

The Rainbow Times

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

Year 1, Vol. 9 • June 7-21, 2007

www.therainbowtimesmass.com

FREE

Street Sense: Should people
vote on a civil right?

p. 2

Why It's Wrong to Vote on
Anyone's Rights.

p. 12



Kevin Aviance:
Bouncing Back
from **BRUTAL ATTACK!**
Our **exclusive**
interview.

p. 3

Where do **DEMOCRATIC** presidential
hopefuls **stand on** **LGBT** issues?
FIND OUT!

p. 13

International QUEER Screenplay
contest **announced.**

p. 9

PARADISE CITY:
15,000 visitors
attend festival

p. 15

COMING OUT STORIES: Attitude is
everything, **student who** comes out.

p. 11

PIONIONS

Street Sense: Do you think that on June 14th, the legislature will vote in favor of sending the marriage amendment to the voters? Should people vote on a civil right?



"... I hope that people can marry basically whoever they choose. I think marriage is a personal thing and that if the state's going to get involved, make everything a civil union, so I'm engaged to my fiancé, and heterosexual marriage should be a civil union, everything should be a civil union. And all marriages can be within their own. If the Catholic Church wants to say we only marry men and women, hey that's your right, whatever! But according to state law, state rights, and civil rights, it's all universal, it matters not who you marry."

—Jonathon Kennedy, Northampton



"Hopefully they will put it on the ballot. Why do they want it put on the ballot, because they want it resented? Certainly people should vote on it, if it's that important. But if it's for nefarious reasons, that they feel there is a groundswell to resent that right, then I'm a little bit ambivalent about putting it on the ballot. So it depends on what the reasons are behind it. I think most people in Massachusetts accept it."

—Marcia Tecca, Hebron, CT



"I think leaving it up to the people is a better decision than either the supreme court or congress voting on it. I think that if it is a civil right, and someone has to vote on it to decide it's better to leave it up to the majority of the voters, then to have a few people represent everyone in a decision this great."

—Anja Waechter-Bourbeau, Northampton



"I think they will. You would think that people would have enough common sense to treat people correctly without having to seek legislative solutions to what should be normal personal behavior ... So it seems like a back door way of going around it. They'll say 'well the people have spoken' but I mean you know, that's assuming that the people know enough about the issue to actually make a vote and I don't think that the electorate is that educated on a lot of issues anymore."

—Jim Sullivan, Northampton

I remember ... I always will remember!

By: Jane Hamel/TRT Columnist

After Memorial Day, 2007, my thoughts are scattered in all directions. I can feel another depression coming on because most of my memories recall family experiences before my banishment. So rather than bore you with whiny drivel, I've dug this rather appropriate poem out of the archives. It was written some years ago when I was part of a writing/therapy trans-support group in NYC.

I REMEMBER

I remember – a re-occurring dream of a couple on very high stepladders painting a rainbow.

I remember – Norbert drowned in the millpond. I was four years old.

I remember – when I became too old for Mommy to put nail polish on me too. I had to become a boy.

I remember – that school milk tasted different than home milk.

I remember – when the Pony Boy ice cream trucks were pulled by real ponies.

I remember – going to Fenway Park, where my grandfather always got us a box seat near the Red Sox dugout. I saw Ted Williams hit a grand slam off of Whitey



Jane Hamel

Ford.

I remember – Rachael's older brother killed himself. No one ever said why.

I remember – my brother being born when I was eight years old.

No one paid much attention to me after that.

I remember – sneaking up to my grandmother's apartment and trying on her corsets. It gave me a girl's shape. I never told anyone how much I wanted to be a girl.

I remember – being very awkward when it came time to date girls. I was at first attracted to those who were larger than me for some reason, but it never went well. I never knew what to do or say. To avoid the confusion, I found myself being rude, which I always felt terrible about. I felt different and very lonely. I was not one of the boys, but I acted like them out of fear of anyone knowing that I thought like a girl.

I remember – discovering surfing. It was

Love, Rights...and the Rest of It

By: JM the JP/TRT Columnist

Fear and entitlement seem to be responsible for the majority of harm that is inflicted in our personal lives and in the world at large. In this scheme, we all participate to some extent.

Just recently, I read an article about a person who was described as "fearless" throughout this detailed story of her life. Noticeably missing was the fact that she is a lesbian.

Last summer, I attended the International LGBT Human Rights Conference in Montreal. Amazing people from every continent participated, including prime ministers, religious leaders, activists, and writers. I was surprised and very moved by the simple mantra throughout the conference: The single most important thing we can do to further our rights and ability to live in the world safely is to COME OUT.

Speakers from middle Eastern, African and eastern European countries—where homosexuality is a crime punishable by a prison sentence or execution—were very clear about this. Despite the obvious risks, they expressed that living in fear is an unacceptable option.

When we do not come out, we actively participate in fear and tragic compliance with the notion that there is something



J.M. the JP

wrong with being queer. We sacrifice self-love for the benefit of a good job, a family who accepts other parts of us, or a feeling of safety.

In a larger context, fear and entitlement run hand in hand to create national, cultural, and religious chauvinism. People fear or misunderstand what they don't know. Whole countries engage in greed and privilege to justify horrific harm, and they use fear as a motivator.

So, readers, how do we transcend fear and entitlement in this world as it is? What do we do to transform things? Write in. I would love to open this discussion further. Peace.

**J. Mary Sorrell is a Justice of the Peace and an elder advocate. She feels compassion for everyone in the LGBT community—out, in, and in the process of coming out. She believes we have tremendous power to heal ourselves and others on this journey.*

The Rainbow Times

13 Old South St. • Suite 2C
Northampton, MA 01060

www.therainbowtimesmass.com
editor@therainbowtimesmass.com

sales@therainbowtimesmass.com

Phone: 413-204-8959 • Fax: 866-310-8512

Publisher
Gricel M. Ocasio
Editor-In-Chief
Nicole Lashomb

Viviana Vallente
Jane Hamel
Jack/ie Kennedy

Sales & Distribution
Ben Peterson

Writers:
Lindsay Wilson
(Street Sense)
J.M. Sorrell

Columnists:
Dr. Renee Lang
Atty. Jennifer
Dexter

Webmaster:
Jarred Johnson

The Rainbow Times is published by The Rainbow Times, LLC. The articles written by the writers, columnists, and correspondents express their opinion, and do not represent the endorsement or opinion of The Rainbow Times, LLC or its owners. To write letters to the editor, please send your letters, with your name, address and phone number to: The Rainbow Times (address shown above), or e-mail any comment/s to the editor at: editor@therainbowtimesmass.com. All submissions will be edited according to space constraints. The Rainbow Times, LLC reserves the right not to print any or all content, or advertisements for any reason at all. To receive The Rainbow Times at your home via regular mail, or through electronic delivery, please visit our website. The content and graphics (photos, etc.) are the sole property of The Rainbow Times and it cannot be reproduced at all without TRT's consent.

Kevin Aviance: Bouncing Back

By: Michael A. Knipp*/Exclusive Report for TRT

Drag artist Kevin Aviance is used to having his picture in the papers.

Just not when his jaw is wired shut.

By now, most of the gay community knows the story of what happened that muggy summer night last June when Aviance exited popular bar the Phoenix, in New York City's East Village: four men, ages 17 to 21, brutally attacked and beat the chart-topping performer, leaving him battered and bloodied on the street. According to the Associated Press, "the men followed Aviance, called him derogatory names and threw two garbage bags and a paint can at the singer before surrounding and attacking him." After the violence ended, a passing stranger walked Aviance to Beth Israel Medical Center in Manhattan, where he received treatment for injuries, including a broken jaw and a bruised knee.

And that was just the beginning of the grief and terror to follow.

More than the physical damage to his body, the mental tragedy Aviance experienced raised painful questions: How could this happen? What do I do? Will I ever be safe again?

In one of his first interviews since that dreadful night a year ago this month, Aviance talks candidly about what actually happened that night, his recovery, the death threats, leaving the Big Apple, forgiving his attackers, and, in true Aviance fashion, his new line of women's shoes.

Because, well, you can't keep a good girl down.

Michael A. Knipp: If it's not too difficult to talk about, can you tell me what actually happened the night you were attacked?

Kevin Aviance: [I had] just finished a photo shoot and I was having a great day. I was walking home, I was dressed normal. I passed by a group of young men when one of them made a comment. I kept walking and minding my own business, but they wouldn't leave me alone. The next thing I knew I was on the ground and they were kicking me. I was

told later that I was kicked in the head over 30 times.

MK: What was going through your mind?

KA: I knew I did not want my story to end like that.

MK: At the time of the attack, you had been performing in New York for a long time. Did you ever imagine something like this could happen?

KA: Never. I believed New York to be very safe. I had lived there for such a long time and I had never had problems before.

MK: Four suspects were arrested under New York's hate-crime law – and subsequently sentenced to prison – but reports say that up to seven men were involved in the attack. How many guys were there?

KA: I know for a fact that four guys were involved.

MK: Do you think you were targeted specifically, or were you just in the wrong place at the wrong time?

KA: Wrong place, wrong time.

MK: Have you seen or spoken to your attackers since that night last June – perhaps in court? If so, what did you say to them? If not, what would you say to them?

KA: No, I have not seen them at all.

MK: Have you forgiven these men for what they did to you?

KA: I was brought up to forgive those who do wrong so, yes, in many ways I have forgiven them.

MK: How have your fans supported you through this?

KA: If it wasn't for my fans and friends I really don't know where I would be.

MK: Since the attacks, you've received numerous death threats. How do you handle that?

KA: I received threats during the trial, but now that the matter is resolved they have thankfully stopped.

See **Bouncing Back** Page 6



Members of the founding members of the Holyoke Pride Alliance and the Prom Organizing Committee take some time to bond and build memories at the prom. Photo courtesy of: HPA.

Holyoke Youth Prom a success

By: Lindsay Wilson/TRT Reporter

HOLYOKE, MA—On Saturday, May 19, the Holyoke Pride Alliance held a youth pride prom at Open Square in Holyoke.

The prom was the first event sponsored by the alliance, a group that was formed only six months ago, and which consists of 15 active members and 40 online members, according to founding member, Alex Morse.

Morse, a Holyoke High senior, said the group originally met to plan for a day similar to Boston's Youth Pride, which includes a parade, rally and a dance—something they wish to accomplish next year.

The prom was a free event supported by a grant funded through HYPE (Holyoke Youth Pride Empowerment), a support group for LGBT youth at Girl's Inc in Holyoke, as well as donations from GLAD Greenfield, Springfield Central

High School and Holyoke High School's GSA's, The Rainbow Times, and by individuals at the Holyoke Health Center.

The prom's entertainment included a speech by Holyoke Mayor Michael Sullivan, performances by drag queens and kings, an open-mike segment, and of course, dancing. The crowd was entertained by the music played by DJ Thonsey.

The event also featured a graffiti wall for youth to write down their feelings, as well as framed instant photos. Tapestry Health was also at the event, distributing information and facilitating games.

"I think when some people hear about the western mass youth pride prom, they may think it's only for LGBT people, but we

See **Holyoke Youth** page 5

Pampered Pet Sitting, LLC

• Offices in two locations to serve you better • Reduced stress for your pet • Consistent diet & exercise • No travel Anxiety • Routine Checking of your home while you are away • Love & attention for your pet when you cannot be there!

Call today for a FREE consultation!

Candy A. Laflam, President

247 Northampton St. • Suite 12

Easthampton, MA • 01027

413-529-0011 • Goshen: 413-268-3447

Cell: 413-695-0427



www.pamperedpetsit.net E-mail: info@pamperedpetsit.net

Your Subaru will come
with an honest deal
AND
an honest dealer!



Tribeca

Steve
Lewis



Forester

48 Damon Rd., Northampton, MA 413-584-5355
www.stevelewis cars.com

Optical
Studio

Serving the
GLBT community
for 14 years

- Eyecare and Exams
- Optical Boutique
- International Eyewear Selection
- Prescriptions Filled

413-584-6616

247 Pleasant St., Northampton

LgBtH_{HEALTH}

Doctors warn sunworshippers to protect their skin

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Too much of a good thing can be painful, even deadly, when it comes to sunshine.

So with summer just about in full swing, dermatologists and skin cancer researchers say people should limit their time in the sun and take other steps to protect themselves from the sun.

"Enjoy it, but enjoy it in moderation and with common sense," said Dr. Warren Heymann, head of the division of dermatology at Cooper University Hospital in Camden.

With skin cancer on the rise, doctors have been issuing such warnings for years, but many people don't heed them—or wrongly think slapping on a little sunscreen once before a full day at the beach or pool is all they need. That's the biggest mistake people make, Heymann said.

"It's not enough. If you're going to be outside, try to stay out of the midday sun, stay in the shade, wear appropriate clothing," use sunscreen and reapply it every two to three hours and after swimming or heavy sweating, Heymann said.

Appropriate clothing includes a hat that covers the scalp, long sleeves if it's not too hot and fabrics that aren't open-weaved or too thin.

A thin, white T-shirt allows the ultraviolet rays that cause skin cancer and sunburn to penetrate, so sunscreen should be applied underneath, said Dr. Jonathan Lee, a melanoma specialist at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey in New Brunswick, part of the University of

Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

People should also check sunscreen labels to see exactly what the product does; the SPF, or sun protection factor, listed on the bottle only refers to protection against ultraviolet B rays, which primarily cause sunburn. UVA rays penetrate the skin more deeply and are the main cause of skin cancer and premature aging, so sunscreens that provide broad UVA and UVB protection are best.

Products with the ingredients Helioplex or Mexoryl are "photo stable," so they aren't broken down quickly by UVA rays and work for a few hours. Chemical-free blockers containing titanium oxide or zinc oxide, which also protect well against both UVA and UVB rays, are a particularly good choice for anyone experiencing rashes from other sunscreens, Heymann added.

"Some people are a lot more prone to developing skin cancer," Lee said.

Those include fair-skinned people who burn rather than tan, people who have previously had melanoma or have a family history of it, and people with "atypical" moles: ones that are asymmetrical, have jagged borders or varying colors, and are about one-quarter inch in diameter or larger. Those moles and any showing signs of changes should be checked, because skin cancer usually is curable if treated early.

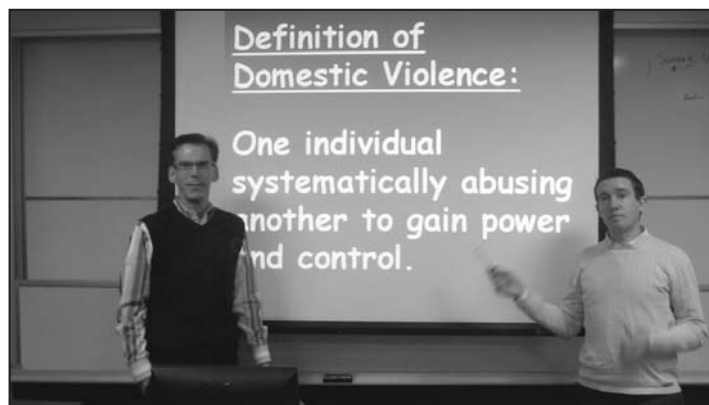
This year, the American Cancer Society estimates about 59,000 Americans will be diagnosed with melanoma, and about 8,110 will die of it. That's up from about 48,250 new melanoma cases in 2002, when deaths were slightly higher at about 9,900, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Reasons for the increase in cases include the thinning of the ozone layer, use of tanning salons and people going outside more—and wearing less clothing com-

Tips on how to protect yourself from the sun's dangers:

- Limit time in the sun, especially during the peak hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wear a hat that covers the whole scalp, face, neck and ears. Wear a shirt and cover other skin as much as possible with tightly woven clothing. If wearing a thin, light-colored shirt, apply sunscreen beneath it.
- Apply sunscreen daily on unprotected skin using a product that has broad protection against both UVA rays, the main cause of skin cancer and premature aging, and UVB rays (which cause sunburn).
- Pick a product with an SPF, or sun protection factor, of at least 15. Note the SPF refers only to protection against UVB rays, not the more-dangerous UVA rays.
- Follow manufacturer's directions, but in general apply about 30 minutes before going in the sun; reapply every two to three hours and after swimming, toweling off or heavy sweating.
- Use sunscreen more often on children, and be especially protective of infants, keeping them in the shade.
- Keep sunscreen handy with an extra bottle in your car or in your child's backpack.
- Wear sunglasses that protect eyes from ultraviolet rays.

pared to decades ago when attire covered more skin, said Conney.



L-to-R: Iain Gill, Education GMDVP and Dennis Berounsky, survivor speaker.

Photo courtesy of: GMDVP

GMDVP: It's all in the Presentation

The Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project (GMDVP) is looking to engage with LGBT community organizations and service providers to help Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (GBT) identifying men recognize abuse in their own lives and to empower to get the help they need. The organization has 4 locations including one in Western Massachusetts.

GMDVP can visit your organization, workplace, community centre, or college and present a dynamic workshop on GBT domestic violence. As part of this educa-

tional training a survivor of domestic violence will also come and share his story from a personal perspective, followed by a more in-depth educational discussion.

If you interested in receiving training please get in contact with Iain Gill in our Education Department to discuss details (617-354-6056). You can also visit GMDVP's website at <http://www.gmdvp.org/>.

"Remember: One in four gay men experience domestic violence."

Jennifer L. Dexter Attorney at Law & Notary Public



Specializing in: Real Estate, Family Law, Wills, Education Law & Criminal Law
95 State St., Suite 724
Springfield, MA 01103
attydexter@comcast.net
413-214-7625

This could be your same-sex marriage announcement

Jeffers Healy-Christopher Cook

Jeffers Healy and Christopher Cook were joined in a holy union ceremony at All Saints' Parish in Beverly Hills, Calif. The Rev. Jimmy Bartz, formerly state religious minister, officiated. Their two children, ages 2 and 1, joined the ceremony.

Cook is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Cook of Greenville and Santa Barbara, Calif. He graduated from UCLA and is the director of annual giving for the city.



For a small fee, you also can have your same-sex wedding photo, marriage or anniversary announcement/s published at The Rainbow Times. **YOU HAVE THE OCCASION, WE HAVE THE TIME!** 413-204-8959
www.therainbowtimesmass.com

Large breasts=No job?

Dear Queer Justice:

I am a female with a fairly large chest. I applied for a job at a location I will not disclose. I was informed by a reliable source that one member of the search committee said that I should not be working there because of the size of my chest. I did not get the job. What should I do? —Betsy

Dear Betsy:

Unfortunately you are the victim of sexual harassment. Both State and Federal law is clear about this.

Unwanted sexual advances, sexual jokes, sexual comments, sexual gestures

or any behavior of a sexual nature within the work place is considered sexual harassment and is actionable civilly and possibly criminally. This is a clear case for a civil action.

If you want you can consult a personal injury attorney. If you wish to go it alone, your first step would be to write a letter to the Board of Trustees (if one exists) or the head of Human Resources, or whatever



Attorney Jennifer Dexter

Unwanted sexual advances, sexual jokes, sexual comments, sexual gestures or any behavior of a sexual nature within the work place is considered sexual harassment and is actionable civilly and possibly criminally.

—Atty. J. Dexter

entity runs this company.

Your next move will depend on the response you receive to your letter. Should you decide to consult a lawyer, there are some issues you should consider such as what do you want? What

would make you whole? Do you want the job? Do you want monetary compen-

sation? Do you want the company to be punished? How far are you willing to take the law suit? Are you willing to go to trial or are you looking to settle?

Assuming you can offer evidence to support the facts, you have a good case. Good luck!

GLAAD's Spanish language visibility ad campaign

Los Angeles—The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) announced today its first-ever print and online advertising campaign to promote visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Latinos. The campaign will run the second and third week of May in HOY, one of the nation's top Spanish-language newspapers with a daily circulation of 169,000 in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. The ads will also appear on univision.com's (www.univision.com) homepage and Mujer (Woman) and Familia (Family) landing pages, which receive a combined 3.4 million visits per day.

GLAAD's campaign will focus on creating visibility of the LGBT Latino community in Spanish-language media as a means to eradicate discrimination based

on sexual orientation and gender identity.

"All Latino families have cousins, nieces, brothers, aunts and friends who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender," said Mónica Taher, GLAAD's people of color media strategy director. "GLAAD hopes this campaign will spark conversations about love and acceptance to help end homophobia and discrimination in the Latino community."

About GLAAD

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. For more information, please visit www.glaad.org.

Tell your Senators: Pass the Matthew Shepard Act!

In a hard-won victory, hate crimes legislation has passed the House of Representatives. The bill now goes to the U.S. Senate - where the radical right, terrified of this legislation, has stepped up their attacks.

It is essential that the Senate passes this bill with a broad enough majority to discourage a presidential veto. Tell your Senators to support the Matthew Shepard Act. To

do so visit: www.hrcactioncenter.org/campaign/matthew_shepard

WWW.JUSKISSME.COM
CT/MA- LOCAL FREE LESBIAN DATING/CHAT

Holyoke Youth from page 3

want to stress the fact that it's for their allies and for everyone to have fun," said Morse, who added that the prom was meant to give students an opportunity to meet other gay youth from outside their school or city.

Morse said the alliance was formed as a way to consistently work on issues pertaining to the LGBT community. The alliance's next project is to start a Holyoke PFLAG chapter, (parents, families, and friends of lesbians and gays). The chapter would focus on the parents of LGBT people and would help parents to play a role in advocating for social equality.

The group is also planning to implement educational campaigns throughout the city, to support the GSA's at local high schools, and in general, just advocate for change.

The idea for the group, originally named The GLBTQ taskforce, began two years ago when Morse started collaborating with Girl's Inc. Volunteer Coordinator, Viviana Valiente, during an Outward Bound program.

It was at this time Valiente noticed that students needed more support, and that the schools needed more education on human rights.

"We decided that a GSA would be the best vehicle to bring people together," she said. "So that started and everything snowballed into something bigger and bigger. We ended up having a school wide assembly which was very successful here, and the kids got standing ovations."

Valiente said she would also like to start a program similar to foster care for gay youth. "We meet a lot of youth who their parents threaten to kick them out when they come out, or they are actually homeless, or they quit school because they are being harassed," she said. "... A PFLAG [chapter] will be a very good support system for the kids and if we have some of those adults ... we could have them as foster parents. Part of the mission is educating the community and giving back to the community so that people are respected and are treated with dignity ... so hopefully we'll be hosts of good faith and we'll be able to educate

people on human rights in general."

"A couple of years ago we really didn't have a GSA, gay people didn't really have any visibility on campus," said Morse. "We've had a school-wide assembly, a sticker campaign, a teacher training, and this month we're doing LGBTQ announcements and history on the intercom every morning so we're pretty supported. We just want people to know that Northampton isn't the only place where gay people can feel comfortable and it's not the only place where activism goes on."

* **HYPE**, a support group for teens, meets on Wednesdays at Girls Inc in Holyoke from 5:15 p.m. - 7 p.m.

* To join the Holyoke Pride Alliance, email: glbtq@googlegroups.com or call Girl's Inc at 533-0796 x 113.

Help re-build CT Pride

Under new leadership, CT Pride has undergone major reconstruction. Everything is being re-established from scratch! Please donate or volunteer to help CT Pride celebrate its new beginning.

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

Please circle one of the following:

Donation

Volunteer

All checks may be payable to Connecticut PRIDE, Inc.

Please remit this coupon and/or donation to:
Connecticut Pride • 458 Wetherfield Avenue • Hartford, CT • 06114



"One of the most romantic lesbian destinations on the planet."
-Planet Out

highlandsinn-nh.com • Bethlehem, NH
877 LES-B-INN (537-2466)

therainbowtimesmass.com

Real news, your news ... updated everyday! Featuring also the companies who want your business ... respectfully.

ENTERTAINMENT

If it makes you think, then it serves its purpose

By: Jackie Kennedy/Columist

So the **presidential candidates** have been asked for their opinions on several topics of interest to the LGBTQ community. Let's see, from the answers it seems like we have a bunch of people, scared of the conservatives, who are dodging questions back and forth at this stage. Why do we have to be afraid of people who called themselves **Christians**, but who practice none of Christ's teachings? I don't know about you, but I don't remember when Jesus used the word homosexual in the Bible, or when he used division as a way of showing others how to desegregate and take away people's inalienable rights. But wait, that's happening now and there is a nation full of hypocrites proclaiming that it's all ok because they're following Christ's precepts. What precepts were those? Are they making up these as they go around living, and is anyone going to stop them? This too remains to be seen. I say, let's vote for the people without regards to color, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or disorientation, credo, etc. The more divisions that we add, the more superior some groups claim to be, and act on it too. God makes them and they get together! Amen!

But, I've had enough with this frantic attempt to make people listen to what should really mean to be a "true"

Christian. Let's talk about fun stuff.

I don't care much for *The View*, but I started watching the darn show when **Rosie O'Donnell** showed her opinionated self on it. Rosie just calls them as she sees them and many people don't like her, or disagree with her opinions. When they don't have a good come-back for her outspoken views, they just go after her by using "personal attacks." Come on people, can't you just lose an argument? Why does everyone has to be right?

Now, what's with *PlanetOut.com* going into bankruptcy by next Fall? Did you know that? Well, according to a report by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, it seems like they are just trying to survive these days. It seems like several reasons have left the gay company with almost no fuel left to survive. Amongst the reasons are the decline in ad personals, and less advertising revenue. If PlanetOut doesn't come up with the \$15 million it owes to meet the terms of an existing loan, it could just go ka-put! What's with that?

Anyway, let's just repeat it **all LGBTQ people are terrorists!** I've said it, for I've read it on a website that also included a list of groups composed of environmen-

talists, animal rights advocates and abortion opponents who, according to this website, should also be considered terrorists. **The Bible Thumpers from the South** keep adding insults to "God's children,"

because in their eyes God's children are only from one color, one race, one gender (maybe two), one political party, with the same mentality as the majority. Again, doesn't this sound

exactly like what Jesus teachings were about? What are these people going to do when they find themselves charring with their fellow believers in this craze and cynical cycle of theirs? On earth they throw stones at some, while award others? In that place, I think they'll be doing something else still trying to figure out where they went all wrong. Go figure!

No, I'm not a Republican, but I ain't a democrat either. I call it as I see it, because I'm tired of the hypocrisy that exists around here. I smell a fish, from the White House and up and down, and side by side and well, below too. Are you kidding me, below is where the fun is!

Some people wonder how LGBT people can live a life of deceit for a long time before "**coming out of the closet**?" I say, because it's a hard life of abuse, neglect,

mistreatment, hatred, and even death. Look at **David Hyde Pierce**, the *Frasier* dude. Even he had a hard time "coming out." For those of you out there who think that I've chosen this "lifestyle," I tell you this: "Sure, I've chosen a life of shame, of persecution, of humiliation, of not possibly having any rights to marry, of living in fear, or having my family disown me (wait, that's happened already!)" Try this lifestyle, I tell you, and once you're wearing my shoes I bet you won't call it a lifestyle either. I say, some of your heterosexual/bisexual/swinger lifestyle (in the closet too) is just the 'convenient' lifestyle to hide into so that you can do all the things that we come out in the open and say. How's that for honesty? Gulp! Here's some tequila, so don't sweat it, for you'll never understand it.

Ok, so this turned out to be not an entertainment show. But, do enjoy Pride, go out and celebrate. For those of you who are our allies, go and celebrate with your friends, family, significant others, etc. We're good people and we deserve the love that was also promised to us, by the same God that everyone has. Amen! Later lads, Gals, Trannies, Hetero's, Q's, all!

To contact me, for all of my adoring fans, shoot me an e-mail at: kennedy-jack_ie@yahoo.com

Rock on, for I'll be back!

— Bouncing Back, from page 3

MK: You've also dealt with accusations that you provoked the attack. What do you say to that?

KA: I've never responded to any of those accusations, nor will I ever acknowledge them.

MK: Because of the intensity of the ongoing trials following the attack, you've moved from New York.

KA: I needed a place to completely heal so I moved away. It's been six months. The move was the best thing for me. It's hard to heal in the spotlight. It's hard to live up to your own madness. I needed a place to rest and work on my music and

my new shoe line.

MK: But by leaving the city you called home, do you feel it sends a message to your attackers that they've won?

KA: No. I don't believe so at all. I'm not gone from NYC forever and I didn't leave because of them. I left because of me. I needed to work on my soul and find myself again. I really couldn't do it with all the press around me all the time.

MK: It's been a year since the attacks. Are you more cautious than you were before? Are you constantly watching your back now? Or have you regained your sense of security, considering that security was there in the first place?

KA: I'm not 100 percent there yet, but I'm working on it.

MK: What are you doing now to make sure that these

kind of things don't happen to anyone else? Working with legislators? Crusading for victims' rights?

KA: I can and will do as much as I can, but first I need to work on myself and the pain of it. You see, it's hard to stand for other when you cannot stand for yourself.

M K :

Obviously there's a physical toll the attack took on you, but mentally what did it do to you?

KA: It made me feel beaten in a lot of ways — in ways I have never felt before.

MK: Have you fully recovered?

KA: I still have some aches and pains and mentally I'm better than I was six months ago, but not complete.

MK: How have you changed since the attack? Are you performing?

KA: I am so grateful for life. I am performing. I will never stop performing.

MK: During your recovery, you found solace in designing your own collection of women's shoes which you'll launch this

More than the physical damage to his body, the mental tragedy Aviance experienced raised painful questions: How could this happen? What do I do? Will I ever be safe again? —M. Knipp

Edward Olmstead, LMHC Psychotherapy and Coaching

Individuals, Couples, Families, Students, Employees

53 Center Street, Northampton, MA 01060

(413) 585-8284

EdOlmsteadLMHC@aol.com

www.EdOlm.com

summer through Global Footwear Partners. How has this new project helped you get back to life? Where can women find the shoes when the line launches?

KA: Before going into treatment I met with Global Footwear Partners and it was great. I love shoes. Anytime you work on any kind of art it helps. And shoes are not only a fetish, they are now my art. Women can find my shoes online at www.kevinavianceworld.com and at retailers nationwide.

MK: It's pride season, perhaps a bitter-sweet time of year for you now, but where will you be this summer?

KA: Pride has always been a celebration for me and I always get to celebrate it more than once. I am so lucky to be able to travel to different places to meet gay people around the world. [Anyone] can check my Web site for the dates.

MK: Finally, any words for your fans?

KA: Thank you so much for helping me through a very hard year. If it wasn't for my fans I really don't know where I'd be.

* Michael A. Knipp is a 26-year-old Baltimore-based freelancer and the founder of Line/Byline Communications at: www.myspace.com/rox-mikey.

We're Moving!

Come Visit Our New Location:
300 Pleasant Street, Suite 2, Northampton, MA

Relief From:

Headache & Neck Pain

Lower Back Pain

Work Related Injuries

Chronic Pain

Sports Related Injuries

Receive a FREE* Spinal Screening

(\$125 value)

when you bring this ad to
your first appointment.

*Dr. Kimberly Lange,
Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician.*

LANGE
CHIROPRACTIC

300 Pleasant Street, Suite 2, Northampton, MA

Call Today to Schedule

(413) 582-9889

www.LangeChiropractic.com

*Due to Federal Regulations, this may not pertain to Medicare/Medicaid or Federal Insurance.

RMovie REVIEWS

3 Needles: Film Review

By: J.M. Sorrell/TRT Columnist

3 Needles is a poignant, difficult, and unusual story about the global realities of AIDS as public health and economic crises. There are three broad stories with multiple themes in each of them, and this density will leave you feeling and thinking for days to come.

If you have seen other Canadian-made films (e.g., The Sweet Hereafter), you will recognize the direct, unflinching approach used here. The cast is brilliant. Actors include Lucy Liu, Stockard Channing, Olympia Dukakis, Shawn Ashmore, and Ian Roberts. Thom Fitzgerald wrote, directed and produced the film.

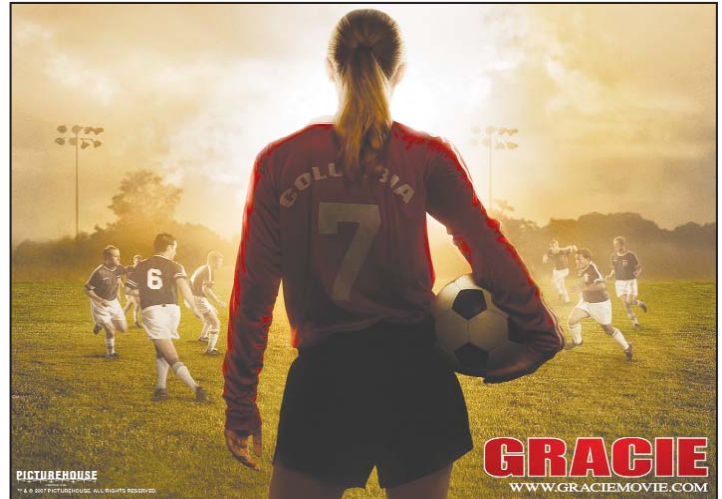
The stories take place in rural China, Africa, and Canada. While they vary in plot and character development, a common thread is how ignorance and greed work hand in hand in various cultures to create a public health tragedy.

Along the way, things happen to charac-

ters as though they are every day occurrences that you may find extremely disturbing. Our PTSD-reliant explanations are irrelevant in the raw world of suffering conveyed in the film.

Demons and saints come in all shapes and sizes in these stories, and it is not about us joining together to fight this disease. The film is compelling because it is so unique, because humor is infused into the dialogue at the most unexpected moments, and because the messages are subtle and meant to be open to all forms of interpretation.

3 Needles is important because it boldly demonstrates that the AIDS crisis is far from over on a global scale. It originally opened on December 1, 2006 (World AIDS Day) in movie theatres throughout the United States. It is now available on DVD. Check stores and online companies for prices. It's a keeper of the weird sort.



Based on true events, 'Gracie' is a well-intentioned formulaic sports movie

By: Christy Lemire/AP Movie Critic

NEW YORK (AP)—If you competed in high school athletics, you might be able to overlook the fact that "Gracie" is just another formulaic, if well-intentioned, sports movie.

That it is based on true events, both devastating and uplifting, theoretically should give it more heft. So should the fact that it was directed by Davis Guggenheim, an Oscar winner this year for the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth." Not that the film is boring—it breezes through life-altering developments superficially and with dizzying speed.

Inspired by the childhood of his wife, Elisabeth Shue, and her family, Guggenheim tells the story of teenage Gracie (Carly Schroeder), who wants to play on the varsity boys soccer team, unheard of in suburban 1978 New Jersey. She has driven toward this goal after her older brother, Johnny (Jesse Lee Soffer), dies in a car accident. Johnny was her protector, biggest supporter—and star of the soccer team.

(In real life, Shue's older brother, William, died in an accident when she was 24. Before that, as a girl, Shue was the only girl on an all-boys soccer team.)

No one believes in Gracie—not her dad (Dermot Mulroney), who obsessively runs her brothers through drills in the backyard but excludes her, or her mom (Shue herself), who is not into sports at all. The other girls think she's weird for being such a tomboy and wonder whether she's a lesbian.

You can probably guess what happens. This is a feel-good, come-from-behind,

against-all-odds kind of movie from writers Karen Janszen and Lisa Marie Peterson, which doesn't make it terribly compelling. But it does offer a message that all girls should hear: "You can do anything," Johnny's mantra for his younger sister. And in her first leading role, Schroeder has a likable, natural presence. (Previously she appeared on the soaps "General Hospital" and "Port Charles.")

But then she's forced to undergo the obligatory training montage, in which Gracie wakes up early, runs up and down hills and grunts and sweats her way through sit-ups and chin-ups. There are the bullies who don't want her joining in their reindeer games, led by the mulleted Kyle (Christopher Shand), who has the added incentive of feeling jilted by her.

In time—in no time at all, actually—Gracie will change everyone's minds. Dad comes around all of a sudden and decides to devote all his time to turning her into a star athlete. He even helps her petition the school to change its rules and allow a girl to try out for a boys' team. (Shue's brother Andrew, formerly of "Melrose Place" and the Los Angeles Galaxy soccer team, plays one of the coaches.)

And those classmates who once scoffed at her? They turn into her biggest cheerleaders.

If this sounds familiar, you may be remembering "The Karate Kid"—the movie that made Shue a star back in 1984.

"Gracie," a Picturehouse release, runs 90 minutes. Two stars out of four.

...What holds you back from seeking the quality skin care you so deserve?

...What concerns do you have?

- Electrology
- Facial Massage
- Microdermabrasion
- Laser Hair Removal
- Glycolic Peels & Beta - Lift Peels
- All Procedures Available For Men and Women of All Skin Tones & Types
- Vbeam® Laser for Skin



Dr. Wyatt is available during laser procedures.



Skin Care Center
Pioneer Valley Dermatology

Richard M. Wyatt, M.D., Ph.D.
Michael N. Brown, PA-C, MHS
29 Cottage St., Suite B
Amherst, MA 01002

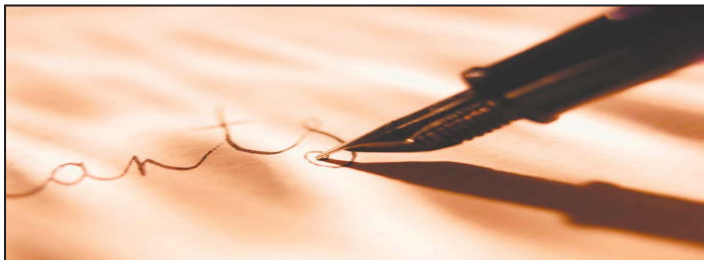
413.549.7400
www.pioneervalleyderm.com

International Queer Screenplay contest announced!

The ONE IN TEN SCREENPLAY CONTEST, a screenplay contest dedicated to the positive portrayal of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered and queer individuals in film, celebrates its 9th anniversary this year. Entries are now being accepted online and are limited to the first 250 entries for 2007. Executive Director, David Jensen, "We are pleased to continue the contest and are amazed with the high caliber screenplays received year after year."

The ONE IN TEN SCREENPLAY CONTEST has gained respect and notoriety from Hollywood studios, agents and producers. Entries for 2007 are being accepted online at: www.OneInTenScreenplayContest.com

Prizes for 2007 include cash, industry exposure and merchandise. The One In Ten Screenplay Contest is sponsored by:



Cherub Productions, Final Draft, scr(i)pt magazine, www.inktip.com, and www.sellascript.com.

The submission deadline for 2007 ONE IN TEN SCREENPLAY CONTEST is September 1, 2007. Entry forms are available online through the contest website: www.OneInTenScreenplayContest.com. Entry forms may also be obtained through the mail by sending a self

addressed stamped envelope to: CHERUB PRODUCTIONS, One In Ten Screenplay Contest, Post Office Box 540

Boulder, Colorado 80306, phone: (303) 629-3072. Online, you can visit: www.OneInTenScreenplayContest.com, or, for more information, you can e-mail: Cherubfilm@aol.com.

TRT Blogger
therainbowtimes-
mass.com/blog

Gay Best Sellers*

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



* By wolfevideo.com

Lesbian Best Sellers*

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

* By wolfevideo.com

Have fun at more PRIDE PARADES!

2007 Boston Dyke March: June 8, 2007 6:00 p.m.; Boston Common Gazebo; Everyone is invited and welcome to march. No registration is necessary. Bring banners, noise makers, puppets, friends, fun.

2007 Boston Pride Parade: Saturday Jun 9, 2007 12:00 p.m.; Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. The Parade will be televised live at City Hall Plaza.

2007 Boston Pride Festival: Saturday Jun 9, 2007 1:00 p.m.; Note the change of location of the Festival for 2007: it will be held at City Hall Plaza.

Philly Pride Parade and Festival: Sunday June 10, 2007; The Parade begins at 13th and Locust and ends at Penn's Landing; FMI: www.phillypride.org

Canada's Dyke March Route 2007: June 23, 2007, 2:00 p.m.; starts at Church and Hayden Streets, moves north on Church to

Bloor, west on Bloor to Yonge and then south on Yonge to Wood St.; FMI visit: <http://www.pridetoronto.com/>

Toronto, Canada 2007 Pride: Sunday, June 24, 2007, 2:00 p.m.; The Pride Parade is the climax of Pride Week; the Parade starts at the corner of Bloor Street East and Church Street, moves westward to Yonge Street, proceeds south on Yonge Street to Gerrard Street, moves eastward on Gerrard Street and finishes at Church Street; FMI visit: <http://www.pridetoronto.com/>

NY Pride Parade: Sunday, June 24, 2007; 8:30a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; New York Pride Parade; 5th Avenue & 52nd Street; New York, NY 10019

CT Pride, Sat. June 30th; Bushnell Park; 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; www.connecticutpride.org.

For more information about other March & Rallies, please visit: www.interpride.org

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
SERVING LGBTQ COUPLES

THE HONORABLE
J. MARY SORRELL

A MEMBER OF OUR TRIBE

JM the JP



"Your special touches and attention made all the difference on our wedding day."

"You kept it simple as we requested. Thank you for honoring this and for creating a warm and comfortable environment."

—Recent Happy Campers

413.427.4153 • email: jm@jmtthejp.com

Also serving heterosexual couples ... "Some of my best friends ..."

Experienced and flexible to assist with preferences and planning

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: is not just physical abuse. It can be intimidation, lies, manipulation, isolation, forced sex, stealing...

DO YOU SEE IT?

gay men's domestic violence project **800.832.1901**

call for support, shelter + information. www.gmdvp.org

PRIDE ENVIRONMENT

Decline of honeybee populations, what is being done?

Dear EarthTalk: What is causing the dramatic decline in honeybee populations in the U.S. and elsewhere in recent years, and what is being done about it?

—James Harris, Akron, Ohio

Kids everywhere may revel in the fact that bees are no longer stinging them as frequently on playgrounds and in backyards, but the decline in honey bee populations in the U.S. and elsewhere signals a major environmental imbalance that could have far-reaching implications for our agricultural food supply.

Brought here from Europe in the 1600s, honeybees have become widespread across North America and are bred commercially for their abilities to pollinate crops—90 different farm-grown foods including many fruits and nuts depend on them—and produce honey. But in recent years populations across the continent have plummeted by as much as 70 percent, and biologists are still scratching their heads as to why and what to do about the problem which they have termed “colony collapse disorder” (CCD).

Many believe that our increasing use of chemical pesticides and herbicides, which bees ingest during their daily pollination rounds, are largely to blame. Commercial beehives are also subjected to direct chemical fumigation at regular intervals to ward off destructive mites. Another leading suspect is genetically modified crops, which may generate pollen with compromised nutritional value.

It may be that the build-up of both synthetic chemicals and genetically modified crop pollen has reached a “tipping point,” stressing bee populations to the point of collapse. Lending credence to this theory is that organic bee colonies, where chem-

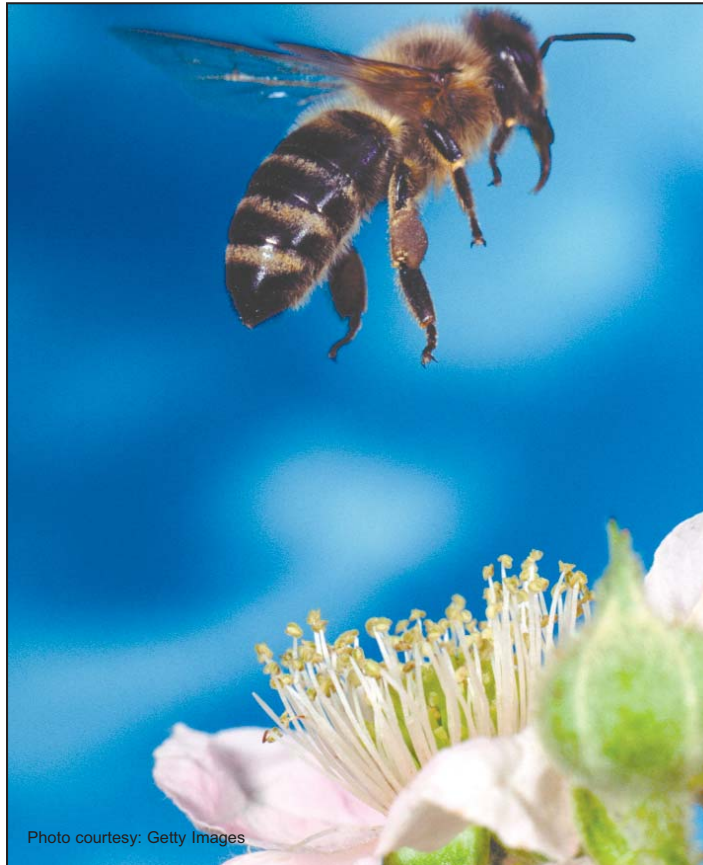


Photo courtesy: Getty Images

icals and genetically modified crops are avoided, are not experiencing the same kind of catastrophic collapses, according to the non-profit Organic Consumers Association.

Bee populations may also be vulnerable to other factors, such as the recent increase in atmospheric electromagnetic

radiation as a result of growing numbers of cell phones and wireless communication towers. The increased radiation given off by such devices may interfere with bees' ability to navigate. A small study at Germany's Landau University found that bees would not return to their hives when mobile phones were placed nearby. Further research is currently underway in the U.S. to determine the extent of such radiation-related phenomena on bees and other insect populations.

Biologists also wonder if global warming may be exaggerating the growth rates of pathogens such as the mites, viruses and fungi that are known to take their toll on bee colonies. The unusual hot-and-cold winter weather fluctuations in recent years, also blamed on global warming, may also be wreaking havoc on bee populations accustomed to more consistent seasonal weather patterns.

A recent gathering of leading bee biologists yielded no consensus, but most agree that a combination of factors is likely to blame. “We’re going to see a lot of money poured into this problem,” says University of Maryland entomologist Galen Dively, one of the nation’s leading bee researchers. He reports that the federal government plans an allocation of \$80 million to fund research in connection with CCD. “What we’re looking for,” Dively says, “is some commonality which can lead us to a cause.”

Contacts: Organic Consumers Association Bees Info, www.organic-consumers.org/bees.cfm; Colony Collapse Disorder in Honey Bees, http://pestalert.ifas.ufl.edu/Colony_Collapse_Disorder.htm.

Got an environmental question? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.



www.seriosmarket.com

“Where customers are friends & friends are customers.”

Family Owned & Operated since 1950!

Groceries • Deli • Fresh Fruits & Vegetables

DAILY SPECIALS TO GO

Quality Meats Old Fashioned Service since 1950!

65 State St. • Northampton, MA 01060

413-584-2633





WE DELIVER!

STORE HOURS:

Mon. - Fri.: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sat.: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sun.: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NORTHAMPTON'S

Pride & Joy

Books, gifts, cards, etc...

20 Crafts Avenue • Northampton, MA

(413) 585-0683 • www.nohoprideandjoy.com

Attitude is everything, student who comes out

HOLYOKE, MA—Hard times have not hardened Malissa A. Vyce.

The 25-year-old Holyoke native, who graduated with honors from Holyoke Community College on June 2, is remarkably calm—even upbeat—when she describes a childhood marked by substance abuse, chaos, and poverty.

"Other people can break their promises to you, but I can't break the promises I make to myself. That's really important," says Vyce, who plans to finish her undergraduate work in engineering at the University of Massachusetts this fall. "Growing up, I saw that through education I could better myself. I promised myself that I would work hard, graduate from high school and keep going."

Mission accomplished. *And then some.*

Vyce's resume reads like that of any top-notch student: president of the HCC Engineering Club, recipient of the HCC Leadership Recognition Award, tapped to receive the Yadavendra Sharma scholarship. Vyce is one of three HCC students who has been nominated to receive a coveted NASA Space research grant this summer.

None of this fell into Vyce's lap.

The child of parents who struggled with mental illness and substance abuse, Vyce had to carve hope from a world that was full of dysfunction. She bears them no ill will now, but admits that their problems were hard to handle when she was growing up. Sometimes there was food in the house. Sometimes not. Sometimes her mother was pleasant. Other times, abusive. And while her father provided Vyce with early memories of love and support, she soon realized that he was haunted by his own demons — alcoholism and chronic depression.

As a youngster, her chaotic home life made Vyce clam up when she went to school. Her teachers thought she had a learning disability. Vyce knew better.

"I just didn't want to talk," she said. "But I was getting everything... And when they tested me, in junior high, they

realized I was smart."

Vyce has been slow to accept such praise, but she never had trouble embracing her natural affinity for engineering.

"When I was a kid, I made my own telephone because my mother had smashed our phone. I just took pieces from different things and put it together. You had to unplug it from the wall to hang up, but it worked."

Though she was in the top classes in high school, Vyce remained something of a non-entity in the hallways. Other top students were tapped for awards and recognition while Vyce was inexplicably overlooked. A talented soccer player, she found the playing field camaraderie dissolved into polite distance off the field. Did her decision to come out as a lesbian make things harder? Vyce doesn't know, but she doesn't second-guess herself either.

"I came out in high school because I felt like I needed to hold the door open for other young people in my situation," she says. "I knew I was strong enough, and, because I didn't care what people thought, it was easy."

At 16, Vyce decided it was time to make a final break with her parents. She dropped out of high school so she could support herself and her younger sister.

"It was the most painful thing I ever did, but I had to do it," she says. "I knew someday I would graduate, but, at that time, I also knew that I didn't want to be in a position where I had to beg. It's wonderful when you have someone at home to back you up, but I had to work."

Vyce worked odd jobs for a year, but she didn't forget her vow. In 2000, she became the first person in her family to graduate from high school, robes and all. Two years later, she continued her unprecedented journey, enrolling at HCC. That's when her natural intelligence and affable manner began to turn heads.

"At HCC, people talked positively about me. They didn't look at what I was



A story about another very brave young woman, Malissa A. Vyce, who came out in high school and whose story is as remarkable as you will imagine.

Photo by: HCC.

wearing. They wanted to know what I was thinking," she says. "I found out that the teachers were saying nice things about me behind my back."

Vyce smiles broadly when she remembers HCC physics professor Robert Greeney lobbying her to take a class.

"I technically wasn't qualified mathematically, because I hadn't taken a calculus class, but he looked at my grades and waived it," she says. "He was putting confidence in me. And that told me I can do it and I will do it."

Greeney's faith was not misplaced. Vyce went on to become a central figure in the college's engineering and science programs, often volunteering to represent the department at public events.

After she leaves HCC on June 2, Malissa Vyce wants to study sustainable energy and do graduate work at a top school like MIT. If failure is in her future, it will have to put up a good fight. Vyce's determination—and optimism—are not easily shaken.

"I wouldn't give up my childhood for anything, because I learned so much. Early on, I looked at what my parents did, and decided I would do the opposite," she says. "And I've kind of got this belief that it doesn't matter what people do to you. Why imitate their behavior or retaliate? At a very young age, I decided the best thing you can do is pray for them, show them love. Ask yourself: 'what would Jesus do?' Then do it."

—A related Coming Out Story p. 14



DANA COLLINS
Dedicated Disc Jockey
www.ThisIsDana.com
(413) 584-4735

Whatever You Need!
Personally assisting everyone with everything.
Quit the juggling act!
Our personal assistants can help!
■ Errand Running
■ Cleaning
■ Organizing
■ Heavy Lifting
■ Gift Wrapping
■ Gardening
Our Gift Certificates are Perfect For Anyone!
(413) 586-0678
www.WhateverYouNeed.biz

At MassMatch, we understand...

- It's hard to meet the right person.
- You are busy.
- You might not want to meet someone in a bar or at work.
- You don't want your face plastered on the Internet.

Personal, Discreet, Respectful.
People are who they say they are...
We welcome Singles of all lifestyles.

(413)665-3218

Finding You the RIGHT One, Not Just Anyone

Lanie Bud, Company Founders
"We met through a dating service"

We know what it's like and understand that you want...

- An affordable service.
- To meet local singles who are ready to date.
- Matches picked especially for you.
- A matchmaker to talk to who cares.

Welcoming Lesbians & Bisexual Women!

www.massmatch.com **email: massmatch@comcast.net**

CALENDAR

TRT PRIDE Calendar

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

SOCIAL GROUP FOR LESBIANS

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

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC) is

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

CAFE & CONVERSATION;

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

MATURE LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP;

Group for women 55+ meets monthly at the Northampton Council on Aging at 240 Main St., at 6 p.m., the second Monday of each month. FMI: Jennifer Higgins at 413-587-1226.

DISCUSSION GROUP FOR LESBIANS 40+ meets

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

OLDER LESBIAN DISCUSSION GROUPS;

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

COURTING EQUALITY DOCUMENTARY;

A Documentary History of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages; June 28, Thursday, 7-9 p.m. Food for Thought Bookstore, Amherst, MA. Authors will show slides from the book and discuss

the ongoing marriage equality struggle in MA. Co-sponsored with the Stonewall Center of UMass.

MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP;

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

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE: THE POP MUSIC OF THE 1960s;

Dates: 6/6 through 6/27; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Cost: \$65; GCC Downtown Center; FMI: 413-775-1803.

WESTERN MASS LOBBY DAY;

Thu, Jun 7 in Springfield, MA; 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Join other Western Massachusetts residents to lobby your legislators to support marriage equality. Location: Tapestry Health, 365 Bay St., Springfield.

NOHO PHONEBANK FOR EQUALITY;

Join other advocates as we call MassEquality members and ask them to take action for equality; Mon, Jun 11 & Tuesday June 12 (both days at the same time) from 6:30 - 9 p.m.; Market Research Building, 31 Trumbull Road, NoHo.

LGBTQ CATHOLIC MASS;

July 1 (Sunday), 4:30 p.m. at the Helen Hills Hills Chapel, Smith College in Northampton. Main celebrant will be Fr. Marc Reeves, SJ. Dinner, courtesy of the Smith College Chapel & Office of Institutional Diversity, will follow at 6:00 p.m. at the Bodman Lounge, to be followed by informal group discussion. Questions/comments, and RSVPs, please: wuxingqi03@yahoo.com or pking154@netzero.net.

THE HA-HA SISTERHOOD;

Literature through Laughter!; A Family-

Friendly Improv Comedy Show to benefit the the Amherst Public Libraries; Saturday, June 9; 7:00 p.m.; Jones Library; 43 Amity Street, Amherst. Suggested donation: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12 years old. Benefit event to help the Amherst public libraries buy books. Event proceeds will benefit the Annual Fund Drive. FMI: 413-259-3090 or www.joneslibrary.org.

OutFilm CT Movies Coming up: (FMI: www.ctgiff.org/)

GO WEST;

June 7 @ 7:30 p.m.; (Ahmed Imamovic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 2005, 97 min); This extraordinary and courageous film takes place during the collapse of Yugoslavia into hatred and ethnic war in the '90s. Two lovers, a Serb, Milan, and a Muslim, Kenan, flee to Milan's home village, hoping to find a way to the Netherlands. Serbo-Croatian with English subtitles. \$15 Adults; \$12 Students

ITTY BITTY TITTY COMMITTEE;

June 8 @ 7:30 p.m.; (Jamie Babbitt, USA, 2007, 85 min); Don't miss this engaging ride through the mosh-pit of 20-something girlie-activism.

BOY CULTURE;

June 9 @ 7:30 p.m.; (Q. Allan Brocka, USA, 2006, 88 min); A sharply written gay comedy of manners adapted from a critically-acclaimed novel about three roommates, hustling and the human heart.

GMDVP'S ANNUAL PRIDE BRUNCH;

June 9; 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; Laurel Grill & Bar, 42 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA; Champagne Brunch; \$35 that go to support the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project's vital work With gay, bi-sexual men and transgender victims/survivors of domestic Violence; For tickets please visit our website www.gmdvp.org or call 617-354-6056.

Why It's Wrong to Vote on Anyone's Rights*

It's wrong to vote on anyone's rights. Our constitution was created to protect everyone—and it should never be amended to discriminate against anyone. When we let one group of people start voting on the rights of another group, we no longer have a democracy.

Basic rights like marriage do not belong on an election ballot. Marriage provides important protections to couples and their children, especially health care. The children of gay and lesbian couples deserve equal protection, and those protections should not be put at risk in a public vote.

The Constitution gives legislators the responsibility to decide what's appropriate to put on the ballot. Keeping discrimination off the ballot is the right thing to do. Legislators have an obligation to protect people from discrimination and protect their basic rights. That means keeping discrimination off the ballot.

Who are we to judge other people and vote on their rights? Voters should not be asked to cast judgments on their neighbors and deny them basic rights. A vote to put these rights on the ballot is a vote to discriminate.

Southerners didn't get to vote on desegregation. Protection of individual rights is a fundamental part of our democracy. This is why we do not allow the majority to vote on the basic rights of minorities.

Win or lose, it's still wrong to vote on people's rights. We wouldn't vote on the

marriage rights of straight people, so why would we vote on marriage rights for gay people? Putting this amendment on the ballot is discrimination.

Our opponents are just one step away from putting a discriminatory anti-marriage Constitutional amendment on the November 2008 ballot.

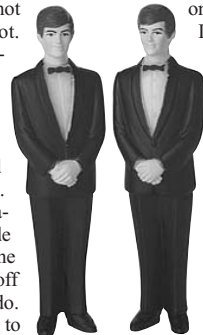
If that happens, we'll set a dangerous precedent of allowing a public vote on basic civil rights and face a long, divisive attack campaign on gay and lesbian families.

We could lose a statewide ballot campaign. Local and national opponents of marriage equality, including out-of-state groups like Focus on the Family, would run a massive, well-funded campaign to write discrimination into

our Constitution. Across the nation, we've lost 26 out of 27 similar ballot initiatives—even in progressive states like Oregon and Wisconsin, even when marriage equality supporters have outspent their opponents, and even when initial public opinion data predicted a win for marriage equality.

This is why we need to stop this ballot amendment now, and this is why we need every single supporter of marriage equality to take action. Take action by visiting: <http://www.massequality.org/action/>

* Most of the content of this report was reproduced with the contribution of www.massequality.org and can be found on its website.



Automotive Questions & Answers

By: Steve Lewis/Auto Columnist

Well we got some more questions, so here we go!

Question: My car is leaking fluid. How do I know what it is? A: There are three fluids in your car. There is oil (black), transmission fluid (dark red), or coolant (usually bright green). All are very important to the safety and longevity of your automobile. Whoever does the normal servicing of your car should be able to tell you what is leaking and suggest a repair. If you don't know anyone, our service department at Steve Lewis Subaru will diagnose the leak(s) at no charge.

Question: Is it true that Jiffy Lube has bad service? Several of my friends had problems ... A: Steve Lewis Subaru has replaced several engines because of shoddy workmanship at Jiffy Lube. Their mechanics have no training, and are virtually at the low end of the pay scale. New car dealers have to compete with the "quick service" operation. If you drive a Subaru our oil change prices



Stephen M. Lewis
President, Steve Lewis
Subaru

are \$5.00 less than a "quick service," and for the most part, we use a better grade oil. We will also do an oil change on any vehicle at a competitive price.

Question: Is using a hand held cell phone while driving in Massachusetts illegal? A: Not yet! But I presume soon. You can get a Bluetooth (whatever that name means) which alleviates all the distraction. There are two types available. One is a headset (remember Lily Tomlin?) and the other attaches to your sun visor. For under \$50.00 I just got the "sun visor" model, boy, is my life easier, and the guy in front, behind, or beside me is a lot safer. Thanks for the questions. Keep them coming. Happy Motoring! Please send questions to: stevelewis@subarumail.com

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

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

At 100-day mark, same-sex couples call NJ civil union law unfair

By: Tom Hester Jr./AP

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Craig Ross and Richard Cash had been together as a couple in a long-distance relationship for nearly five years when New Jersey moved to allow same-sex couples to enter civil unions intended to give them the legal benefits of marriage.

So Ross relocated from Florida, and the couple looked forward to what they thought would be full recognition of their relationship.

"This was the state where our relationship would finally be recognized," Cash said.

The Franklin Township residents got their civil union on April 12. But Ross, 46, and Cash, 54, say it hasn't translated into the benefits they'd been expecting. Specifically, after Ross was laid off from his job at an insurance company, Cash's employer refused to give Ross health benefits, forcing Ross to pay \$445 per month on health insurance.

"We're very frustrated," Ross said, speaking from their Somerset County home.

As New Jersey reaches the 100-day mark Wednesday since the state's civil union law went into effect, Ross and Cash's situation is one of the glaring examples that advocates of same-sex marriages point to when they argue that civil unions aren't enough.

After the civil union law went into effect, 852 same-sex couples applied to form civil unions in New Jersey. In that same time period, a leading gay rights group said it's received complaints from 114 couples



about how employers and insurers refused to recognize civil unions.

"New Jersey's civil union law is not providing equal rights to same-sex couples on anything near a consistent basis," said Steven Goldstein, chairman of Garden State Equality.

Lee Moore, spokesman for Attorney General Stuart Rabner, said the state hasn't received civil rights complaints concerning civil unions, but has received about 90 inquiries per month from people having problems obtaining either health or pension benefits.

Cash didn't want to identify his employer, but described it as a large financial services and technology firm based out-of-state. Goldstein said most problems he's heard about stem from private employers who are governed by federal laws that don't mandate benefits to same-sex couples.

"Companies with federally regulated benefit plans are allowed—but not required—to deny coverage to their employees' same-sex partners," said Moore, who added that the state has encouraged employers to provide coverage to same-sex couples even if they're not required to.

State and local governments are mandated to abide by the civil union law.

New Jersey adopted its civil union's law in December after the state Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional to deny same-sex couples access to marriage protections.

The unions offer the legal protections of marriage, but are not called marriages. Vermont, Connecticut and California have similar laws. The only state where gay couples can get legally married is Massachusetts.

The Human Rights Campaign released its 2008 Democratic presidential candidate questionnaire outlining where the announced candidates for president stand on issues important to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. The HRC, the nation's largest gay civil rights organization, released the questionnaires along with a report card based upon the candidates' responses in order to assist pro-equality voters in determining the public policy positions of the candidates. To view online visit: www.hrc.org. According to a poll released by Washington Post/ABC News placed Clinton in the lead of the Democratic field with 43%.

KEY + SUPPORT - OPPOSE	Biden	Clinton	Dodd	Edwards	Kucinich	Obama	Richardson
Federal Recognition of State-Level Same-Sex Unions Supports recognition by the federal government of a state's legal recognition of same-sex couples for purposes of federal benefits and tax treatment	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
ENDA Supports passage of a federal bill prohibiting job discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hate Crimes Supports passage of a federal bill that gives authority to the federal government to investigate and prosecute violent crimes motivated by bias against the victim because of their sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Same-Sex Marriage Supports allowing civil marriage rights for same-sex couples	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Civil Unions Supports civil unions for same-sex couples	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Federal Benefits for Same-Sex Couples Supports extending federal benefits, rights, privileges and responsibilities to same-sex couples and their children provided the partnership meets certain federal standards of commitment and mutuality of interest	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Coverage Under the FMLA Supports expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover domestic partners and their children	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Access to Survivor Benefits Supports paying survivor benefits to the same-sex partners of gay and lesbian people	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

KEY + SUPPORT - OPPOSE	Biden	Clinton	Dodd	Edwards	Kucinich	Obama	Richardson
Equal Tax Treatment for Same-Sex Couples Supports fair and equal tax treatment of same-sex couples on the same basis as married couples	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Domestic Partner Benefits for Federal Employees Supports domestic partner coverage of health insurance and other employee benefits for gay and lesbian employees of the civilian federal workforce	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Adoption Opposes bans on adoption based solely on sexual orientation	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Immigration Supports the Uniting American Families Act, which would allow an American citizen to petition for immigration sponsorship for a same-sex partner	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Supports repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Funding for HIV/AIDS Supports funding for the Ryan White Care Act to provide access to life-saving treatment and care for more than half a million low-income Americans with HIV/AIDS Supports passage of federal legislation that would allow states the option to provide Medicaid coverage to low-income, HIV positive Americans Supports increased funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and research	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Comprehensive Sex Education Supports passage of the Responsible Education About Life Act that would create a federal grant program to channel money to states that choose to teach comprehensive and age-appropriate sex education for America's students that includes science-based prevention methods	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

EDUCATION

Leader in diversity graduates from HCC

By: Lindsay Wilson/TRT Reporter

HOLYOKE, MA—Years ago, while Victoria Mitchell was maintaining fishing boats in Maine and Alaska, she probably never pictured her graduation from Holyoke Community College on June 2nd.

Mitchell, who came to HCC as a non-matriculated student from the University of Maine, did boat maintenance and sold commercial fishing gear, before moving to Mass. three years ago.

"It was awful," she said. "It was cold and stinky and hard ... sometimes it was exciting."

Mitchell was often one of only a few women working on the boats, and always felt pressured to "stay in the closet."

"That was the only time in over 20 years I've felt like that. It was best. I wasn't there to talk about my private life," she said.

According to Mitchell, most of the people on the boats were straight.

"People hooked up on the boats, and yeah, it was awful. It was hard," she said.

But Mitchell's life changed after a car accident left her unable to perform physical labor.

"I was hurt pretty badly, and I couldn't go fishing anymore," she said. "I finally decided that I needed to learn something so that I could make a living. I don't know that I ever would have gone back to school if I hadn't been in an accident."

After five semesters as a part-time student, Mitchell graduated with an associate's degree in liberal arts from HCC.

Mitchell was involved with two programs at HCC: "New Directions," which



Victoria Mitchell, HCC Graduate, Class of 2007.

offers support and advising to adult women returning to college, and "STRIVE," a program that caters to first-generation college students. For Mitchell, graduation is "exciting and a little sad."

"I don't really want to leave HCC," she said. "I found a place where I'm comfortable, and I really like the instructors ... the instructors here really want to see their students excel." As one of four students elected who gave a speech at graduation, Mitchell spoke highly of

"Don't feel like you're alone, especially if you go to HCC," Mitchell said. "Because there is quite a gay population here. ... Don't let that hinder you from being out and seen on campus."

faculty and the administration, which "illustrates HCC's commitment to helping first-year students. I can vouch for that."

"What really struck me in my first semester was the time my instructors took to make sure their students understood the material. This level of involvement has been instrumental in my success at HCC," said Mitchell. "As I leave here and head off to further my education, I know that my experiences at HCC have given me the skills to be a successful student and leader. Thank you!"

In the fall, Mitchell will be enrolled in the bachelor's of social work program at Elms College.

"I'm really going to miss it here and it has been a great experience. I know students who have not had a good experience, but I think that if you don't speak up, then a lot of times people aren't going to speak up for you. So, coming from a long line of outspoken women, I don't sit back and take it!"

Mitchell said she hopes other LGBT people are never afraid to come out of the closet or to be who they are.

"Don't feel like you're alone, especially if you go to HCC," she said. "Because there is quite a gay population here. ... Don't let that hinder you from being out and seen on campus."

Mitchell lives in Holyoke with her partner, Vanessa Raubach and their three dogs: Frita, Belle and Shasta.

GCC to offer New workshop on the music of the 1960s

GCC's Office of Community Education is pleased to offer a new workshop, *All You Need is Love: The Pop Music of the 1960s*. Popular music changed dramatically between 1960 and 1969, from "The Twist" through the Beatles to Woodstock.

In this course, we will cover the dance crazes and "girl group" songs of the Kennedy years, the "British Invasion", Motown and soul, as well as psychedelic and hard rock. Particular attention will be paid to how the music reflected and influenced the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, feminism, and the counter-culture. The instructor for this class is Michael Schonbach, the owner of Still Records After All These Years.

This workshop will be offered at GCC's convenient Downtown Center location on four consecutive Wednesdays, June 6 through 27, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. To register call (413) 775-1803 (business hours) or any time with a credit card by calling (413) 774-7690. Please register no later than June 4. The fee for this workshop is \$65.

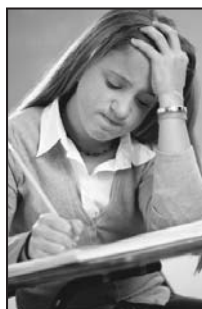
State probing minority struggles on teacher license exam

MALDEN, Mass. (AP)—The state Department of Education will investigate why minorities performed significantly worse than whites in the teacher license exams, the department said recently.

According to results from the 2005-2006 Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure, which was given several times during that period, 77 percent of white teacher candidates passed the writing exam, compared to 48 percent of Hispanic and 46 percent of black test takers.

On the reading exam, 86 percent of white candidates passed, compared to 62 percent of black test takers and 61 percent of Hispanic candidates.

The department analyzed the tests for the first time this year after a request from education professionals who suspected there may be a disparity in the results,



said Heidi Guarino, spokeswoman for the Department of Education.

"We truly don't know what the problem is," she said.

A department advisory council will probe possible problems in teacher preparation, including at the college level, Guarino said. The tests are already reviewed for gender, ethnic, linguistic or racial bias, she said.

The vast majority of test takers are white, with about 12,000 taking the reading and writing exams, compared to about

700 blacks, 500 Hispanics and 350 Asians, Guarino said. The department will look into the relatively low number of minority candidates, in hopes of making the minority teacher population more proportionate with the minority student population, she said.

"It really makes a difference in schools when kids can see themselves in teachers," Guarino said.

The results of the MTEL test also showed significantly higher scores for native English speakers, as well as for females in certain subjects. For instance, females outperformed males 71 percent to 60 percent on the Foundations of Reading tests and 70 to 48 percent on the Reading Specialist test.

Candidates must pass the reading and writing exams to qualify for a license.

Paradise City: 15,000 visitors attend festival

By: Nicole Lashomb/ TRT Editor-in-Chief

NORTHAMPTON, MA—On Memorial Day weekend, nearly 15,000 visitors and 250 art exhibitors gathered at Northampton's Three County Fairgrounds to attend the Paradise City Arts Festival, according to the Founding Director of the art show.

"This particular show received rave reviews from both artists and attendees; they loved the diversity and the high quality of the works on display and the great weather had everyone in extraordinarily good moods," said Linda Post, Founding Director, Paradise City Arts Festivals. "The Sculpture Garden was a big hit, with a record number of people casting votes for the 'People's Choice Award for Outstanding Outdoor Art.' The winner was local metal sculptor and furniture maker Matthew Johnson."

A wide variety of exhibitor works included artistic pieces made of glass, wood, ceramics, photographs, metals, fabrics, leathers, and steel to create beautifully crafted pieces such as unique jewelry, specialty wooden boxes, garden art, furniture, framed artwork, sculptures, clothing, wallets, purses, blown glass figurines, water fountains and much more.

An exhibitor at this year's spring show, Rona Fisher, a customized jewelry designer for over 20 years, studied Fine Arts Painting in college but never thought she would be where she is today.

"I wanted nothing to do with jewelry," said Rona Fisher of Rona Fisher Jewelry Design. "I thought it was too prissy. I attended an arts show and realized that you can do anything; you can do art in any medium. One day I picked up a piece

of silver and started playing with it and from that moment on, I knew it was jewelry."

Currently Rona Fisher Jewelry Designs operates out of Philadelphia, PA, where

she and her life partner, Emily Sims work and reside.

"We do love working with 'family,'" said Fisher. "It makes everything much more fun to be working with the LGBT community. Thanks to daytime TV and the media, [LGBT] couples are also being handed down the family diamonds, just like the straight couples. It is an affirmation to what we do."

Another exhibitor, Dave Morrison who specializes in wooden boxes from domestic, exotic, figured and burl wood explained to TRT the success that Paradise City Arts Festival has brought to him.

"For 17 years I have been doing this as a fulltime business," said Morrison. "I travel from coast to coast exhibiting. [Paradise City Arts Festival] is a good show. I will be back [to exhibit] again for the October show as well."

In addition to displaying their art work, several artists from the festival also donated items to WGBY Public Television's live and silent auction.

"All of the money from the bids help support the work that we do at WGBY Public TV," said Charley Rose, Director of Corporate Support and Events, WGBY.

Paradise City has been ranked among the top five fine art/craft fairs in America for the past three years by AmericanStyle Magazine. Paradise City Arts festival will be holding its fall show during Columbus Day weekend on October 6, 7, & 8, 2007.



Photo by: N. Lashomb/ TRT

Rona Fisher's, a customized jewelry designer, took part in the Paradise City Festival.



Photo by: Linda Post

Elegant, upbeat jazz standards by this Valley quartet combine the sounds of bass, keyboard, drums and saxophone. Expect hear awesome sax solos performed by Ron Smith, the head of the Northfield Mount Herman Jazz Department!

For more information about the Paradise City Arts Festival, call 1-800-ecityarts.com or e-mail lpast@paradisecityarts.com.
511-9725, visitits website: www.paradisecityarts.com.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS'
PINKPAGES
YOUR LOCAL LGBT YELLOW PAGES

REAL ESTATE • ADOPTION • AUTOMOBILES • THERAPISTS
COMMUNITY GROUPS • DJs • CONTRACTORS • BIKES
MUSIC • ART • PLUMBERS • DOCTORS • LAWYERS
FURNITURE • PETS • VIDEO • INSURANCE • GIFTS
SKIN CARE • HEALTH • SECURITY • BANKS
MOVERS • HAIR • RESTAURANTS • PRINTING
ENTERTAINMENT • BANQUETS • COMPUTERS
LODGING • SCHOOLS • STORES • BATHS
DENTISTS • DATING • CARPETS • MORTGAGES
CATERING • BARS • TAXES • VACATIONS
FUNCTION HALLS • JEWELRY • WEBSITES
WINDOWS • FABRIC • PHOTOGRAPHY
INVITATIONS • ELECTRICIANS
LOCKSMITHS & MUCH MORE

the complete Pink Pages is on
www.linkpink.com

LIST WITH US TOLL FREE: 866-943-PINK (7465)

Saturday June 30th

Entertainment: **The Official Connecticut Pride Festival**

Emcee Ebony Pearl

Bushnell Park 11am-5pm

80's Pop Singer Gioia

Comedian Trai la Trash

Dance Sensation Fever Passion

Performer Angelica Nations

Singer Charlie

Singer Arlene Wow

Singer Wanda

Latin Diva Lady Tatiana

Latin Diva Kathy La' Fortaine

Local Bands & Singers

Speakers & Dignitaries

Plus Much More

United For Equality



www.ConnecticutPride.org

Sponsored By: ID Lubricants, In News Weekly, Bud Light, The Chez, The Rainbow Times, Absolute Vodka,
The Hartford, & Out Film CT.