

The Rainbow Times

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

Year 3, Vol. 2 •

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FREE!

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Opinions

C'mon Out – Just Ask! Advice column

By: *Tetty Gorfine**

I am a 35 year old person, born male and if I'm honest with myself I know that I only feel like myself when I can be a woman. I have a relationship with a woman and I do it to be a nice guy and to please her and because I don't want to be alone. But inside I struggle every day. No one knows who I really am and sometimes I don't even want to live. When I imagine living as a woman and when I dress as a woman I know this is my true destiny. The world seems right and I am right. But I don't think I can handle what my family or girlfriend would think or say never mind my co-workers. It seems that no matter what I do, I can't win. What do you say to people like me? Am I the only one? Do you have any suggestions for me?

Desperate,
Pat

Dear Pat:

You are not alone. I have had several clients who feel or have felt the same way as you. No matter who we are, it is a challenge to stand up for oneself and be true to that. When loss and/or tumultuous waters are likely no matter which side you end up on, the challenge is great. This I think is where you are.

I am not surprised to hear that sometimes you don't want to live. I've met several other people who feel so trapped by their life circumstances and their biology that this seems to be the only way out. I have had clients who've said that resolving this conflict was vital to their lives. I know and want our readers to understand that this kind of conflict brings pain that can not be described in words. We should all know about this pain so we can help make this world more open and compassionate thereby creating an environment where people are truly free to be themselves.

When some one is in such pain, regardless of its roots, the single most important thing that person can do is to find someone to talk to. Pat, this is my first piece of advice. When we carry any kind of secret, we not only have



TETTY GORFINE

the pain of the secret but then find ourselves alienated and isolated by having to hold the secret alone. This makes the original problem (feeling out of sorts with your gender) much worse because you are all alone with it. If you know someone you can trust will love you no matter what, tell that person. Love and acceptance is the antidote to not wanting to live. Also, find a therapist who is a gender specialist. That person can help you navigate through your yearnings, fears, hopes and heart's desire. They can help you work with your relationships. I can not tell you there won't be losses and challenges, but I can tell you that no matter how long it takes (and do take just as much time as you need...there's no need to rush), as you come to accept who you are and what is right for you, any losses will pave the way to wondrous gains. I say this Pat, because my amazingly courageous clients have shown this to be true.

The internet is providing a safe and anonymous resource for people questioning their gender identity and to gather information and support. There are resources and many different people to talk to. There are people who have been exactly where you are now and freely provide oodles of support and understanding. Locally there are social and educational groups for M/F transgender people and people questioning. Two such groups, the Sunshine Club and the Unity Group can be found on the resources link of our website, LifeCourse Counseling Center.

Thank you Pat for reaching out. This has been an excellent step. As long as you connect to others and know you're not alone, there is hope. I respect your courage and fully support your journey.

Best, Tetty

See C'mon Out on Page 14

The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something

By: *Suzan Ambrose/Trt Columnist*

The P-Word. I know what you're thinking; so many different images come to mind, yes? But for today, the P-Word stands for preference.

Now, I don't pass judgment on straights-or gays-for their sexual preferences. Because whether you love the same-sex or the opposite one, no matter how you dice it, it's a preference. It's what gets you going under the covers (...or perhaps over them!)

But what about bisexuals? The less-talked-about letter of the LGBT acronym, bisexuals seem to float in some middle category: sometimes they're bi, maybe all-the-time-sometimes, or maybe just once you kissed a girl, even liked her cherry chap stick, but it was back to men for the long-haul. (Not the U-Haul, ladies!).

Bisexuals are certainly misunderstood by the gay community, perhaps more so than by straights, where it's accepted as chic frequently today. Many gays and lesbians think bi's are misguided, playing games, confused, bored, or lonely. Which makes them different how from the straight-up gay and lesbian purists?

But I digress.

This article comes on the heels of telling someone who's known me for years that I



identified as bisexual on a recent survey (only one label could be chosen). This individual was flabbergasted, since I am currently in a long-term lesbian relationship (as if that hindered the bisexual component in me), and responded with "Does your wife know?"

Damn, I hope I mentioned it before the vows.

What's striking is my "confession" of bisexuality seemed to bring up parallels with non-monogamy. Is it too much to ask that bisexuality not be equated with a permission slip for infidelity?

According to Alfred Kinsey, founder of the Institute for Sex Research, many humans do not fall exclusively into hetero or homo classifications, but somewhere in between. Even Freud made the argument that every person has the ability to become bisexual at some point in their lives. (Don't let the Christian-right catch a hold of that one, although this theory may give comfort to Pastor Ted Haggart or Sen. Larry Craig.)

According to Freud, *people remain bisexual all their lives in a repression to monosexuality of fantasy and behavior.* Is this a variation of Don't Ask and I Won't Tell? And isn't this just what we observe, when individuals

See Couch on Page 7

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I'll be the first one to say that I am very impressed with your coverage of trans issues. Every month your newspaper has trans news and columns that most LGB papers don't cover. Thank you for being loyal to our community too.

—Suzana G., Northampton, MA

Dear Editor,

I loved the Cupid article and it did give me tons of ideas about what to get my guys. Thanks Rainbow Times.

—Elvin S., Easthampton, MA

Dear Editor,

I didn't like the January edition's cover. How come you don't show as much skin when you have lesbians on the cover? And, where are the bull-dyke lesbians like me on your cover?

—Glenda M., Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed reading the Sports story on Jamal Brown and how he felt he didn't fit in the African American community. Very few GLBT papers cater to diversity and you're one of the few. I've lived in many states and have been an out lesbian of color for longer than I care to remember, yet I haven't seen much ethnic or racial diversity in many of these publications, yet TRT does have that special touch that I've been looking for. I thank you and perhaps your publisher whose name seems to be other than plain Caucasian. Good for all of your team!

—Jess Colon, West Springfield, MA

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Read TRT's Trans Column on P. 6

& Queer Justice on P. 4

No Pet Left Behind: Saving the animals one day at a time

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

After rescuing an abandoned dog and having eye witnessed the abandonment of forsaken pets during home foreclosures, a local Chicopee, Mass. Resident launched "No Pet Left Behind." The local animal program is dedicated to saving and preserving the life quality of pets that are left behind as part of the foreclosure process.

No Pet Left Behind, NPLB, was started late last year with the hopes of bringing public attention to this dire situation of pet abandonment and to save these innocent animal lives, according to the program founder.

"As a local realtor in our area, I had been working extensively on bank-owned properties, bank foreclosures," said Dan Bugli, Founder, No Pet Left Behind & Century 21 Hometown Associates, Realtor, Chicopee, Mass. "Once the bank notified our office of a property that needed to be secured for the process of selling, we would then go to the property and evaluate the condition of the premises. At times, the property was cleaned completely out, and in other cases, filled with debris; let's just say in not so desirable conditions. The worst feeling ever is walking into a property and seeing animal feces all around, and holding your breath [while hoping] that you do not come across one of these innocent pets ... I have."

Bugli said the current economic situation and misconceptions about the foreclosure



Dan Bugli (above) and husband Chris live in Holyoke with their 3 dogs, Kalla, Buddy and Lexie. Bugli and husband rescued Buddy (middle) after being abandoned.

Photo courtesy of Dan Bugli

process may contribute to the large number of animals found left behind in these foreclosed homes.

"Unfortunately, people who leave their animal behind think that a representative from

the bank will be out to the property the very next day," Bugli said. "This does not happen. Sometimes it can take weeks/months before there is someone at that property and by this time it is too late. I have seen as other realtors

have, some horror stories, as well as some stories that have a good ending."

According to Bugli, he brought the concept of No Pet Left Behind to Pat Nolan, the Broker and Owner of Century 21/A-1 Nolan, to seek his opinion on the venture and to garner support for his most recent project from his Century 21 colleagues.

"He thought it was a terrific idea and we came up with a plan," said Bugli.

"One of our very best Real Estate Agents, Dan Bugli, has been instrumental in getting Century 21 behind the "No Pet Left Behind" program," said Nolan. "He spearheaded the entire participation of all our 135 + agents."

Bugli began working with Laura Maceyka, Director of Public Relations for PAWS-itive Options/Animal Shelter renovation, a local 501c3 non-profit dedicated to building a No Kill Shelter in Western Massachusetts, Hampden and Hampshire Counties.

"I am committed to both PAWS-itive Options and No Pet Left Behind because there is such a strong need for these services in our area," said Maceyka. "The two programs seemed to mesh perfectly. I am also the proud owner of a dog that was abandoned and on death row in a high kill NY shelter. Every little bit that I can do to keep animals out of that situation is worth it to me."

See Pet on Page 5



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In 'The Name of God' & Queer Justice

Faith, Family, and God: Home

By Paul P. Jesepe*

The Wizard of Oz has been on my mind. Recently, I even tried to buy the DVD at the Mohawk Commons Barnes and Noble in Niskayuna (NY). Sadly it wasn't available. In my head Munchkins are singing. Dorothy is clicking her ruby slippers. Glinda glitters like a star in the night sky, and happy little bluebirds are flying beyond the rainbow. It reminds me of sitting for the LSAT exam necessary to get into law school. Carol Channing endlessly sang "Hello Dolly" in my head during the exam.

Perhaps the music from the Wizard of Oz keeps playing because I've been thinking about the term "partner." As you know it's commonly used to describe or introduce a "significant-other"—gay, lesbian, or straight. Partner has legal connotations. It leaves me cold and empty when I hear it in the context of a relationship. A same-sex soulmate is much more than a "partner."

Increasingly, I hear LGBT and searching community members refer to their other half not as a partner, but as a spouse, wife, or husband. That's refreshing. It's been a long time in the making for two women to refer to each other as wife. Or, for two men to call each

other husband. What I don't hear often is the use of the word "family." Let me underscore, I hear it, but not nearly enough.

This may stem from a subconscious belief that there must be kids (other than cats, dogs, rabbits, or birds). Heterosexuals are frequently told "you'll get married and start a family,"

As you know it's commonly used to describe or introduce a "significant-other"—**gay, lesbian, or straight**. Partner has **legal** connotations. It leaves me **cold and empty** when I hear it in the **context of a relationship**. A **same-sex soulmate** is much **more** than a "**partner**."

meaning the arrival of people-children. This view needs to be re-evaluated.

A family begins when two people come together and make a commitment to one another. It is no longer about Mike and Steve or Susan and Debbie. It is about the family they made through a spiritual and emotional covenant. Adopting children (furry or otherwise) does not create the family. It expands it.

Once a family is made it is no longer just about two people. It is about being united

through the family. Although they remain individuals, there is something bigger than each of them. Family goes beyond making the husband or wife happy.

Suppose Mike wants to move cross country for a job that pays about the same. Steve may go along with it because he loves his husband

and wants him happy. Is it, however, good for the family? Sometimes doing right for the family is not necessarily the same thing as pleasing the other person.

Family is sacred as are the vows made between two souls. It's this love, friendship, and commitment to one another that make a

house or an apartment a genuine home.

The very last word in the Wizard of Oz is "home." Dorothy ends the movie with, "Oh, but anyway, Toto, we're home. Home! And this is my room, and you're all here. And I'm not gonna leave here ever, ever again, because I love you all, and - oh, Auntie Em - there's no place like home!"

Peace and blessings to you and your family. By the way, maybe I figured out why I've been hearing the Wizard of Oz in my head. I'm still at a loss, however, to explain Carol Channing singing Hello Dolly during my LSAT exam. Any thoughts? Otherwise I may have to pay a therapist to send his or her kids to college.

* Paul is a practicing attorney in Albany, priest and prelate in the Eastern Orthodox Church, and author of "Crucifying Jesus and Secularizing America - the Republic of Faith without Wisdom." He may be reached at VladykaPaulPeter@aol.com.

Queer Justice: Business discrimination?

By: Atty. Jennifer Dexter/TRT Legal Columnist

Dear Queer Justice:

I recently visited a local business, the name of which I will not disclose. While there I engaged in a conversation with a friend, the topic was sexual orientation. After about 15-20 minutes, the owner came over to me and my friend and asked us to leave. When asked why, he indicated that our topic of conversation was not what he wanted in his establishment. Is this legal and is there any recourse?

-Sara Westhampton

Dear Sara:

Unfortunately Sara, as long as this establishment is a private business, legally there is nothing you can do. As an activist, the best thing you can do is make the name public. Spread the news to everyone you can.

The Massachusetts Constitution makes it unlawful for employers or a governmental agency to discriminate based on sexual orientation. Unfortunately there is no protection for discrimination perpetrated by a private



ATTY. JENNIFER DEXTER

agency. You can try to contact a civil attorney to see if a cause of action exists in civil court.

The best way to fight people like this is to make sure that everyone knows who the owner is and what establishment he owns.

That way we can boycott his store and make sure he understands that we as a community will not stand for this treatment.

*Attorney Jennifer L. Dexter earned a B.A. in Psychology from The University of Central Florida. She moved to Massachusetts to attend law school at The Western New England College of Law in Springfield, Mass. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and has a Solo General Practice in the Pioneer Valley Area. If you have legal questions that are unanswered, or if you would like to know more about a specific topic, then send your questions to: queerjustice@comcast.net



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Pet from Page 3

Currently, a hotline has been established to surrender or report abandoned animals that the public may be aware of, according to Bugli.

"No blame or judgments will be made and the focus here is on saving the animals," said Bugli. "Once these animals are rescued, they will either be adopted, go to a temporary foster home or may be kept at the Southwick Animal Shelter until we can find a home for them. This [NPLB] is basically a grass roots effort where people come together to use all the resources they have at their disposal to help these animals."

No Pet Left Behind relies on community support to ensure success of the program.

"We are looking for the kindness of people to help by donating their time, fostering or adopting a pet, donating food, bedding, toys, crates, etc., to donating monetary funds," said Bugli.

Century 21 Hometown Associates/A-1 Nolan is also collaborating with NPLB by donating a portion of the agent's commission, usually 5-10%, for every completed transaction in that customer's name, whether buying or selling real estate, according to Bugli. Just mention the NPLB program.

"We [Century 21] wanted to help the animals that have no one else to take care of them, especially during these tough eco-

nomic times," said Nolan.

Drop-off locations for the No Pet Left Behind Program are available at the five Century 21/A-1 Nolan offices.

"I have been in contact as well as my colleagues at Century 21 with local vets, groomers, fire stations and anyone willing to help out to collect food, bedding, toys, crates, monetary contributions, etc. for this great cause," Bugli added.

According to Housingwire.com, home foreclosure rate is increasing; 2.25 Million nationwide and up over 35% in Massachusetts alone in late December.

"This is unprecedented, as they say, not since the great depression," Bugli said.

If you or anyone you know is considering surrendering their pet for any reason, or you know of an abandoned pet, please call No Pet Left Behind at 1-888-689-3698. To donate pet goods, toys, bedding, pet carriers or crates etc., drop by any one of the five Century 21/A-1 Nolan locations. Visit www.c21anolan.com for a complete location listing. Monetary contributions may be sent to PAWS-itive Options c/o A.S.R.I., P.O. Box 1815, Westfield, MA 01086-1815. For all other information, to purchase official NPLB apparel, or to become a corporate sponsor of NPLB, contact Dan Bugli at 413-427-2576.

HRC commends Obama Administration for reviewing the so-called "Provider Conscience" regulations

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights group, today commended the Obama administration for beginning the process to repeal the Department of Health and Human Services regulations regarding "provider conscience" and urged the Administration to repeal the regulations in their entirety. These regulations were rushed through the regulatory process by the Bush administration and took effect just days before President Bush left office.

The regulations purport to interpret federal law to allow a health care provider to refuse to provide any health care service or information for a religious or moral reason. These regulations could impair LGBT patients' access to care services if interpreted to permit providers to choose patients based upon sexual orientation, gender identity or family structure. The regulations also threaten women's access to comprehensive health care by permitting pharmacists to refuse to dispense contraception even when doing so significantly burdens the patient's access, or to refuse to participate in an emergency abortion even when the

woman's health is at risk. The regulations override many state laws protecting patients' access to medical services.

"These ill-conceived regulations sacrifice patients' right to medical care," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "We commend the Obama administration for acting quickly to review these regulations and urge the Administration to repeal them in their entirety. A patient's access to health care services should not depend on their sexual orientation or gender identity."

HRC submitted comments objecting to these regulations when they were proposed, asking the Bush administration to amend them to protect patients while preserving religious liberty. We are encouraged that the Department of Health and Human Services will be conducting a thorough review of these regulations.

HRC 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.



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Trans Opinions & Reviews

Transpective: A Time to Be Up, A Time to Be Down ... Let's Get Back Up

By: *Deja Nicole Greenlaw/TRT Columnist*

Sometimes it feels like life is just giving you annoying little troubles one after another. It's certainly not enough to drive one over the edge, but it sure can stop your smile for a while.

We all have our things to deal with and we all have our lives to live. At times it may be easy to get caught up in the negativity and seemingly hopelessness of certain situations but we must always remember to stand tall against these little drawbacks and deal with them. We should examine these instances and hopefully learn something from them and don't let them drag us down. It's part of life, a not so nice part, but yet a very real part.

So we have to learn to take the bad with the good. To wait out the bad times and to relish the good times even more when it's their turn. It's easy to not fully enjoy the good times but when

you have been on a downer streak and then the good times suddenly pop in your life you should be ready to rejoice and hold on to those wonderful "up" moments! Even if it's only a smile from a stranger or reassurance from a friend, or a nice story, a pretty painting, a moving musical piece, a silly joke, a hug, a kiss, you know the stuff that makes life worth living. You know the warm, satisfying smiley feel good times!

It's easy to be a little blue on a cold, dark, winter Monday night. The joys of the past weekend have vanished except for memories and the week ahead looks colder, darker and bluer. But, as the week moves on I find new energy as the week-



DEJA NICOLE GREENLAW

end approaches. The weekend for me is a time where I can relax and have some fun. It's a time for me and darn it, I deserve that "me" time after a week of not so nice times.

It's really all how you look at things and how you feel about them. I try to minimize the bad parts and play up the good parts as much as I can. These are the things I do to keep myself happy. Oh, it's nice when it comes effortlessly but there are those times when I truly have to work at it!

They say that happy people don't really have better lives than others; they just know how to get to that happy place and to not dwell on the unhappy place. Tricks like surrounding yourself with things that are positive and that make you happy or making some quality time for yourself where you can enjoy music or the arts or sharing time with a loved one. There are also hobbies and pursuing new interests, you know, learning about new things (and this world sure does have them!), writing, chatting, dancing, singing, play-

ing sports, dreaming about a wonderful vacation spot, or just a good old back rub or hot bath are calming, wonderful ideas to get to that happy place.

Life is full of ups and downs. There are the exciting moments, the joyous moments, the ecstatic moments and then there are the sad moments of deaths, loss and rude awakenings. It's all part of the same package. We all have the same basic things to go through with and deal with. You can't let the bad stuff get you down. "Don't get discouraged," is the advice that my Mom always gives me.

And darn it, I will not get discouraged! Oh, I will be sad when the time comes and I will cry and I will feel unhappy when the blue times come, but I will also be ready for the sunny, happy times too! Hey! This is my life and I am going to have my share of happiness as well as my share of unhappiness! There truly is a time and a season for everything!

HRC & Showtime Co-Host *The L WORD*

® Series Finale

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign and SHOWTIME are teaming up to host finale parties celebrating the last episode of *THE L WORD* ®. The parties will be held on March 8th in sixteen cities across the country, the same day the series finale airs on SHOWTIME. For a list of cities with events, please visit www.hrc.org/lword.

"The time to say goodbye to *THE L WORD* has arrived, and we are so pleased to partner with SHOWTIME to commemorate the series finale," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "For six seasons, *THE L WORD* has brought loving, honest portrayals of LGBT lives into millions of homes. This visibility is crucial to opening hearts and minds. I congratulate

SHOWTIME and the entire *L WORD* team on their remarkable achievements."

"We're incredibly proud of the show, and have consistently been thrilled with the turnout for *THE L WORD* screening parties," said SHOWTIME Vice President George DeBolt. "It's bittersweet to part with the characters we've loved, but SHOWTIME is honored to partner with HRC and spread a message of equality to so many people."

HRC and SHOWTIME have worked together for all six seasons of *THE L WORD* to promote the show and host screenings for season premieres. The events regularly attracted nearly 20,000 supporters at more than 40 events throughout the nation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS?

This month check out our LGBTQ events online.

Authors on Authors: Piper's *Someday*, by Ruth Perkinson

By: *Megan Carter/Author Reviewer*

Piper's Someday is one of those rare books in which the characters sneak up on you. At first glance, it's a novel about a girl and her dog. You'll quickly discover that making that assumption is equivalent to saying the Titanic was just a boat. Ruth Perkinson skillfully creates characters that sneak into your heart. These characters aren't the cardboard, bigger than life sorts, but real 3-D beings. They range from the lonely, confused young girl and her "funky-pawed" canine companion, to a weak, guilt-ridden, alcoholic grandfather, to strong, loving, supportive women. All of these characters will follow you around long after the last word of the book has been read. You'll find yourself thinking about them for days afterward.

After losing her parents and brother in a car accident, Piper Cliff spends two years with her alcoholic grandfather. At the age of twelve, the only bright spot in her life is a stray dog named *Someday*. Together these two wounded orphans walk side by side in a

world where neither is wanted or loved. All of that changes when Jenny Black and Andrea Winter move into Piper's life.

While the subject of the story is sad and at times borders on troubling, Perkinson never lets that happen. Her offbeat and sometimes downright wicked sense of humor keeps the story from becoming morose. It leaves the reader feeling good in knowing that all is well. I won't spoil the book by telling you more.

Okay, I will tell you one thing the author didn't reveal. I figured this one out all on my own. Jenny Black is the secret love child of Sarah Connor (Linda Hamilton, *The Terminator*) and Kyle Pratt (Jodie Foster, *Flightplan*). I'm here to tell you that Ms. Jenny gives a whole new meaning to "going postal." Whew!

* *Megan Carter's latest novel, *Midnight Melodies* is available through Bella Books at www.bellabooks.com.*

JOANNA FROST, LICSW

GENDER & TRAUMA SPECIALIST

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Deep Inside Hollywood: Elton John + Jane Austen + Alien



By: Romeo San Vicente*

Elton John + Jane Austen + Aliens = *Pride & Predator*

The upcoming novel *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* is the talk of the publishing world, but the idea of mixing Jane Austen and gory genre fiction must be out there in the ether somewhere, because a similar notion is coming to the big screen. Elton John's Rocket Pictures is developing *Pride & Predator*, a sci-fi spin on the classic novel to be directed by Will Clark and written by Andrew Kemble and John Pape. This sci-fi action movie follows the story of the original quite closely—until aliens crash-land in Meryton and begin slaughtering everyone. It's up to the headstrong Elizabeth and the inscrutable Mr. Darcy to save the day, facing down beasts and rayguns with ... empire waists? Morning coats? We'll have to wait until 2010, when *Pride & Predator* invades

theaters, to find out.

The Kids in the Hall Are Back and *Death's* Got 'Em

Throughout the '90s, the Canadian quintet known as The Kids in the Hall were responsible for some of the wildest, smartest and most unapologetically gay comedy around. (The gay part came mostly from queer icon Scott Thompson and the bisexual Kevin MacDonald.) All five of the Kids—including Scott Foley, Bruce McCulloch and Mark McKinney—are reuniting for *Death Comes to Town*, a new eight-episode miniseries in which they'll all star, with McCulloch directing as well as co-writing with the four other members of the troupe. Unlike their popular sketch comedy show (which aired in the U.S. on HBO and, briefly, CBS), *Death* will be a narrative series with the Kids playing all the different characters. It's set to air on Canada's CBC in 2010, with a lower 48 run presumably to follow.

Kevin Williamson Returns With Teen Vamps and Another *Scream*

Prolific gay film and TV writer Kevin Williamson (he created *Dawson's Creek* and the *Scream* franchise), after what appears to have been a brief sabbatical, is back and busier than ever. With rereads of *Friday the 13th* and *My Bloody Valentine* in theaters and cashing in, the timing is perfect for *Scream 4*, the latest entry in the postmodern-slasher-spoof series, which Williamson will write for director Wes Craven. Williamson is also penning a pilot for the CW based on the popular *Vampire Diaries* series of young-adult books. (Between the success of *Twilight* and *True Blood*, who can blame the network for wanting a little adolescent bloodsucker action?) If the one-hour pilot takes off, *Vampire Diaries* could haunt TV screens as early as this fall; *Scream 4*, meanwhile, is set to shriek its way into theaters in 2010.

Mike White Sets Out to Expose Them

You've most recently seen Mike White

bungee-jumping off one of the world's highest dams on the latest season of *The Amazing Race*, but he was already well-known in Hollywood as the gay screenwriter of *School of Rock*, *Chuck and Buck*, and *Year of the Dog*. With his feet planted back on the ground, White is staying busy—he's writing *Them* for British director Edgar Wright (*Shaun of the Dead*). But this isn't a remake of *Them!*, the sci-fi classic about giant ants; this *Them* is based on the book by humorist Jon Ronson, who interviewed some very different conspiracy theorists (including a Muslim jihadist and a Ku Klux Klan member) who are convinced the world is really run by a shadowy organization called the Bilderberg Group. Find out the shocking truth when *Them* opens next year.

* Romeo San Vicente thinks the world is really run by Meryl Streep. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

TRT

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Couch from Page 2

speak honestly, that their fantasies go outside the boundaries of what is considered *normal* for their preference? (I plead the fifth.)

Somehow, the stereotypes persist for bi people. Bi men are considered confused players, not to be completely trusted by men or women since neither can fulfill his total desires. Bi women: insatiable, sexually liberal, multiple partners. Neither of these perceptions are 100% accurate, and certainly don't pertain only to bi's.

Bisexuals blur the lines of preference, and that makes lots of people uncomfortable, including many in the GLBT community! You'd think we would be more tolerant of shoving people into little boxes, not so quick to make nice, neat and clean lines of distinction or separation.

And let's be frank: most of us experienced opposite-sex

relationships before we came out as gay or lesbian. Maybe we (gasp!) even enjoyed parts of those relationships. It just wasn't what we had a preference for waking up everyday with. "Give me some P!" I thought.

And yes, this time I mean the P- word.

* Suzan Ambrose, when not hiking through conservation land or wanting to sleep late, can be heard on her call-in radio program, *The Naked Truth*, Monday evenings at 8 pm, on 103.3FM, Northampton, MA. Also catch the show streaming on the web at www.valleyfreeradio.org.

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Entertainment News

America's Top 2009 DJs burning up gay dance floors

By: Patrick Fleming

There are more DJs than ever in 2009 - 150,000 and counting if you believe the national DJ registry. It seems these days, any guy or girl with a headset, mixer and an iPod can call him or herself a DJ.

But there is more to being a star DJ than just hitting the play button on a stereo. You need to be a master in track selection, own technical skills, spark creativity, be consistent, and most important: you have to be able to pack a dance floor.

The mix masters on this year's Top Ten not only meet all the criteria - they excel in it. That's why they're ranked above the 149, 991 other so-called DJs as the best of the gay dance floor. Here they are in descending order of gay - er - greatness.



9. DJ Wayne G

Wayne G rose to prominence as the original headliner of London's "Heaven" nightclub, but it's his sea-gig aboard Atlantis Cruises that most gay fans know him for. Circuit crowds

also hail him for spinning gay super events including Sydney Mardi Gras, Berlin Love Parade, Folsom St Fair, and Fire Island's Pines Party.

A talented producer, Wayne G has remixed for the likes of Cher, Christina Aguilera, and Celine Dion - but don't call him a commercial DJ. He eschews being categorized in any one particular genre. He weaves house, anthemic vocal tribal, and Latin flavored percussion to create a melodic high energy journey all his own. You can get a taste of it in his new remix compilation album, *Move: Atlantis Dance 2009* (Silver Label), in stores now.

8. Alyson Calagna

Alyson Calagna admits she doesn't play by the rules. She spins a wide variety of music from pop to electro, some tribal and even funky house. Her love of beats and her passion for making people feel alive on the dance floor have made



Alyson one of the most in-demand DJs on today's dance floor.

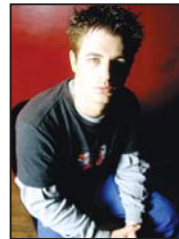
Last year, Alyson's career reached an important pinnacle when she headlined Arabian Nights at Disney's One Mighty Party event. The exposure rocketed her to the top of the DJ pool, landing her even more gigs. In fact, in the first quarter of 2009, Calagna will be appearing in twelve US cities, an impressive feat in these tough economic times.

7. Scotty Thompson

Scotty refuses to take himself too seriously; and that is the treat that's endeared him to fans around the world. Sure, guys lust for his bod, but they yearn his for his beats too - and enthusiasts call Scotty a savior from the boring, self-important circuit DJs of yore.

"I'm not afraid to take risks," explains Thompson. He differentiates himself from other DJs both in approach - mixing on the fly, layering tracks on top of one another - and in content: he refuses to constrain himself to strict genre boundaries. He also strives to offer the circuit crowd something different. He plays a diverse array of House, Electro, Vocal and Tribal sounds.

"You don't always have to listen to Beyonce," laughs Scott. "There are other names in dance music, people."



6. Seth Gold

If you haven't heard of Seth Gold, it probably means you're over thirty. If you're in your twenties, well then, kid, you need to get out more.

In fact, two years ago both Out Magazine and Instinct Magazine heralded Seth Gold as the next "It" DJ. Last year, Genre Magazine named him "America's Hottest DJ". It's not just because of his good looks. Gold has something most other DJs don't - the ear of the young gay crowd. His previous national parties - "The Varsity Tour", "The Black Out Tour" and last year's "Spring Break Tour" - were smash hits with newbie gays. This year, Gold embarks on "The Knock out Tour", featuring the stars of TNA Wrestling. It's sure to be another big gay hit with the kiddies.

5. Tony Moran

Gay club goers literally crawl out of the woodwork for a chance to hear Tony Moran play. For sure, he is a true rarity in the industry. Few can say they've stood in the sound booth with the likes of

Bruce Springsteen, Michael Jackson, and the late Luther Vandross.

Moran hit a milestone this year, clocking in two decades in the dance world. He may be older than most of the other top DJs on the gay dance floor, but he is also wiser. He predicts a shift in the gay party scene.

"Twenty years ago, gay parties let loose in small bars. Then the late 90's were all about big rooms. Now, gay parties are shaking their groove things aboard enormous, lavish cruises. The venues change, but the party remains the same."



See Top '09 DJ's on Page 12

All photos in this article courtesy of projectpublicity.com

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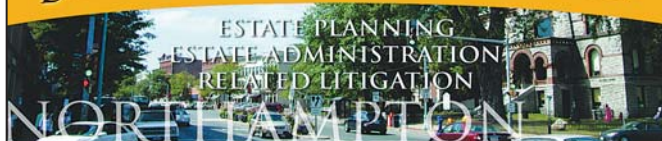
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Queertations: Say what?!

By: Rex Wockner

"You commie, homo-loving sons of guns. ... For those who saw the signs of hatred as our cars drove in tonight, I think that it is a good time for those who voted for the ban against gay marriage to sit and reflect, and anticipate their great shame and the shame in their grandchildren's eyes if they continue that way of support. We've got to have equal rights for everyone."

—**Sean Penn**, accepting the Academy Award for best actor for his portrayal of **Harvey Milk**, Feb. 22

"Maybe gay people shouldn't talk about being gay anymore. Maybe we should talk about heterosexual supremacy. Gay identity politics don't seem to be working. Instead, we should go after Christian fundamentalists. ... I'm just tired of our tactics. ... Let's make an amendment that divorce is a felony."

—**Veteran lesbian comedian Kate Clinton** to the gay newspaper **Dallas Voice**, Feb. 13.

"When I was 13 years old, my beautiful mother and my father moved me from a conservative Mormon home in San Antonio, Texas, to California, and I heard the story of Harvey Milk. And it gave me hope. It gave me the hope to live my life. It gave me the hope one day I could live my life openly as who I am and that maybe even I could fall in love and one day get married. ... If Harvey had not been taken from us 30 years ago, I think he'd want me to say to all of the gay and lesbian kids out there tonight who have been told that they are less than by their churches, by the government or by their families, that you are beautiful, wonderful creatures of value and that no matter what anyone tells you, God does love you, and that very soon, I promise you, you will have equal rights federally across this great nation of ours."

—**Dustin Lance Black** accepting the Academy Award for original screenplay, for **Milk**, Feb. 22.

"Abraham Lincoln may have been the first American to write about a same-sex couple getting married. His 1829 poem recounting the marriage of Nate and Billy was 'perhaps the most explicit literary reference to actual homosexual relations in 19th century America.' Lincoln's most important early biographer, William Herndon, initially included the poem in his Life of Lincoln, but as so often with gay subjects, it was subsequently omitted and largely ignored by later scholars."

—**Freedom to Marry Executive Director Evan Wolfson** writing at The Huffington Post, Feb. 11.

"Not only is it the most beautiful place to live, the most important thing to me is that I'm treated like a guy, like a regular person. They don't ask for autographs around here. I walk into a store or a restaurant and it's, 'Hey Barry!' They really take care of their little celebrities in this town."

—**Barry Manilow** to the Palm Springs gay magazine **The BottomLine**, February 13.

Lesbian Best Sellers*

1. Milk
2. Girl + Girl: Classic...
3. Drifting Flowers
4. She Likes Girls 3
5. Itty Bitty Titty Committee
6. The L Word: Season 5
7. Butch Jamie
8. Out at the Wedding
9. The Guitar
10. The L Word: Five Season

* By wolfevideo.com

Gay Best Sellers*

1. Milk
2. Ready? OK!
3. Mulligans
4. Whirlwind
5. Schpolboy Crush
6. Shelter
7. Arizona Sky
8. He Likes Guys
9. Another Gay Sequel: Gays....
10. Holding Trevor

* By wolfevideo.com

MTPC chapter meets for Trans rights' legislation

Please join the Massachusetts Transgender Political Chapter, MTPC, members to learn about our work, the re-start of the Western Mass Chapter, network with other activists and organizations, and learn about the upcoming legislation for non-discrimination and hate crimes on the basis of gender identity and gender expression. There will be light refreshments and ample time for networking and socializing.

In this meeting we will: update what happened with the last year's legislation; outline plans for 2009 strategy; and solicit feedback, suggestions, and support for moving forward.

The meeting will take place on March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Dottie's Coffee (444 North St. in Pittsfield, MA 01201).

All are welcome. Please RSVP to info@masstpc.org or call 617-778-0519.

For more information visit www.masstpc.org

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09 Women's Film Festival

The Women's Film Festival is one of Spring's premiere events in the tri-state region, and a fund-raising event for the Women's Crisis Center. The Festival will take place between March 13th -22, with a closing event and final bidding on the Visions art show to be held March 28th.

For the '09 Women's Film Festival, twenty-seven cutting-edge documentaries and feature films, most made by women, will highlight women's lives around the world, telling women's stories with drama, wit, and candor.

Films are shown in three downtown locations: The Latchis Theater, New England Youth Theater, and Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery. A special hotel/restaurant/festival package is available this year through the Latchis Hotel (www.latchis.com).

All films are shown at least once in a handicapped-accessible theater.

Five-admission passes sell for \$30 (senior and student) or \$35 (regular admission) and entitle the holder to a dollar off the single ticket admission price, a \$5 total discount. In addition, there is a Benefactor pass for \$100 which entitles the holder to unlimited admissions.

Festival passes are now on sale and may be purchased in the Brattleboro area at: Brattleboro Books, Everyone's Books, The Book Cellar, and Putney Books; and, in addition, at World Eye Books in Greenfield, Broadside Books, Northampton, and The Village Square BookSellers in Bellows Falls.

Passes will also be sold at the Visions festival art show opening on Gallery Walk, March 6th, where there will also be a continuously playing "coming attractions" of festival films.

The Visions show is a silent auction with auction proceeds going to support the Crisis Center. For more information on films and schedule go to www.womensfilmfestival.org

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Lesbian Voices

Gladys Bentley: Bad as She Wants to Be



By: Rev. Irene Monroe*

In the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities, Black History Month focuses primarily on gay men and

Women's History Month is all about white lesbians.

The invisibility of bisexuals, transgenders, queers and women of color is not because there is a paucity of us that exist or made history, but instead our invisibility is evidence of how race, gender and sexual politics of the dominant culture are reinforced in ours.

As we move out of Black History Month and into Women's History Month, I am reminded of Gladys Bentley, a 250-pound African-American lesbian known as

"America's Greatest Sepia Piano Player" and the "Brown Bomber of Sophisticated Songs."

Bentley's fall from the entertainment spotlight, however, is a cautionary tale about what can happen to us during a repressive political era when both church and state are our enemies.

Bentley is, therefore, best understood in a context of not only how gender roles and sexual relations in the 1950s influenced, shaped and policed LBTQ women in the Black Church, and by extension the entire black community, but also how the homophobia of the Black Church exploited the repressive era of McCarthyism to force Bentley to conform and deny her lesbianism.

A talented pianist and blues singer, and one of the most notorious and successful African-American lesbians in the U.S. during the

Harlem Renaissance, Bentley (1907-1960) cultivated a large LGBTQ following up until the 1950s. As an African-American woman whose success derived from her raunchy and salacious lyrics to popular tunes, Bentley not only openly sang about sex, but she also openly lived and celebrated her sexual orientation as an out lesbian.

"It seems I was born different. At least, I always thought so," Bentley told Ebony Magazine back in the '50s. "From the time I can remember anything, even as I was toddling, I never wanted a man to touch me. Soon I began to feel more comfortable in boys' clothes than in dresses."

Known to perform in her infamous white tuxedo and top hat, Bentley's gender-bending would label her by today's term as a "stone butch." But in black queer parlance of that

era, she was a "bulldagger." And the police consistently harassed her for wearing men's clothing.

By the '50s, the country was on a campaign to restore traditional gender roles that were disrupted by W.W. II, and McCarthyism was its policing mechanism. Special attention, however, was given to LGBTQ people.

With the absence of 16 million men, predominantly White, in the workforce, women, and ethnic and queer minorities filled those vacancies.

Women of the time not only transgressed traditional career opportunities, but also traditional dress codes. Women wearing pants to work and on the street, and their availability to purchase pants in department stores, gave women in the '40s and '50s the freedom to dress down and still be viewed as acceptable.

For gender-bending lesbians like Bentley, the wearing of pants - usually confined to the privacy of their home, lesbian bars and on the performance stage - was a welcomed freedom. However, without the consent of the time, except in the private and acceptable spaces where pants were permissible, Bentley wore pants since the '20s.

As troubling as that was, especially given her public lesbianism, Bentley accosted the sanctity of marriage with her active participation in this country's racial and gender obsession - interracial marriage.

Had her "woman-friend" been African-American, their coupling would have clearly been subjected to condemnation and jeering, but their same-gender loving relationship would not have conjured up the wrath, fear and disgust that interracial marriage did. With anti-miscegenation laws operating in all states until 1967, and with LGBTQ people today being denied both the right of both state and church weddings, Bentley single-handedly performed a coup d'etat against the institution of marriage and the prohibition against miscegenation. She married her white girlfriend in a civil wedding ceremony.

To punish her, the forces of McCarthyism made Bentley conform, the Black Church stopped railing against her, and the black press lauded her conformity. For supposedly taking female hormones to cure her of her lesbianism, Bentley wrote an article for Ebony Magazine proclaiming, "I am woman again!"

Now as a churchwoman and ordained minister, the ceremonial act of compulsory heterosexuality had to be consummated. She married a man, albeit 16 years her junior.

With the church's belief in a heterosexual paradigm as the model to showcase black humanity in order to win God-given civil rights, the dynamic between the black press and the Black Church set up a new sexual McCarthyism.

The cautionary tale here is that it is not so different today.

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Exposé at The Chez Est

Exposé back in the 80s was an entirely new era of dance music that spread around the world rapidly. After the tremendous response of their first two singles, "Point of No Return" and "Exposed To Love," grandeur was inevitable. We knew them as *Exposé* and one thing was for certain ... music would never be the same again. *Exposé* consisted of Jeanette Jurado, Gioia Bruno, and Ann Curless.

Toward the end of 80s, *Exposé* released their debut album *Exposure*. Led by the huge pop/dance hit "Come Go With Me," this album proved to be one of the most successful dance albums ever released, going multi-platinum. In 1987, a re-recorded version of "Point of No Return" was released (with Jurado performing lead vocals). "Let Me Be the One" followed next and performed well on both the Pop charts and R&B charts, and *Exposé* established a distinction from other "girl groups" with this single. As Gioia per-

formed lead vocals for this song, it soon became apparent that each member would alternate singing lead vocals to each song as opposed to maintaining one lead singer for the group. Their biggest hit occurred in the winter of 1988 with the single "Seasons Change," along with that came a Soul Train Award nomination for Best New Artist, appearances on Solid Gold, Showtime

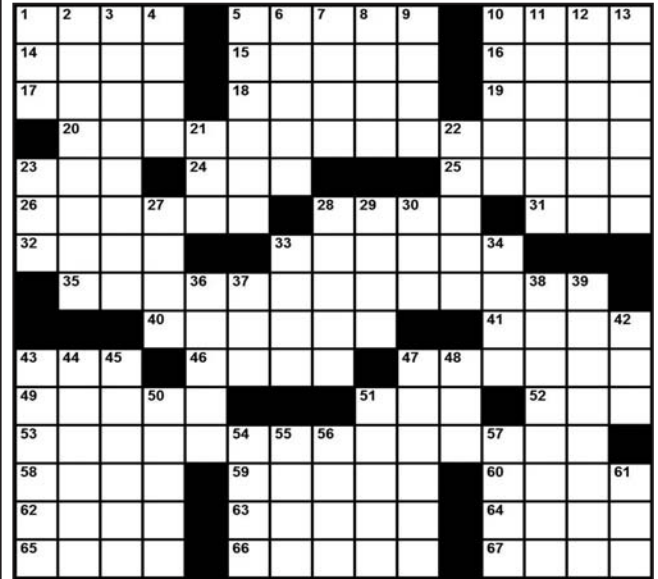
The success of *Exposé* in the U.S. led to a lot of similar girl groups being created by producers and existing ones being signed to labels. But, no one could top the beauty and success that *Exposé* brought to the charts.

Exposé is back! *Exposé* consists of the original vocalists: Ann Curless, Gioia Bruno and Jeanette Jurado. And this March 20th, famously acclaimed *Exposé* will be at *The Chez Est Club*, in Hartford, CT. For more information, see TRT's page 16 and check TRT's online Calendar of Events.

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Q Puzzle: "Soap First"



Across

- 1 Swallow alternative
- 5 Game with men that are queens
- 10 They rise to show thighs
- 14 Actress Skye
- 15 Desert plant
- 16 Skin softener
- 17 Ending for Copland
- 18 What Vampires suck
- 19 Barbecue area
- 20 Plunge for two women
- 23 Gentle touch
- 24 Dottermans of *Antonia's Line*
- 25 Photographer Leibovitz
- 26 Commit a foul a la Sue Wicks
- 28 Spank one's bottom
- 31 Officer in the navy (abbr.)
- 32 Darth's daughter
- 33 Bounced off the walls
- 35 First soap opera to feature 20-Across
- 40 Vincente Minnelli's ____ *Parade*
- 41 Discharges, in slang
- 43 Copies of a feminist mag.
- 46 Walk like you're fagged out
- 47 They have big bags of money
- 49 Tatum of *The Bad News Bears*
- 51 Swiss river
- 52 B&O et al.
- 53 Couple joined on 35-Across
- 58 Hoarse sound
- 59 Rupert Everett's *An* ____ *Husband*
- 60 River to the Seine
- 62 Steinbeck migrant
- 64 Stroke with an upright stick
- 64 Violates a certain military rule
- 65 Early TV comic Ed
- 66 Went downhill fast
- 67 Make sound

Down

- 1 ____ semper tyrannis
- 2 Place for showing off your physique
- 3 Where a bottom takes it?
- 4 Some like them hot
- 5 Gay-friendly Shepherd
- 6 Grass-skirt dances
- 7 Subj. for John Nash
- 8 Flat-bottomed boat
- 9 Marquis name?
- 10 "Surprise Symphony" composer
- 11 Broadway star Stritch
- 12 "Oh What a Beautiful ____"
- 13 Marsh plants
- 21 Nectar inspector
- 22 Passé
- 23 Tammy Faye's old club
- 27 Sheltered spot
- 28 IRS form
- 29 Spin like a top
- 30 Letters in cyberspace
- 33 Prefix with plasm
- 34 Military color
- 36 Sap supplier
- 37 Big initials in fashion
- 38 Get the hell out?
- 39 Lincoln's state
- 42 Teakettle sound
- 43 Future day, in the past
- 44 ____ Pie (Rita Mae's feline)
- 45 Greets and seats
- 47 Shagged
- 48 Constellation over Rio
- 50 Navratilova's winter home
- 51 Take down a peg
- 54 Gets ready to fire
- 55 Neighbor of Minn.
- 56 Ball lover
- 57 He cruised for 40 days straight
- 61 Immigrant ed. choice

Solution on Page 13

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TRT

Trans Pride News, soon!

Street Sense & LGBT News

While Britain & New Zealand are debating whether or not to allow conscientious, safe-sex oriented gay men to donate blood, Canada has recently banned gay men from organ donations. Should gay men be allowed to donate their organs?



Francisco Rodriguez
New York, NY

This is personal, because as a gay man, I am not even allowed to donate blood. This is counterproductive; it's stopping a lot of healthy people from helping others. It's a repressive and discriminatory policy that excludes a whole community from helping others."



Joanne Dunn
East Windsor, CT

"Yes, because it's discrimination otherwise."



Charlie Clark-Rivera
Fort Lauderdale, FL

"They should be. There is a lot of examination of 'high-risk' gay men and lesbians, but not much of straight men and other groups. They should be looking at behavior, not just the group."



Diane Stebin
New Haven, CT

"Anyone who is a healthy person, with nothing wrong with them, should be allowed to donate. It's a precious gift."

Top 2009 DJ's from Page 8

4. Escape

While many of today's top DJs complain of the lull in today's dance scene - arguing that the crowds are waning and that clubs are not investing enough money in parties - Escape says the gay club land is actually experiencing a resurgence.

"The scene is more fun than ever," he says. "All of a sudden, the industry is back to high energy, happy music. The dark, monotonous beats that took over dance floors at the start of 2000 are history."

In addition to his DJing gigs, Escape is one of the most sought after remixers on gay dance floors today. His remixes of Kristine W's "Never" and Sarah Altereth's "It Doesn't Take Much" are among the most popular mixes in clubs right now. But it's his remixes of Beyonce that are really getting all the single ladies' hands up.



3. Junior Vasquez

They say that legends are made, not born. And after years of making the beats, playing the clubs, and producing the names that have kept club-goers partying for years, Junior Vasquez can easily count himself a legend.

But that doesn't mean it's time to count him out. Twenty years after he started his meteoric rise to international fame and invented the notion of the superstar DJ, papa's got a brand new bag of tricks up his vinyl sleeve. "When I look back at my discography, even I'm impressed," admits Vasquez with a laugh. Indeed, he's worked with countless divas including Whitney Houston, Cher, and Britney. He's also one of the few people out there to piss off Madonna... and Live to Tell about it.

"I like being controversial," he says. "I'll keep doing whatever I can get away with, because if you don't cross boundaries, you



don't get attention."

2. Hector Fonseca

If any DJ understands the pulse of New York City, it is Hector Fonseca. With his residency at New York's hottest Saturday-night party, his Billboard-climbing remixes, and his new album New York Club Anthems Volume 3 (Star 69 Records) flying off music store shelves, Hector Fonseca has proven he commands the sound of New York City.

"The New York club scene has experienced significant changes in the past few years," explains Fonseca. "We are reclaiming New York as the epicenter of the world's dance scene. Still, due to my frequent tour travels, I am heavily influenced by the beats I hear abroad and I feature those sounds in my sets too."

Fonseca is a signed to the Star 69 music label, founded by superstar DJ Peter Rauhofer. In fact, Fonseca names Rauhofer as his DJ mentor - and it shows.



TRACY YOUNG

"Puffy" Combs, and Russell Simmons. She is most famously connected with the Material Girl, who has personally called on Young to spin at her movie premieres, cd release parties, and even her wedding!

Tracy has nine music CD's under her belt including her latest - and, in our opinion, her greatest - Genesis, which celebrates her highly praised annual New Years day event in Miami.

Young has been a top five DJ since 2000. She was ranked alongside the original super DJs Manny Lehman, Tony Moran, Vasquez, and Peter Rauhofer. But where the other giants have seen their stars fall, Young has continued to rise. 2009 is indeed the year of the woman!

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Transgender non-discrimination bill introduced with majority support in legislature

BOSTON—Last month, legislation to ban discrimination against transgender people in the Commonwealth was introduced with 104 original cosponsors, including majorities in the Senate and House. The bill adds gender identity and expression to non-discrimination laws covering employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations, as well as to hate crimes statutes.

"For too long, transgender people in Massachusetts have been fired from their jobs and evicted from their housing simply because of who they are," said MassEquality Executive Director Marc Solomon. In passing this bill, Massachusetts will take another crucial step towards protecting all of her citizens from discrimination."

Representatives Carl Sciortino (D-Medford) and Byron Rushing (D-Boston) are lead sponsors of the bill on the House side, with Senator Ben Downing (D-Pittsfield) in the lead in the Senate.

"The overwhelming support for the bill in the legislature, coupled with the support of Governor Deval Patrick and Attorney General Martha Coakley, provides strong momentum to passing the bill in 2009," added Solomon.

The legislation has more original cosponsors than any other bill introduced in this session of the legislature. It is MassEquality's top priority for 2009, and the organization is mobilizing its extensive grassroots field network to make the case for the legislation.

Thirteen other states, including New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont, presently include gender identity and expression in their anti-

discrimination laws. Three cities in Massachusetts—Boston, Cambridge, and Northampton—do so as well. In addition, many of Massachusetts' largest employers have added non-discrimination policies for transgender employees. These include Bain & Co, EMC Corporation, John Hancock Financial Services, MassMutual Life Insurance Company, Raytheon, and State Street Corporation.

The bill is supported by a large coalition that includes the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Anti-Defamation League, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders.

MassEquality works to achieve full equality for the LGBT community.

Q Puzzle Solution from P. 11



Hartford Pride, June 6: Seeks sponsors, help

Saturday, June 6th, 2009 is the date for the 28th Annual Connecticut Pride Hartford Rally and Festival. The event will be from 11AM until 5PM at the Pavilion in Bushnell Park behind our State Capital building.

There are fantastic things happening with this year's Pride celebration, starting with our return to Bushnell Park. We are delighted to be working in cooperation with *The Susan G. Koman Race* for the Cure for breast cancer, which takes place the same day on the other side of the Park from 6 a.m. until 11 a.m. This event alone draws more than 10,000 people annually. Additionally, we are most pleased to be working in close consort with the *City of Hartford* and marketing and communications staff from both the *Hartford Business Improvement District* and the *Central Regional Tourism District*. Our event will be publicized in "Discover Hartford" magazine and on the Hartford.com website.

Last year saw record heat, record attendance and a record number of vendors at Hartford Pride. This year we are expecting even larger crowds in Bushnell Park to participate in these 2 spectacular events for the day.

Pop icon, international star and mega-hit recording artist Tiffany, who has long been a strong supporter of GLBT rights, will be this year's headlining performer. Radio and television personality Rachel Lutzker will MC. In addition, we will be showcasing the unique musical talents of Betty, an internationally known 5-piece recording band with an Off-Broadway show, several albums, motion pictures and the theme to Showtime's hit series *The L Word* among their impressive list of credits. It is of interest to know that one of Betty's front leads, Elizabeth Ziff, is a breast cancer survivor, so it is more than fitting that Betty join us for both *Pride in Connecticut* as well as the *Susan Koman Race* for the Cure. Breast cancer is an insidious disease which

has, or will affect us all in some way or another. Moreover, this is a disease which knows no differentiation and attacks Gay and Straight alike. Betty has cut short their European tour to be with us for Pride and the Race for the Cure and we are grateful to have them perform this year for Pride. In addition to these wonderful performers, we will have a great lineup of speakers as well as some fine local home grown talent to round out the stage.

As with all things, there is good and not so good. This is no different with regard to the *Hartford Pride Festival*. In these dubious times of financial instability and uncertainty, *Connecticut PRIDE Hartford Rally and Festival, Inc.* needs your help more than ever. Please peruse the following pages and consider being a sponsor again for Pride in Connecticut. *Connecticut PRIDE Hartford Rally and Festival, Inc.* is an all volunteer organization and we are not able to produce this event for our community by ourselves. As such, your assistance and support are not just a matter of necessity, they are an absolute imperative if this wonderful event is to take place. With a full appreciation of the difficulties inherent in charitable giving during these frightening times, we will be happy to tailor any sponsorship to your current needs and degree of financial ability. While we are deeply grateful for your past support, anything you can do to help defray the cost of this year's event will be equally appreciated by the entire community. We look forward to having you join our Connecticut Pride family once again on June 6th, when we will be celebrating "Your Rights – Our Rights – Human Rights" in Hartford. This promises to be our biggest event thus far, but it can't happen without your support. To donate or to sponsor this event please visit: www.connecticutpride.org/



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Gay Interviews

A few daring questions with Gene Dante

By: Mikey Rox/TRT Special

The self-proclaimed "Cock Star" waxes romantic on the power of androgyny, beautiful losers, and the most important "member" of his band.

MIKEY ROX: I'm not one to beat around the bush, so let's address the elephant in the room. The first single off your new album, The Romantic Lead, is called "Cock Star." Very nice play on words, but what possessed you to write a song about your penis?

GENE DANTE: Someone once told me the entirety of rock 'n' roll is one big ode to the male member. The very name "rock 'n' roll" means sex. Most memorable pieces of architecture are

character. Like any other writer, it isn't necessarily me. This character's penis is a button-pushing vehicle to address head-on my issues with the entertainment industry's and the public's dehumanization of the struggling performer.

MR: With all the attention this single demands, are you in danger of letting anyone down when it comes time to get down?

GD: "Get down?" I am a little unsure what you're asking. Musically, this band most definitely delivers the goods. Personally, I'm as interesting as anyone wants to find me. Sexually, provided I'm interested in them, I've no fear of disappointing anyone. Beyond that, I

GD: There's so little mystery left in life. Why not mix it up? No need to give away the entire candy store, right? When singing in first person, gender-neutral songwriting allows more people to identify with the singer. Both men and women can sing my songs, unrestricted by the foolishness of gender pronouns. And, although I'm a fan, I'll leave singing lines like "you're my baby girl" to the boy bands.

MR: When talking about what inspires your lyrics, you cling to the notion of beautiful losers - people who you say don't deserve to be losers. Who are some of those people, if you don't mind?

GD: No one famous. Nothing is more boring than hearing some anorexic no-talent whining through a song they didn't write about how horrible their life in the limelight is. If it is really so terrible, please do the world a favor and retire. That said, while I'm not an "Everyman," the people I write about can be anyone: someone I know, someone I've read about, someone I saw on the street, someone I overheard on the train.

I try to find the beauty, tragedy and poetry in their words and actions. I've even quoted a Jesus freak who tried to befriend me in an attempt to lure me into a meeting. I feel justified in appropriating the quote due to the deception. Again, nothing is entirely true or entirely untrue. However, if something is mostly true-to-life, it would be inappropriate for me to name names.

MR: The Romantic Lead released just before Valentine's Day. How do you imagine an evening might go if someone popped the record in before, say, a candle-lit dinner at home?

GD: None of these songs were written with a candle-lit dinner in mind. [The song] "The Dreamers" might be appropriate. The ebb and flow of the album is a bit of a dysfunctional love story. The sentiments are varied. I think your candle-lit dinner may require downing at least one bottle of champagne before you reach track six.

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



phallic. Everyone loves it. Everyone. They love having one, they love getting one or getting something that stands in for one, or any and/or all of the above. Let me establish something: I'm a writer with an incredibly short attention span. Pop songs fit my style. My songs are the equivalent of anecdotes or gesture drawings. The "singer" of any of my songs is always a

won't kiss and tell.

MR: This song and many of the other tracks on the album - and you, yourself, in fact - emit a very androgynous, Rocky Horror-esque kind of vibe. You've even said that you're conscious of keeping your songs gender neutral. Why is this part of the song-writing process, in particular, important to you?

Queer Cinema You Can't Miss!

The Frontrunner (Gay)

Genre: Drama: Rating: Not yet rated
Release Date: 01/01/09

Synopsis: Based on the classic 1974 novel by Patricia Nell Warren, this film follows the relationship between an ex-Marine track coach Harlan Brown and the openly gay athlete he's coaching for the Olympics, Billy Sive.

An American Soldier (Lesbian)

Genre: Documentary: Not yet rated
Director: Edet Belzberg

Notes: Premiered at 2008 Sundance Film Festival
Synopsis: Sergeant First Class Clay Usie is one of the most successful army recruiters in the country; he also acts as a mentor to high-school students training to become soldiers, many of whom will eventually be deployed to Iraq. One of the soldiers he recruits, and whom this film follows closely over a period of nine months, is revealed to be a lesbian.

Bi the Way (Bisexual)

Genre: Documentary: Not yet rated
Distribution: Limited Release

Director: Brittany Blockman and Josephine Decker
Release Date: 00/00/00
Notes: Screened at the Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (2008)
Synopsis: A docu. about bisexuality on the rise.

Happy Hookers / Harsh Beauty (Gay & Trans)

Genre: Documentary: Rating: Not yet rated
Distribution: Limited Release

Director: Ashish Sawhny (Happy Hookers), Alessandra Zeka (Harsh Beauty)
Release Date: 00/00/00
Synopsis: Happy Hookers looks at the lives of three male hustlers in India. Harsh Beauty follows the joys and struggles of the hijras, a cult of eunuchs who live between genders.

C'mon Out from Page 2

Hi: This isn't just a gay question so I hope you will answer it. Do you think in order to have a good relationship someone has to be completely honest all the time?
TJ

Hi TJ:

This is a very good question. Thanks for asking.

Well TJ, yes and no. One cornerstone to intimacy is honesty. Holding things back, saying things to please or not to make waves, or being dishonest will definitely damage any relationship. Our capacity to tell the truth, to be genuine in our thoughts, feelings and actions is basic to good communication.

I also think that sometimes people can be honest in a way that can do harm. If I tell someone, for example, that I don't like something about them that is germane to who they are, like not liking their sense of humor or how they look, then what good could possibly come of that? I think the key questions around honesty are, what am I trying to accomplish? What is the likely outcome of what I have to say? If the answers to these questions are in service of better communication or of getting your needs met, then honesty is a very good thing. But if it hurts the other and will not bring benefit, then I would wonder why it needs to be said in the first place.

There's also what is called "brutal honesty." Being honest should be accomplished, I believe, with sensitivity. Thinking about the other person, their feelings and how they are likely to receive what you are trying to say is optimally the best direction. We can say something many different ways. Doing so in a way that engenders hurt will not bring you closer to the other person. In fact, all bets are that the other will become defensive and that will

defeat the purpose of being honest. Being thoughtful and then honest I think is a better path.

Now sometimes being honest may bring about some tension. Tension in itself is not a bad thing. Actually, growth comes out of tension. For example, if I'm out of work, that brings about a tension. This tension fuels my desire to go and look for a new job. This of course, is a good thing. Likewise, if I am trying to tell my partner that I need to go to bed earlier than they, I may predict that my partner will not be happy with this. Here is the tension. But if I don't tell them, then I go without something that is important to my health. Here the tension motivates me to tell my partner what I need and hopefully I go and talk this out. In general, things like this must be brought out and negotiated for the well being of the relationship. Honesty is essential to this.

Good luck TJ. May these thoughts help you to think deeply about this important question. Tetty

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

"Tetty 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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The Outfield: May the GForce be with you



By: Dan Woog*

Glenn Witman put together a nice hockey team. He signed former college and club players - guys who knew how to skate, shoot and check. They won their share of games in rinks around the U.S., but Witman wanted to test them against tougher competition.

Last year he entered his squad - Team GForce - in a Chicago tournament. "It was an eye-opener," Witman says. "One team had several former Blackhawks, a guy who'd played for the Washington Capitals, someone on the Rangers when they won the Stanley Cup and some ex-American Hockey League stars. They whipped our ass."

Afterward, as the two teams drank together at a bar, a member of the winning team surveyed Witman's squad - composed of players as far-flung as Minnesota, Texas, New York, Quebec and California - and asked casually, "So, how do guys know each other?" All eyes turned to Witman. "So I told him," the team's founder recalls. "I said we were gay. They were all cool with it."

That's been the way it goes, generally, for this national gay hockey team. In five Friendship Cups—games in Aspen, Colorado against straight opponents—they've gone 3-3, earning respect and admiration for their spirit, skill and style. This year's event, held in January, included the showing of a documentary promoting the idea that openly gay athletes can play and enjoy sports at all levels.

"We want to break down negative stereotypes of gay people by playing straight teams," Witman says. "We still get, 'You're a

gay hockey player?' But there's less of that all the time."

Another aim of GForce is to serve as role models for closeted gay athletes, as well as for their straight teammates.

That outreach got a boost a year ago in Aspen during Gay Ski Week, when Witman served on a panel discussion titled "Gays in Sports - The Invisible Athlete." The forum included former NBA player John Amaechi, ESPN senior writer LZ Granderson and Outsports.com founder Cyd Zeigler.

The next day, more than 600 fans watched GForce beat the Eurotrash Allstars. "It was a ton of fun to play in front of so many people," both gay and straight, said Eurotrash player Dave Elkin.

The documentary, by filmmaker Bob King, was filmed during last year's Friendship Cup. In it, a GForce player says his team shares "a love for hockey - and for guys." There is plenty of hockey action (and, of course, a couple of obligatory locker room shots).

But the best lines belong to fans, interviewed on Aspen streets. One admits, "We're not for the gays." Another believes there will "probably be more manly men on the straight team."

But a woman, speaking while hockey players looked on, thought those athletes were straight. In fact, they were the GForce. Another woman told GForce: "You're super hotter than the straight guys."

This year's Friendship Cup was in doubt, a possible victim of the tottering economy. But a couple of weeks before cancellation, GForce raised nearly \$10,000 from players, friends and even strangers who read about the need on the Internet. The team flew to Colorado for their sixth annual game against Aspen's straight all-stars.



GLENN WITMAN

Though GForce lost 5-4 in the final three minutes, Witman says they fell to "the most talented Aspen team in years. We showed again that GForce can play with anyone."

Lewis Ice Arena was filled with rainbow flag-waving fans, giving GForce "great energy," Witman adds.

It was an action-packed week for GForce. Besides the game, there were practices, parties, a calendar shoot - and the documentary premiere. It will be shown again in Los

Angeles in May, when GForce participates in Big Sunday and Hockey Fest for underprivileged California youth hockey players.

"We're not just playing hockey and winning some games," Witman says of GForce's efforts. "We're out there really trying to change minds. We want to foster an environment of tolerance and understanding, where straight and gay athletes can embrace their similarities and enjoy a great game of hockey. We want to give youth the role models we never had. We want to show them they can play hockey - or do anything they put their minds to."

E-mails and letters from hockey players around the country assure Witman that GForce is accomplishing its goal. And the effect is spreading beyond gay hockey.

Witman also plays on a straight team in Denver. For years, before he came out, "all I heard was 'faggot this, fag that,'" he says. "Now everyone knows about my other team, GForce. If a new player says something anti-gay, everyone else tells him. 'Hey, that's not cool.'" For more information, click on www.gforcehockey.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 Web site at www.danwoog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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BiCurious (next column)

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