about each other and about the world in which we live. In addition to DADT and marriage equality, we've identified other opportunities to discuss why equal rights are

imperative and imminent. On the issue of teen suicide, I provided a story to the Give A Damn campaign about my best friend who killed himself when we were 18 years old because he was gay. And in a few weeks, a video story I recently filmed for Nathan Manske's I'm From Driftwood project, about an act of violence that I experienced in high school because I'm gay, will be featured on his site.

As Pride Month kicks off across the world, I've reflected on the work in which my fiancé

and I have engaged in the past few months. And once again, pride has new meaning.

For us, being proud isn't about parades or parties. It's not about letting the world know we're gay simply for the sake of shouting it out. Instead, pride is about believing in something, standing up for what's right, being vocal and visible, and working toward a common goal – in this case, equality.

You may think that individual activism doesn't make a difference. What can one person do, right? But that's precisely the kind of thinking that keeps our community's issues in the closet.

This month, I urge you to take strides toward making an impact. Go out and enjoy the camaraderie, but in doing that think of ways you can advance the LGBT mission.

March. Write. Blog. Beg. Do whatever is in your power to show that you have pride – and perseverance. We need all the help we can get.

In the name of Harvey Milk, it's true: I'm here to recruit you.

*\*Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer/journalist and the principal of Paper Rox Scissors, a marketing and advertising company in New York City. He can be reached at mikey@paperroxscissors.com.*



PHOTO: COURTESY PAPER ROX SCISSORS

**Lt. Everett Earl Morrow, delivering a speech supporting the repeal of DADT**

**C'mon Out fromn page 21**

It will get better, I promise. You have probably been coming out to yourself for years. It has taken you a lot to get to this point. Your mom has just begun this process. But for her, it's not about freeing herself to become more herself, like it is for you. She may be kicking and screaming inside. But she will come along.

I've been working with people who are coming out for many years. The vast number of parents to varying degrees will, in time, accept their child's sexual orientation. You feel in your guts that she has not yet done so and that has you shaken. I believe from your description she does love you. Her love will, over time, help guide her to see and accept this aspect of you. While I know nothing of her general openness to life and diversity, her love for her child will, more than likely prevail.

You must go through your own process as you come out. As you become clearer and more self-assured, she will sense this. While this cannot be your goal, it will help her see that being more yourself is good for you. Don't be afraid to keep talking to her, including how you feel that she doesn't really accept you yet. Keeping a conversation alive and flowing is good for any relationship.

From her perspective she has lost her heterosexual daughter. Whether she realizes it or not, she has had an image of what your straight lifestyle would look like. She needs time to grieve this loss. You need time to grow into yourself.

At the right time you might ask her if she would be willing to do some reading or attend

a PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meeting if there's one near to her.

Make sure you get support C. Do you have friends who you can talk to? Are there any support groups where you live? You can perhaps access support over the internet. You can also speak to a therapist or counselor if you think this would help.

You are growing up, separating and finding your way into adulthood. This process, whether for someone straight or queer has its own growing pains. Do not go through this alone. The more support you have, the better it will go. I am glad you have reached out here. I hope this helps.

Best, Tetty

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

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

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# Out of Town: Cologne and the 2010 Gay Games

By: Andrew Collins\*

A progressive, attractive metropolis that's long been a playground for fans of outdoor cafes, leafy parks and extremely friendly gay bars, Cologne ([http://www.koeln.de/cologne\\_tourist\\_information](http://www.koeln.de/cologne_tourist_information)) is Germany's fourth-largest city and a hub of the country's beautiful Rhineland. Established as a Roman settlement more than 2,000 years ago, Cologne is rife with cultural attractions and centrally located - it's within four hours by car or train ride of Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, Hamburg, and Strasbourg.

There's plenty to see and do year-round in Cologne (*Köln* in German), but summer is an especially popular time for a visit. Average high temperatures in July and August are in the low 70s, and the city's many bars and cafes with sidewalk or courtyard seating come alive during these months. Every year in early July, the city hosts the Cologne Gay Pride festival and parade ([http://www.csd-cologne.de/index\\_en.html](http://www.csd-cologne.de/index_en.html)) - it takes place July 2 through July 4 this year.

But 2010 is an especially important year in Cologne from a GLBT perspective - this year, from July 31 through August 7, the city hosts the Gay Games VIII (<http://www.games-cologne.de/en>). This well-attended event, which is held every four years, was begun in 1982 and held in San Francisco the first two occasions, before being hosted by Vancouver, New York City, Amsterdam, Sydney and most recently Chicago. It's slated to take place in Cleveland in 2014. This is the largest GLBT sports and cultural gathering in the world, although the similarly themed, though wholly independent, World Outgames were established in 2006 in

Montreal, held again in Copenhagen in 2009, and will next take place in Antwerp in 2013.

Thousands of visitors will come to Cologne to participate and watch the games, which also takes place around the same time as Amsterdam Gay Pride (<http://www.amsterdam-gaypride.nl>). It's expected that many travelers will make time for both events. Organizers are expecting as many as 12,000 participants from more than 70 countries - plus another 100,000 spectators. The city of Cologne, which has long been very supportive toward gays and lesbians, has worked hard to prepare for the Games, improving many sporting venues and working hard to roll out a warm welcome.

Most of the games take place within Cologne city limits and virtually all of the venues are within 20 minutes of the city center by car or public transport. The city has a highly efficient rail and light-rail system. Some 34 sporting events are featured, including basketball, cycling, diving, figure skating, inline speed skating, sailing, softball, soccer/football, track & field, volleyball and many others. The Games also feature a number of cultural events, including a cheerleading contest, band and choral festivals, a "rainbow" run, visual and performing arts, along with countless parties and social events.

The city's skyline is marked by one of the most dramatic architectural works in Europe - the 515-foot Cologne Cathedral, which was built over the course of six centuries and merits a visit to appreciate the sheer wonder of its interior. The city has plenty of other cultural high points. Near the cathedral are the fabulous Museum Ludwig, which contains one of Europe's most impressive collections of modern



PHOTO: ANDREW COLLINS

Three of Cologne's most iconic sites: the Cologne Cathedral, the Colonius telecommunications tower, and the Hohenzollern Bridge.

art (with Picasso a particular specialty), and the Romisch-Germanisches Museum, known for its priceless collection of Roman artifacts. The starkly modern Wallraf das Museum excels in European art over the past seven centuries, and the Museum für Angewandte Kunst (Museum of Applied Art) is a rich trove of furnishings, decorative arts, and textiles from throughout Europe. It's also worth looking for tickets to the renowned Cologne Opera and the city's es-

teemed WDR Symphony Orchestra.

There's also some serious shopping in the city center, with the massive Olivandenhof department store among the hot spots for retail. The pedestrian-only Schildergasse is the most popular shopping street in the city - it's lined with brand-name shops and always abuzz with people. If you're a fan of German snacks, don't miss Hoss an der Oper, a justly famous delicatessen

See Cologne on page 24

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**Cologne from page 23**

that proffers everything from sausages to fine Rieslings. Another retail highlight is the 4711 shop, which sells the product for which the city is named, eau de Cologne, a rather heady perfume with a citrus-y fragrance.

Visitors will find several enchanting places to stroll around the City Center, including the broad and open Stadtgarten, which lies just west of the city. Just follow Rudolfplatz west a few blocks and look for the soaring Colonius telecom tower, which rises 872 feet above the park. It's also enjoyable to stroll along the Rhine, walking across the historic and dramatic Hohenzollem rail bridge (look for the triangular tablet along the river promenade just south of the bridge - it's a memorial to gay and lesbian victims of Nazism), sauntering back down the right bank, and crossing back over via the Deutzer Bridge, which deposits you right into Old Market (Alter Markt) district.

Historically, the gay scene in Cologne was centered around the Old Market and nearby Hay Market (Heumarkt) areas, and you'll still find a number of bars and hangouts in these neighboring districts along the left bank of the Rhine. Bars and clubs tend to be cruiser and more sex-driven around Hay Market and the streets just south. Popular here are Hombres, Zille, Blue Lounge (which draws more of a mix of women and men), Zipp's, My Lord, and Station 2B fetish club, plus a few shops selling erotica, leather gear and underwear. Restaurant Mederrano (<http://www.restaurant-mederrano.de/>) is a very nice dining option hidden away from the crowds of Old Market but near gay nightlife.

Gay bars around Old Market generally appeal to a somewhat older - and more mixed - crowd (women and men, and some straights). These include Zum Pitter, a convivial space

with outdoor seating, and nearby Comeback, a jolly gay pub.

The newer and trendier gay scene emanates from around Rudolfplatz, a 15-minute walk west of Old Market. Just south of this bustling square typically packed with students, hipsters, artsy types and young professionals, you'll find several stylish gay bars along Schaafenstrasse and the streets just south of it. Among the hot spots, check out ExCorner, Maxbar, Schampanja, and the swish the swish X-Bar.

Restaurants worth a look near Rudolfplatz include Paul Bobotie (<http://www.bobotie.de>), which specializes in South African cuisine; and endearingly cool Bar Tabac (<http://www.bartabac.de>), which has the vibe of a cafe on the Left Bank in Paris. A good bet for a gay date, Nana's is a comfy restaurant with a warmly lighted interior that feels rather old-school, but the kitchen turns out surprisingly modern and very tasty German fare. Just a bit northwest of here, gay-owned and wonderfully romantic Limbourg Restaurant (<http://www.limbourg.mynetcologne.de>) serves outstanding French and Northern Italian fare.

Within steps of Rudolfplatz you'll also find numerous ice cream parlors, sidewalk cafes and casual eateries with a devoted gay following. Era Cafe & Bar (<http://www.cafe-era.de>), with its light tapas and good-looking staff, is a favorite - also check out Cafe Rico (<http://www.cafe-rico.de>) and Brenneri Weiss (<http://www.brenneriweiss.de>), a festival beer hall with a large patio. Also just off Rudolfplatz, stop inside Bruno's GLBT bookstore for both mainstream and adult titles, as well as gifts, videos, toys and the like. It's along Kettengasse, which has several other shops catering to the GLBT crowd.

One of the best hotels in Cologne for proximity to gay nightlife is the Hotel Barcelo Cologne City Center (<http://www.barcelo.com/cologne>)

- rooms in this large, international hotel have large windows, many overlooking Rudolfplatz, as well as contemporary work desks, flat-screen TVs, blonde-wood floors and beds with comfy duvets. One of the city's most famous and opulent properties is the historic Le Meridien Dom Hotel (<http://www.lemeridiendomhotelkoeln.com>), a posh hotel overlooking the Cathedral and Old Town. Its 124 rooms are decked out with boldly colored furnishings, marble bathrooms, and - in some cases - balconies.

Overlooking the Rhine, the 454-room Maritim Hotel Cologne (<http://www.maritim.de>) is quite elegant, its lobby set inside a massive glass atrium. There are four restaurants on-site, and facilities include a pool, fitness room, sauna and shopping mall. Nearby Hotel Lyskirchen (<http://www.hotel-lyskirchen.de>) is

also quite popular with gays and lesbians and is near the gay bars in the historic city center. The 106-room property is steps from the Rhine and accommodations are sleek and airy.

Excellent, fair-priced options near Rudolfplatz include the trendy Hopper Hotel Et Cetera (<http://www.hopper.de>), a handsomely designed property set inside an 1893 former monastery, and the simple but cheerful Conti Hotel (<http://www.conti-hotel.de>), whose small but comfy rooms have rates starting well under 70 euros nightly.

*\*Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutofTown@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutofTown@qsyndicate.com).*

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# Star-studded lineup at PrideFest 2010, Rhode Island's Pride

Rhode Island Pride News

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Rhode Island's *PrideFest 2010* celebration will feature a star-studded lineup of entertainers on June 19.

This year's headliner is pop diva Amber. Amber has won over an enthusiastic collection of fans with a string of worldwide smash hits that include "Sexual (li da di)," "Above The Clouds," "The Need To Be Naked," "Yes!," "If You Could Read My Mind" (from the Studio 54 soundtrack with Ultra Nate and Jocelyn Enriquez), and "One More Night," she has racked up seven consecutive No. 1 dance singles and an additional six Top 10 dance hits.

In addition, this year's *PrideFest* will feature local favorites and nationally recognized performers, including New York drag superstar Peppermint, singer-songwriter Todd Alsup, R&B/Soul performer Nhojj, and The Glamazons from *America's Got Talent*.

Joining them will be local favorites Shryne, Becky Chace Band, Candace Brooks Band, Heather Rose, Michelle Ribeiro, and, of course, the one and only Sabrina Blaze.

*PrideFest 2010* will also feature special performances from Miss Gay RI 2010 Savannah Devereaux and Mr. Gay RI Ben Huber, the King & Queen Ocean State 2010, the Imperial Court of Rhode Island, and Jackie Collins. The emcees for this year's *PrideFest* include: Savannah Devereaux, Kevin O'Connell, Jac-

queline DiMera, Vi'Let, Genesis, and the one and only Self-Proclaimed First Lady of Providence, Miss Kitty Litter.

The festival runs from 12 noon to 8 p.m. The Nighttime Parade begins at 8:30 pm.

The theme of this year's event is Equality: Imagine the Possibilities.

RI Pride co-chairman Rodney Davis explained that the concept of equality does not necessarily refer to one issue, such as civil rights.

"Even within civil rights, there's an issue of equality in regards to gender, in regards to issues of immigration, even within issues of race within our own community," Davis said. "We're encouraging people to imagine what the world would be like if we really worked hard in making the world fair and equal for everyone."

This will be followed by the Illuminated Nighttime Parade, featuring LGBT Armed Forces Veterans as Grand Marshals. The repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays and lesbians serving in the Armed Forces is foremost on the minds of many in the LGBT community, Davis noted.

"We have served (in the military) whether openly and discharged, or in silence," Davis said.

This year's celebration will be held on South Water Street, along the banks of the Providence River.

Davis said the new location is "a really exciting one." Last year the festival was held at Station Park, which is situated across from the State House.

The Pride staff could not use the location again due to a shortage of funds and the high



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JMCA ENTERPRISES

## Chart-topper Amber stars at PrideFest 2010

cost of leasing the space from the state.

As in past years, the festival will feature a MarketPlace and Business Exposition, the Kid's Pride Zone and the Beer, Wine and Spirits Garden.

There will be lots of events leading up to Pride:

- On Thursday, June 3 at Mirabar, there will be Benji's Birthday Blowout featuring Mr. Gay RI 2010 - Ben Huber. The show starts at 9 pm and will be hosted by Haley Star and Savannah Devereaux.

- On June 4 at 7 pm is Youth Pride Inc. (YPI)'s Talent Contest at Beneficent Church in Providence. Kitty Litter and LaDiva Jonz will serve as judges.

- A Birthday Hi-Tini for Kitty Litter and

Jeanne D'Agostino will be held at 5:30 pm on Monday, June 7 at the Providence Biltmore. Proceeds go to AIDS Care Ocean State.

- On Wednesday, June 9, there will be a Swim and Underwear Fashion Show at the Regency Plaza on Washington Street from 7 to 9 pm.

- On Sunday, June 13 there will be a Rhode Island Pride Interfaith Service at Beneficent Church. The Reverend Irene Monroe will be the keynote preacher. The Providence Gay Men's Chorus will provide music for the event, which begins at 3 pm.

That evening there will be the Pride King and Queen Ocean State at Mirabar in Providence.

This new pageant to celebrate Pride is open to all members of the LGBTQ community. Contestants must compete in Pride Theme costume and talent performance. There will be both a King and a Queen crowned at this event. Pre-register by e-mail at [Info@PrideRI.com](mailto:Info@PrideRI.com).

Doors open at 9 pm.

- The Providence Gay Men's Chorus performs their new show, "Showstoppers: We Can't Stop the Beat" on Wednesday, June 16 at Rhode Island College. Show begins at 7 pm. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at [www.provgmc.org](http://www.provgmc.org).

- The RI Pride Hangover Drag Brunch will be held on June 20 at Downcity on Weybosset Street in Providence. Seatings are at 11 am and 1:30 pm.

There will also be a Roller Derby at the Bank of America Skating Center in Kennedy Plaza at 3 pm.

For a complete list of events, visit RI Pride's web site at [www.PrideRI.com](http://www.PrideRI.com).

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8. Training Rules
9. The Baby Formula
- 10.8: The Mormon Proposition

**Gay Best Sellers**

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4. 8: The Mormon Proposition
5. The Butch Factor
6. A Single Man
7. Half-Life
8. Rag Tag
9. Homewrecker
10. The Big Gay Musical



**Saturday, June 19, 2010**

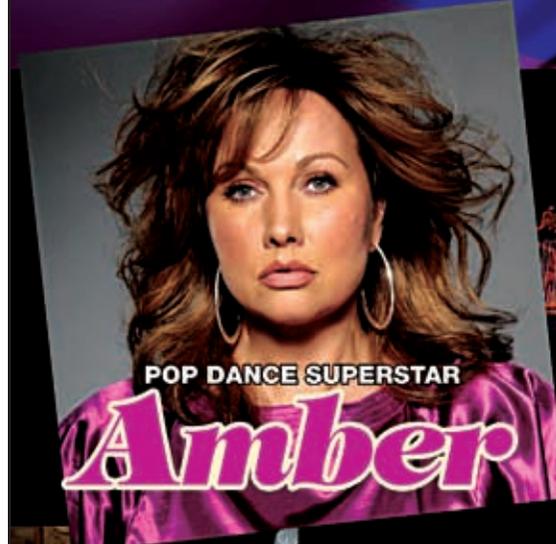
**Rhode Island PrideFest & Illuminated Night Parade**

**NEW LOCATION: South Water Street, Providence**

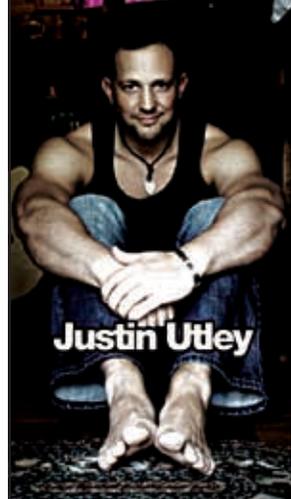
**Starting at Noon • Parade starts at 8:30**

**RI PrideFest & 34th Anniversary Celebration – 12:00-8:00** – South Water Street/ Providence River, Providence – New England's second largest pride celebration features the largest GLBT Marketplace and Business Exposition in the region with a mix of national and local entertainment. The RI PrideFest also features the Kidz Pride Zone, an area specifically created for children, kids and families. A Beer, Wine and Spirits Garden is offered alongside the main stage to compliment the delicious treats from the food vendors at this massive street festival. This riverfront celebration is one not to be missed!

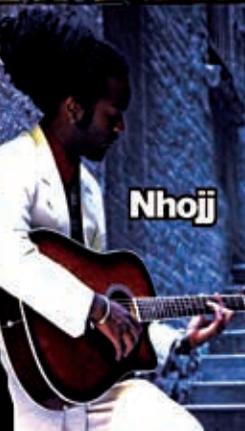
**RI PrideFest's Main-stage Line-up of Entertainment - 12:00 - 8:00 pm.** RI Pride is please to announce this year's PrideFest will feature an amazing line-up of entertainment, with both local favorites and nationally recognized performers. Included this year (as of print time) are: NY Drag Superstar Peppermint, singer-songwriter Todd Alsup, R&B/Soul performer Nhojj, and The Glamazons, as seen on America's Got Talent. Joining them will be our local favorites: Shryne, Becky Chace Band, Candace Brooks Band, Heather Rose, Michelle Ribeiro, and, of course, the one and only Sabrina Blaze!! PrideFest 2010 will also feature special performances from Miss Gay RI 2010 Savannah Devereaux and Mr. Gay RI Ben Huber, the King & Queen of Pride 2010, the Imperial Court of Rhode Island, and Jackie Collins! Your hosts for this year's PrideFest include: Savannah Devereaux, Kevin O'Connell, Jacqueline DiMera, Vi'Let, Genesis, and the one and only Self-Proclaimed First Lady of Providence Miss Kitty Litter!



For Complete Performer Line-up  
[www.PrideRI.com](http://www.PrideRI.com)



From America's Got Talent



**RI Pride's Illuminated Night-Time Pride Parade – 8:30PM (sundown)** – begins at the corner of Fountain and Dorrance Streets – New England's only night pride parade is one of the highlights the RI PrideFest. The RI Pride Night Parade is a dazzling display of floats, performing artists, marching groups and spectators that wind through downtown Providence and culminate at the RI Pride Reviewing Stand under the historic marquee of the Providence Performing Arts Center. Logon to [www.prideri.com](http://www.prideri.com) for more information or to download a parade application.

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# Senate committee takes historic step toward ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

## First vote ever to repeal the discriminatory ban on open service by gays and lesbians

WASHINGTON—Last week, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted 16-12 to repeal the failed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law. This historic action is the first time Congress has ever taken a vote to repeal the ban on openly lesbian and gay service members in its nearly 17 year history.

"The importance of this vote cannot be overstated – this is the beginning of the end of a shameful ban on open service by lesbian and gay troops that has weakened our national security," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "The stars are aligning to finally restore honor and integrity to those who serve our country so selflessly."

The language of the amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act – which is supported by President Obama and military leadership – allows

Congress to vote now to repeal the current DADT law with actual repeal occurring after completion of the Pentagon Working Group

study due December 1, 2010 and upon certification. Rep. Patrick Murphy will offer identical language as an amendment to the defense bill on the floor of the House by tomorrow morning.

"Americans recognize that on the battlefield, it does not matter whether service members are gay or straight; what matters is that they get the job done. Those who wish to preserve discrimination in our military will continue to fight this progress but we will be there every step of the way to ensure that qualified men and women are allowed to serve their country, regardless of sexual orientation," added Solmonese.

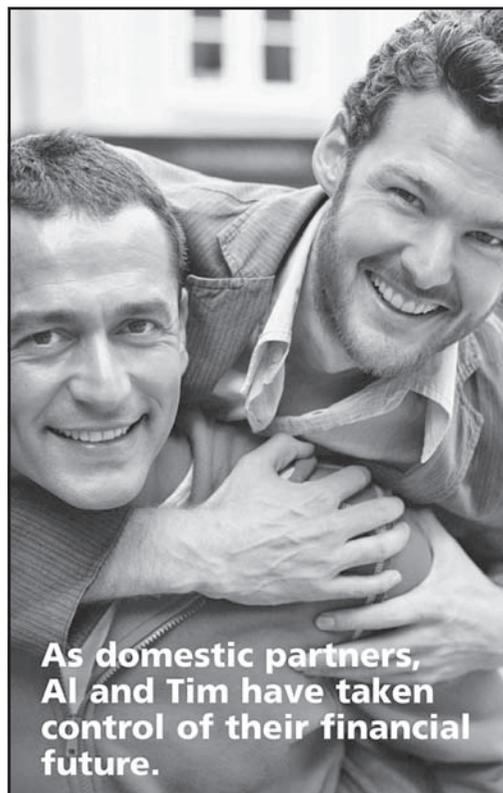
*The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC*

*strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.*



**"The importance of this vote cannot be overstated – this is the beginning of the end of a shameful ban on open service by lesbian and gay troops that has weakened our national security, ..."**

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## Mohegan Sun celebrates Pride month with Alexis Arquette

UNCASVILLE, CT—Mohegan Sun celebrates Pride Month with month-long giveaways and the return of Mohegan SunDayz with a special appearance by Alexis Arquette on June 13.

Mohegan SunDayz, Mohegan Sun's monthly GLBT party, includes Fleur at Ultra 88 Night Club, the Dayz & Nightz hotel package and celebrity appearances on the second Sunday of each month.

### Fleur at Ultra 88 Night Club

Ultra 88 Night Club presents Fleur with a special appearance by actress Alexis Arquette and music from DJ/Producer/Re-mixer John Rizzo on June 13th. Doors open at 9 p.m. with a \$10 cover charge. For VIP table reservations or more information, please call (860) 862.7042.

### Dayz & Nightz Hotel Package

Extend the evening with a night at Mohegan Sun's plush hotel. Featured only on Mohegan SunDayz, Dayz & Nightz includes: a one-night stay at Mohegan Sun's plush hotel, admission for two to Fleur at Ultra 88 Night Club, and a \$40 credit toward your tab at Ultra 88 Night Club. The package starts at \$134.00 per person per night based on double occupancy. To book, please call (888) 777-7922 and mention package code PTEXL.

For additional hotel packages available on Mohegan SunDayz and throughout the year, visit [mohegansun.com/exclusive](http://mohegansun.com/exclusive).

### Month-Long Celebration Giveaways

Mohegan Sun celebrates Pride Month throughout June with special giveaways includ-

ing hotel stays, dinners, concert tickets to Rihanna, Christina Aguilera, Michael Bublé and more. To enter, simply visit [mohegansun.com/exclusive](http://mohegansun.com/exclusive) starting on June 1.



Mohegan Sun will also be attending *Connecticut PRIDE Rally and Festival* in Hartford on June 5th, *Boston Pride* on June 12th and *RI Pridefest* in Providence on June 19th where visitors to Mohegan Sun's booth can enter to win a free Dayz & Nightz hotel package for the next Mohegan SunDayz on July 11th.

Mohegan SunDayz debuted on April 11 with DJ Escape at Fleur and an appearance by Josh Flagg and Madison Hildebrand from Bravo's *Million Dollar Listing*. In May, celebrity guests included DJ Lady Tita and Nick Mitchell (aka Norman Gentle) of *American Idol* fame. The event continues on the second Sunday of each month. The next Mohegan SunDayz takes place on Sunday, July 11th. Event photos and information can be found on Facebook at [facebook.com/mohegansundayz](http://facebook.com/mohegansundayz).

*Mohegan Sun, owned by the Mohegan Tribe, is one of the largest, most distinctive and spectacular entertainment, gaming, shopping and meeting destinations in the United States. Situated on 240 acres along the Thames River in scenic southeastern Connecticut, Mohegan Sun is within easy access of New York, Boston, Hartford and Providence and located 15 minutes from the museums, antique shops and waterfront of Mystic Country. More information is available by calling (888) 226-7711 or visiting [mohegansun.com](http://mohegansun.com).*

### Promises from page 2

Hate Crimes legislation, *we need to enforce consequences on those who think our lives are worthless.*

When remembering riots let us not forget the White Night Riots, when queers fought back against the State after Dan White was convicted of manslaughter for assassinating Harvey Milk and George Moscone.

The government is not actually seeking protection for our humanity or opportunities for our liberation, simply our assimilation into their own agenda.

When people riot it is not simply because they love setting buildings or cars on fire, it is because the system is not actually set up for real justice to ever be found. People are rising up in Greece because they know that the fight for economic justice cannot be left in the hands of a government who will sell the people out to the International Monetary Fund.

When the George Jackson Brigade, a queer multi-racial working class underground organization based in the Northwest in the 1970s, bombed government buildings and racist corporations it was because they were seeking the liberation of all people, including queers of all kinds. *If we limit ourselves and our movements to simply pursuing rights that will be granted to us by the Obama Administration, state governments, or judges, we will continue to be stuck in a system that is White supremacist, capitalistic, and imperialist.*

Rioting is not the end to any struggle or fight, but rather is an outlet for anger and frustration that too often is directed inward causing individuals to hate or harm themselves. Rioting is a tool for those whose voices are continuously ignored.

Many LGBT people may feel like we are getting heard because there are conversations about including us (some of us, certainly not inclusive of transgender people) in the military. However, that is not us getting our voices heard; it is us being allowed to join in as more foot soldiers in the occupation of the Middle

East and Western Asia. Others may feel like we are heard because we are being given the right to visit our lovers/partners in the hospital. It is an embarrassment that we needed to be granted that right and we did not bring every hospital that denied us this right to a grinding halt with any tool at our disposal.

I am not suggesting that everyone should simply jump in the streets and riot, in fact if I did suggest that right now, I could be imprisoned, but I am suggesting that the need for riots are not over. When you gather for Boston Pride I suggest the need for signs that read, "keep rioting" or "rights do not equal liberation" or any other sign that more aptly fits our need for authentic justice beyond assimilation into the violent system we have been given. Our right to be is not something given to us by the government, our right to exist, survive, and resist, is at the core of our humanity.

**We do not need to organize to pass more Hate Crimes legislation, we need to enforce consequences on those who think our lives are worthless.**

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# DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD: Drew Barrymore rolls off to see the wizard

## Entertainment News

By: Romeo San Vicente\*

Once upon a time in a land called Hollywood, all the way back in the olden days of 2002, Drew Barrymore was set to play the lead role in *Surrender Dorothy*, a sequel to *The Wizard of Oz*. Well now it's eight years later and the starlet is now a director who might just take over the whole project. Barrymore, whose sweet, funny, underrated directorial debut, *Whip It*, went almost unnoticed at the box office last year, looks like the person who'll helm the journey back to the yellow brick road. In this story, Dorothy's great, great granddaughter must use the power of the ruby slippers to prevent the Wicked Witch of the West (who, frankly, needs a boost of badness after her all that sympathy generated by a certain emotional Broadway musical) from taking over both Oz and the outside world. But the question is will Barrymore still play the lead? Or will she pass the privilege down to someone not yet in their 30s? And will someone please give Fairuza Balk a shot at one of the roles? It's only right.

### Who will scream for *Scream 4*?

They're finally casting *Scream 4* in the hopes of a planned July start date and, really, it was about time. What's taking so long? Well, the script is on lockdown and agencies aren't even getting copies to show their clients, which slows down the process. (But think about it,



Romeo San Vicente

the fourth installment of its parody cousin, *Scary Movie 4*, came out years ago.) This next go-round will reunite creators Wes Craven and Kevin Williamson, as well as original cast members Neve Campbell, David Arquette and Courtney Cox. And so far the new faces tentatively on board (negotiations, they keep happening) are Lake Bell, *Twilight* alum Ashley Greene, Rory Culkin and Hayden Panettiere. Who'll be stabbed first? And do they get paid less?

### Pee-wee Herman's new *Playhouse* is on Broadway

For a limited six-week run starting October 26, New York's Stephen Sondheim Theater (formerly the Henry Miller Theater) will become a playhouse. Pee-wee's Playhouse to be specific. That's because *The Pee-Wee Herman Show*, the original stage production created by Paul Reubens, based on the character he created with L.A.'s Groundlings three decades ago, is coming to Broadway. And why not? The sugar-powered man-child Pee-wee has been beloved by everyone from hipsters to children for 30 years and has recently enjoyed a resurgence in popularity thanks to Los Angeles performances of the show. He's an institution by this point and Broadway can only be made brighter by his presence. No human casting has taken place yet, but there will be puppetry by

*Addams Family* string-puller Basil Twist and yes, Chairy and Conky will co-star. Romeo loves this news so much he wants to marry it.

### Gay Stuff On TV: The Update

No amount of *Newsweek* op/ed negativity can keep Sean Hayes down. The man accused by a columnist for that magazine of being too gay to play straight in Broadway's *Promises, Promises*, is, it turns out, not too gay to host the Tony Awards, which he will be doing come June 13. And we can all breathe a sigh of relief that gay co-star of *Glee*, Jonathan Groff, was not so unconvincingly hetero on camera that he sank the entire show – it's been picked up for a third season before season two even starts shooting. How's that for a vote of homo confidence? And finally, un-gay Paula Abdul, who convincingly played a singer on eight seasons of *American Idol*, is moving into a new judge's chair, this time on the CBS show *Got To Dance*, where the choreographer will help prop up the hopes and dreams of a variety of aspiring dancers hoping to make it

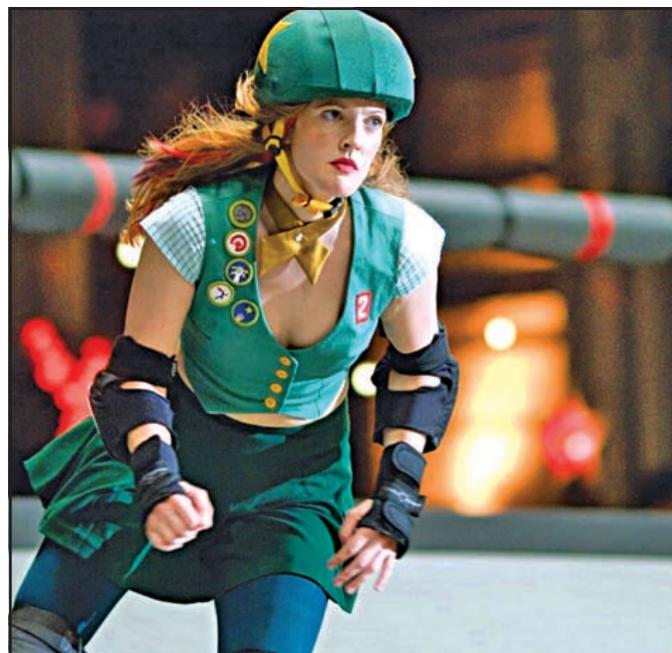


PHOTO: FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

### Drew Barrymore: Trading in her skates for glass slippers?

big with their feet, eventually getting cast on that very straight show called *Glee* or in totally heterosexual Broadway musicals.

\*Romeo San Vicente is the greatest dancer that you've ever seen. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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# RI magazine *Options* forges ahead in tight economic times

Rhode Island News

By: **Joe Siegel**/TRT Reporter

A Providence-based LGBT magazine is still thriving despite financial woes in the midst of a struggling economy.

*Options* is run out of the living room of its editor, Kim Stowell. The magazine's office in Providence was vacated last June, and its furnishings have either been sold or donated to other organizations.

With the exception of Stowell, who receives a modest salary, the 28-year-old monthly publication is put together by volunteers. The magazine depends on donations to stay in operation, and as they have dwindled while the costs of printing have increased.

Additionally, the several board members of *Options* left as a result of the stress and demands of running a publication in an increasingly difficult economic times, said Stowell.

"It was a lot of work (for them)", Stowell said. "They kind of burned out."

Stowell also attributed the dearth of volunteers to a lack of interest from the community.

"People didn't step up to help", Stowell

said, adding, "We're always looking for new volunteers."

The publication's precarious financial state motivated the board of directors of *Options* to implement severe cost-cutting measures in 2009, including closing the magazine's office.

But there is good news, too. An impromptu fundraiser generated \$3,000 in just four days. The *Options* collective also sought the guidance of business advisers, who said the magazine should raise revenues by charging subscribers.

The June/July 2009 issue was published with a substantially smaller number of issues. Subscribers did not get copies, but instead received a letter explaining the dire financial situation in which the magazine had found itself. This correspondence echoed a similar sentiment published in *Options*.

"We are serious when we say that without your contributions *Options* might stop publishing," the letter read. "Due to serious financial difficulties *Options* has been facing, we could not afford to not print and mail the June/July issue. In response to that, a special fundraising effort was undertaken by volunteers and friends of *Options* to pay for a limited edition of this issue to be available at our usual distribution sites."

A small group of LGBT Rhode Islanders began to publish *Options* in 1982 as a way to pro-

vide local residents a forum in which they could exchange ideas and share information about services and organizations. The publication's success has always depended on those who volunteer their time to write, edit, and distribute the magazine.

The advertiser support has remained strong despite the tough economic climate. Stowell noted many gay-owned and operated businesses use *Options* to sell their services.

Stowell said the monthly has a devoted core of readers who have remained loyal through the years. For them, the magazine serves as a way to unite the state's LGBT community.

"So many people love this magazine," Stowell said. There's still a need for it."



Team Options

PHOTO: KIM STOWELL

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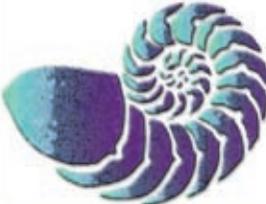
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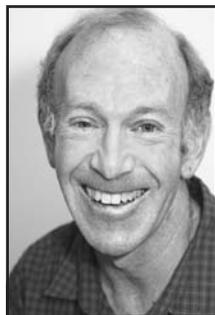
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# The OutField: Team Oregon takes on Cologne



Dan Woog

By: Dan Woog\*

In his late 60s, Arde Johnson still competes as a bodybuilder. When he and his partner moved to Portland, OR, a few years ago, he left behind an important part of his athletic and social life: Team Palm Springs, with which he competed in the Gay Games.

As he told his new Portland friends how much fun the Games are – socially as well as athletically – he planted a seed. Rob Patton listened with interest. Like many others in the LGBT community, Patton had known little about the Games. And like them, he grew excited about the possibility of going to Cologne for the 2010 event.

"I got drawn in like the tractor beam in 'Star Wars,'" says Patton, a softball player. Portlanders had always participated in the Gay Games, of course. But not in any organized way. Individual athletes fund raised, made hotel arrangements and traveled on their own.

Now they are doing it together. Thanks to Johnson's inspiration, and the organizational efforts of people like Patton, Team Oregon will send a few dozen athletes to Germany this summer. When Gay Games VII ends in August, the umbrella group will continue to support gay sports in the state. And when the 2014 Gay Games opens in Cleveland, Patton hopes "a couple of hundred" Oregonians will

be there.

So far, Team Oregon has attracted more individual athletes – bodybuilders, swimmers, runners, dancers – than teams. (Patton will play on a softball squad created by Gay Games organizers; they form teams for players who do not have one. He may also throw the javelin, a sport he enjoyed when he was younger.)

But those athletes come from a wide geographic area, making Team Oregon perhaps the only statewide gay sports organization with a presence in Cologne. "We want to bring people together to train, compete and enhance the whole experience," explains Patton, now the president of Team Oregon. "It's not like we're going to meet each other for the first time once we get to Cologne."

It's a long way from the West Coast to Europe, so Team Oregon has embarked on several money-raising efforts. Members earn points for participating in each event. Funds will be distributed based on point totals.

The owner of West Café donated 10 percent of the funds from a wine dinner to the group. More creatively, Team Oregon members solicited pledges based on the number of laps they'd run around Portland's Pioneer Square – in Speedos.

Small and medium-sized businesses have contributed up to \$300 for exposure on Team Oregon's website. Bigger corporations with sports connections in Portland's backyard – Nike and the North American headquarters of Adidas – are also being solicited.

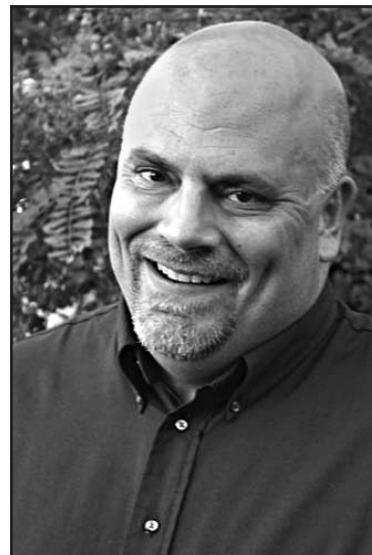
It is important, Patton says, to raise both money and awareness. To help the latter mission, Team Oregon staffs booths at Pride fes-

tivals and reaches out to LGBT community centers and campus groups. But – mindful that the Gay Games are not limited to LGBT athletes – Patton says, "We're as likely to have flyers and posters at gyms and bike shops as gay bars. We're working the gay angle, and also the sports angle."

Of course, there is also a Team Oregon Facebook group.

Many Oregonians react like Patton did not long ago: "I never heard of the Gay Games!" Once they learn about the Games – a social and cultural gathering, as well as an athletic competition open to everyone regardless of ability or experience – they think: "I can go to Germany and compete in a sport I've always wanted to try, but never even done!" They realize Team Oregon can help, and they start planning (and training) in earnest.

In addition to money and logistics, Patton's organization faces the challenge of moving beyond the metropolis of Portland and cosmopolitan cities like Eugene. "There are some pretty small towns in eastern Oregon where it's tough to be gay," he notes. "My dream is to reach those people. We're still trying to unearth them." As an example, he points to a



Rob Patton

swimmer in Klamath Falls. However, Patton says, "We haven't heard a lot from him lately."

Finding gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender athletes; getting them together to train; organizing them and helping fund their travel to Germany – in the midst of a worldwide recession – is no easy task.

"We recognize the obstacles," Patton acknowledges. "But we think whatever we can do to make a difference for people to go is great. This is the first time we're doing this as a statewide group. We're learning as we go along. The next time around, we'll be that much smarter."

For more information on Team Oregon, visit [www.TeamOregon2010.org](http://www.TeamOregon2010.org). For more information on the Gay Games, visit [www.gaygamescologne.com](http://www.gaygamescologne.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](http://www.danwoog.com). He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutField@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).

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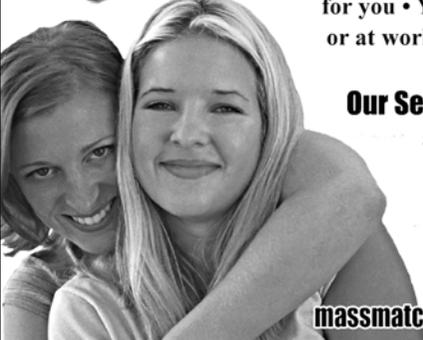
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