

The Rainbow Times

The Freshest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Newspaper in New England

PHOTO: DREAMWORKS



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PHOTO: PAM STANDFEST



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PHOTOS: JUREK WAJDOWICZ

The most dangerous candidate in modern politics

By: Nicole Lashomb*/Editor-in-Chief

OPINIONS The views of Rick Santorum are fundamentally radical to say the least. What concerns me the most is how exuberantly he professes his religious beliefs as the ultimate way to lead the American people—so much for religious freedom.

In recent interviews and reports, Santorum has referenced the Bible as the most essential way to govern our nation, a diverse nation filled with many religions, cultures, and belief systems. Aside from using this ancient book, which relies on hundreds, perhaps thousands of interpretations to fully understand its meaning, his “guiding grace” has rested upon one that has been filled with hatred against non-majority members of our nation such as the LGBT community, women, racial and ethnic groups and other religious affiliations. All of these groups have rights afforded to them under the Declaration of Independence of the United States—“All ‘People’ Are Created Equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Even members from his own political party (and others as described below) have exerted that he is completely out of touch with modern politics—with the “people” living in this country.

A definitive ‘Hypochristian’

According to the urban dictionary, the term “hypochristian” is modern definition which is a “... contraction of the words ‘hypocrite’ and ‘Christian.’ These ‘Christians’ claim to ‘follow the teachings of Christ’ but whose belief structure, values and/or actions directly contradict such a claim. Typically, hypochristians, engage heavily in proselytizing and judgment of others whose beliefs differ from theirs.” Hypochris-

tians, in other words, are determined fanatics who have no basis to their credo and who lack a conceptualization of reality and the actual evolution of the world and its people.

Separation of Church and State

Santorum exclaimed that he “almost threw up” after reading JFK’s 1960 speech in which he declared his commitment to the separation of church and state.

“I don’t believe in an America where the separation of church and state are absolute,” he told ‘This Week’ host George Stephanopoulos. “The idea that the church can have no influence or no involvement in the operation of the state is absolutely antithetical to the objectives and vision of our country ... to say that people of faith have no role in the public square? You bet that makes me want to throw up.”

To preserve an individual’s rights of religious freedoms as established by the country’s founders, separation of church and state are fundamental concepts of all of our freedoms. This American “vision” that Santorum refers to is a vision shared by only a small group of radical individuals, not the American public as a whole.

In an attempt to discredit President Obama’s Christian-based belief, Santorum said “the ‘president’s agenda’ is ‘not about you,’ in an ABC report. ‘It’s not about you. It’s not about your quality of life. It’s not about your job ... ‘It’s about some phony ideal, some phony theology,’” Santorum said to applause from the crowd. “Oh, not a theology based on the Bible, a different theology, but no less a theology.” [...]

As conservative Presbyterian blogger John Schroeder wrote, Santorum’s “truly intolerant comments concerning Obama pretty well disqualify him from holding office. It is simply not the president’s job to be judging whose theology is correct and whose is not.”

See Candidate on Page 8

Congratulations to TD Bank: Newest Corporate Partner

By: Jenn Tracz Grace*/CABO’s Exec. Director



TD Bank, one of the ten largest banks in the United States, has become the newest Corporate Partner of the Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunities (CABO), the state affiliate of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC). The announcement comes on the heels of MetLife/New England Financial Services recently becoming a CABO corporate ally.

“TD Bank is excited to partner with CABO,” says Joseph Culos, TD Bank Senior Vice President of Retail Banking for the Connecticut Market. “TD Bank is dedicated to support the communities we serve, and I am proud to partner with CABO to help build a stronger Connecticut economy for all of us.”

TD Bank is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion for customers and employees. The bank’s goal is to create an extraordinary place to work for all employees regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, abilities or disabilities, or anything else. TD is a strong supporter of the LGBT community, and sponsors and participates in many LGBT events and programs across the United States as part of its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

CABO was recently named the NGLCC

Chamber of the Year, honored for its meteoric rise in membership, budget, and growth since its inception just four years ago. Two years ago it was awarded the Rising Star Chamber of the Year. Achieving these milestones under the leadership of Jenn Tracz Grace and CABO Founder and President Dena Castricone, has set both a new chamber standard and a record with the NGLCC.

CABO is your resource to the Connecticut LGBT business climate both in the corporate and small business environment. We are able to provide services to our members in large part due to their support. Those we recognize include: Aetna, Foxwoods, Murtha Cullina LLP, MetLife, TD Bank, Comcast Business Class, Bearingstar Insurance, Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union, Clear Channel Radio, The Rainbow Times, Barmont Productions and MAD Digital Print Solutions. Each of these businesses has something great to offer and their commitment and support to the LGBT community is what separates them from the rest.

** In her role as Executive Director, Jenn is responsible for maintaining and growing membership, developing strategic business partnerships and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. In addition to being CABO’s executive director, she also owns Diversity Works LLC, a strategic marketing and communications agency specializing in diversity issues.*

Funding for abortions is an essential part of queer life and you can help

By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist

The Eastern Massachusetts Abortion (EMA) Fund is currently engaged in their second annual “Triathlon” fundraiser. This innovative triathlon includes Wii bowling, karaoke and board games at the Milky Way in Jamaica Plain on April 11; who said triathlons had to include running, swimming and biking?

According to their website, the EMA Fund “provides women with financial counseling and with money for their abortions. We negotiate with abortion providers for discounts, and we help women pay for bus or train tickets, childcare and translation services. We know that if you don’t have money, abortion might as well be

The outrage inspired by this rhetoric is important and is fueling dialogue about the right of women to control their bodies. ... we cannot allow the conversation to be dictated by misogynistic concepts. The fight for access to contraception need not be an apologetic one.

illegal. For us, access to abortion is a matter of social justice, reproductive justice, economic justice, fairness and human rights.” Funding for abortions is an essential part of queer life.

Did you know that, according to the Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, lesbian and bisexual young women are more than twice as likely as their heterosexual peers to experience unintended pregnancy? Do you know queer-

identified women who have had an abortion at any point in their life? Do you think people feel safe to tell you their experiences with abortion? Are you able to talk openly about the ways abortions can be transformative and liberating for many people? What questions about abortion are you comfortable with, and which ones make you anxious or angry?

Concluding her powerful sermon to abortion-rights activists and clergy, Rev. Dr. Katherine Ragsdale proclaimed boldly, “These are the two things I want you, please, to remember — abortion is a blessing and our work is not done.” Too often those of us who support the right of an individual to make choices about their bodies end up making apologies for the existence of abortion. We tell ourselves and others that these practical medical procedures are emotionally damaging and cause deep hardships. Rev. Ragsdale encourages us to think and act differently. Just as the beauty of new life is miraculous, so too is it miraculous for someone to choose to live their lives the way they want to. Abortions are a beautiful gift that allows people who become pregnant to make a choice about how their bodies will exist in the world.

The right for a woman to make choices about her body has been flooding the media.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
I really appreciated Tynan Power’s piece Stretching those tired gender boxes (2/2)... I’ve friends who have said that transgendered folks reaffirm gender binaries by the fact of their transition. Power’s piece reminds us no matter if one is female, male, in between or beyond, one still has to make choices about the kind of person one is going to be, what values will one live and project.

—Matt Ashby, Greenfield, MA

Dear Editor,
I continue to admire and follow the columns of Rev. Jason Lydon. He is a man who sees the world from a different lens, certainly. His columns are appropriate for the time and place we live in and he can decipher the reality vs. what the media feeds us constantly. As a Caucasian male, I appreciate his constant and consistent coverage of LGBTQ issues of people of color and disenfranchised groups—women and children. His stance on women, like his Amy Winehouse’s column

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Fenway Institute Report: PrEP could be “game changer” in fight against HIV

Analysis examines biomedical prevention technology to be reviewed by U.S. Food and Drug Administration by June 15, 2012

HEALTH NEWS

BOSTON, Mass.—Pre-exposure chemoprophylaxis (PrEP)—taking anti-retroviral medications to prevent HIV transmission—could be a “game changer” for HIV prevention, according to an analysis released by The Fenway Institute last week.

PrEP has demonstrated partial efficacy with men who have sex with men (MSM) and heterosexuals in several recent studies. Recent modeling of PrEP implementation coupled with scaled up treatment predicts that PrEP could significantly reduce HIV incidence and prevalence. If PrEP is accompanied by sustained care, behavioral interventions, and safety monitoring, PrEP need not lead to increased sexual risk behavior or drug resistance.

“PrEP has the potential to dramatically reduce HIV incidence among gay men, heterosexual women and men, and other populations,” said Sean Cahill, Director of Health Policy Research at The Fenway Institute and author of the report. “We look forward to action by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the World Health Organization this year to make PrEP available to those most vulnerable to HIV. PrEP could prove an invaluable new tool in the fight against HIV.”

What is PrEP?

The Fenway review of PrEP implementation issues, titled *Pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV*

prevention: Moving toward implementation (<http://bit.ly/x9XLsZ>), summarizes the state of PrEP and microbicides research as of January 2012, looks at willingness to use PrEP among various populations, addresses concerns about PrEP that could present obstacles to implementation, offers strategies for effective implementation, and examines policy issues related to cost and how to make PrEP accessible to those most vulnerable to HIV. Based on a review of published research and interviews with policy makers, funders and other stakeholders, it examines regulatory developments and planning underway both within the U.S. and globally.

Side Effects, Risks

Some have raised concerns about PrEP related to potential side effects, risk compensation (the idea that people will stop using condoms if PrEP becomes available), and drug resistance. However, reviews of five major clinical trials involving about 6,000 participants by the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research shows no greater risk of side effects, no risk compensation, and no clinically significant development of drug resistance in participants.

Guidance from the U.S. Public Health Service and the World Health Organization is expected in 2012. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced February 13, 2012 that it would review Gilead Science’s application to use FTC-TDF (brand name Truvada) for PrEP by June 15, 2012. Demonstration projects to develop real



world best practices for implementing PrEP are underway or set to launch soon in the U.S. and in sub-Saharan Africa. While the cost of PrEP in the U.S. would be substantial, private insurers and state Medicaid departments are open to covering PrEP, and low-cost generic medications could enable access in low-income countries. The prioritization of highly vulnerable populations could increase the cost-effectiveness of PrEP. Providing PrEP is also much less expensive than treating someone for HIV over the course of a lifetime.

“Fenway was a U.S. site for the global iPrEx PrEP study with gay and bisexual men, and is testing a vaginal microbicides ring with dapivirine and maraviroc,” said Kenneth Mayer, MD, Medical Research Director and Co-Chair of The Fenway Institute. “We are very optimistic about the potential for PrEP and microbicides to revolutionize HIV prevention and allow us to dramatically reduce new infections here and around the world.”

Best Interventions

The Fenway Institute’s analysis found that the most effective prevention interventions will be those that combine behavioral interventions, structural interventions, and emerging biomedical technologies, such as PrEP and microbicides. The analysis concludes with recommendations for implementation of PrEP, including the following:

- If the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is considering approving FTC-TDF for use as PrEP, feels that research on PrEP’s efficacy among heterosexuals is inconclusive, it should consider approving PrEP for MSM now separately, and consider heterosexuals, IDUs and other populations in the near future as the science advances.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) should issue guidance on PrEP that takes into account the promising results of the iPrEx study, Partners PrEP, and the Botswana CDC study.

Read the rest of this story online at TRT’s website at: <http://bit.ly/zvlgIC>

THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

1

Research **empowerRING** women in the fight against HIV.

Fenway Health Ansin Building
1340 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02215

Fenway Health is studying the possibility of preventing HIV using a medicated vaginal ring. We need HIV-negative women 18-40 to help.

Stand up for LOVE

FACT: 63% of all HIV/AIDS cases in the US are in gay and bisexual men and infection rates are rising among men who have sex with men.

Fenway Health is seeking HIV-negative men who have sex with men to participate in a vaccine trial to determine the safety and effectiveness of an investigational HIV vaccine.

We are seeking volunteers: HIV-negative men, ages 18–50, who have been a top or bottom in the past 6 months. Volunteers receive compensation for their time and travel expenses, as well as confidential HIV counseling and testing.

You cannot get HIV from this investigational HIV vaccine.

BOSTON is READY.ORG

BOSTON GET YOUR HEART ON

VOLUNTEER FOR AN HIV VACCINE STUDY

617.927.6450

GUYS EXPERIENCING LUBE

projectgel

3

ARE YOU:

- 18–30 years old?
- A man who has sex with men?
- Willing to be tested for HIV?

IF YOU ENROLL, YOU WILL:

- Be tested for HIV.
- Complete a physical exam, including an anal exam.
- Be asked questions about your medical and sexual history.

You will receive compensation for your participation in this study.

THE FENWAY INSTITUTE



Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

INDICATION

COMPLERA® (emtricitabine 200 mg/rilpivirine 25 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) is a prescription HIV medicine that contains 3 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine), EDURANT™ (rilpivirine), and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one pill. COMPLERA is used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 infection in adults (age 18 and older) who have never taken HIV medicines before.

COMPLERA does not cure HIV and has not been shown to prevent passing HIV to others. It is important to always practice safer sex, use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids, and to never re-use or share needles. **Do not stop taking COMPLERA unless directed by your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly.**

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Contact your healthcare provider right away if you get the following side effects or conditions while taking COMPLERA:

- Nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness. These may be signs of a buildup of acid in the blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical condition
- Light-colored stools, dark-colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow. These may be signs of serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly), and fat in the liver (steatosis)
- If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking COMPLERA. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition

COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.

Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking the following medicines:

- other HIV medicines (COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection.)
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®, Epitol®), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin-125®, Phenytek®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®) and rifapentine (Priftin®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (Nexium®, Vimovo®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), omeprazole (Prilosec®), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix®), rabeprazole (Aciphex®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum)
- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, Combivir®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Trizivir®)
- rilpivirine (Edurant™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

In addition, also tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (Pepcid®), cimetidine (Tagamet®), nizatidine (Axid®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (Biaxin®), erythromycin (E-Mycin®, Eryc®, Ery-Tab®, PCE®, Pediazole®, Ilosone®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (Diflucan®), itraconazole (Sporanox®), ketoconazole (Nizoral®), posaconazole (Noxafil®), voriconazole (Vfend®)
- methadone (Dolophine®)

This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

COMPLERA is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV medicines before. COMPLERA does not cure HIV or AIDS or help prevent passing HIV to others.

COMPLERA. A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.

Ask your healthcare provider if it's the **one** for you.

Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have **liver problems**, including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have **kidney problems**
- have ever had a **mental health problem**
- have **bone problems**
- are **pregnant or plan to become pregnant**. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- are breastfeeding; **women with HIV should not breast-feed** because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby

Contact your healthcare provider right away if you experience any of the following serious or common side effects:

Serious side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA
- **Depression or mood changes** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, or if you have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effect of these conditions are not known
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine

Common side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression

Other side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), and pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it

- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal
- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly**

Please see Patient Information for COMPLERA on the following pages.



COMPLERA®
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Learn more at www.COMPLERA.com

FDA-Approved Patient Labeling

Patient Information

COMPLERA® (kom-PLUH-rah)

(emtricitabine, rilpivirine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) Tablets

Important: Ask your doctor or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with COMPLERA. For more information, see the section “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

Read this Patient Information before you start taking COMPLERA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

1. Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. **Lactic acidosis** is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feeling very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with
 - nausea (feel sick to your stomach)
 - vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA or similar medicines. In some cases these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis) when you take COMPLERA.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA or a similar medicine containing nucleoside analogs for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking COMPLERA, your HBV infection may become worse (flare-up). A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do regular blood tests to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that:

- is used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome).
- contains 3 medicines, (rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one tablet. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and EDURANT is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI).

It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

COMPLERA may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
- Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4+ (T) cells that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4+ (T) cell count may improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

COMPLERA does not cure HIV infections or AIDS.

- Always practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

- Do not take COMPLERA if your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- **Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking certain other medicines.** For more information about medicines that must not be taken with COMPLERA, see “**What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?**”

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have kidney problems
- have ever had a mental health problem
- have bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. Its purpose is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that mothers with HIV not breastfeed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. It is not known if COMPLERA can pass through your breast milk and harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects. If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection. Do not take other HIV medicines with COMPLERA.
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL-XR®, TERIL®, EPITOL®), oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®), phenobarbital (LUMINAL®), phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN-125®, PHENYTEK®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (MYCOBUTIN®), rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®) and rifapentine (PRIFTIN®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (NEXIUM®, VIMOVO®), lansoprazole (PREVACID®), omeprazole (PRILOSEC®), pantoprazole sodium (PROTONIX®), rabeprazole (ACIPHEX®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

If you are taking COMPLERA, you should not take:

- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, COMBIVIR®, EPIVIR® or EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®)
- rilpivirine (EDURANT™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

Also tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (PEPCID®), cimetidine (TAGAMET®), nizatidine (AXID®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (ZANTAC®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (BIAXIN®), erythromycin (E-MYCIN®, ERYC®, ERY-TAB®, PCE®, PEDIAZOLE®, ILOSONE®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (DIFLUCAN®), itraconazole (SPORANOX®), ketoconazole (NIZORAL®), posaconazole (NOXAFIL®), voriconazole (VFEND®)
- methadone (DOLOPHINE®)

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Your healthcare provider and your pharmacist can tell you if you can take these medicines with COMPLERA. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that can interact with COMPLERA.

How should I take COMPLERA?

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA with a meal as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.
- When your COMPLERA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is very important not to run out of COMPLERA. The amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you take too much COMPLERA, contact your local poison control center or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?

COMPLERA may cause the following serious side effects, including:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

Additional common side effects include:

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

How do I store COMPLERA?

- Store COMPLERA at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep COMPLERA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not use COMPLERA if the seal over the bottle opening is broken or missing.

Keep COMPLERA and all other medicines out of reach of children.

General information about COMPLERA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use COMPLERA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give COMPLERA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals. For more information, call (1-800-445-3235) or go to www.COMPLERA.com.

What are the ingredients of COMPLERA?

Active ingredients: emtricitabine, rilpivirine hydrochloride, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

Inactive ingredients: pregelatinized starch, lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, povidone, polysorbate 20. The tablet film coating contains polyethylene glycol, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, triacetin, titanium dioxide, iron oxide red, FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, FD&C Yellow #6 aluminum lake.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Manufactured and distributed by:

Gilead Sciences, Inc.

Foster City, CA 94404

Issued: August 2011

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Provincetown welcomes the best of the best from the world of Cabaret

Cape Cod's Only Cabaret Festival takes place on April 13th-15th, Don't miss it!

Friday, April 13, 8 p.m., Crown & Anchor

Join the audience of nationally acclaimed cabaret singer-songwriter, Krisanthi Pappas as she soothes attendees with her smooth vocal tenderness. She has the husky-voiced passion of Bonnie Raitt and the swinging playfulness of Ella Fitzgerald. Her jazz songwriting style has been compared to Randy Newman by Cadence Magazine, while her mellow pop songwriting is similar to Sarah McLachlan and Michael Buble. She has been compared to Norah Jones and Diana Krall by Jazz Times Magazine. Krisanthi has performed throughout New England and New York City and her Billboard®-award-winning original songs can be heard on many Television Shows and Movie Soundtracks.

Saturday night, 8 p.m. at the Crown & Anchor

Join Dane Vannatter and friends on a musical soaring adventure. Dane was awarded the 2006 Bistro Award for Outstanding Vocalist by the critics of BackStage in New York. He has been acclaimed by reviewers at The New York Post, and The Boston Globe remarks, "Dane Vannatter's distinctive style leaves an imprint on whatever music he sings. His voice has a floating quality that gets in your head and won't leave." Dane is also the recipient of the 2000 Bistro Award for Outstanding CD for his second recording Flight. He has been nominated for 4 MAC awards and is a 2007 Nightlife Award finalist. Dane has performed in Boston, New York, Washington, DC and the West Coast.

Sunday Brunch, 11:30 a.m. at the Crown & Anchor

Join Lisa Jason for a musical journey celebrating the legendary women of song from Judy Garland to Barbara Streisand, from Dusty Springfield to Peggy Lee, and Broadway. Performing since childhood in dance, musical theater and as a rock and roll front woman, Lisa has been a long Cape Cod favorite performing artist and singer/songwriter and has been the opening act for Huey Lewis and The News, KC and The Sunshine Band, The original cast of the Jersey Boys in Concert, and many more. And Cabaret Scenes Magazine says Lisa is "a firebrand of a performer who packs a powerful belt, a rapier wit, and a big heart into her



petite frame."

Krisanthi Pappas, Dane Vannatter, and Lisa Jason will each be performing a few songs by Boston area songwriter Harriet Goldberg. Harriet's music has been used for TV and has been featured at the Boston Association of Cabaret Artists (BACA) Songwriter's Showcase, Scullers and the Regattabar as well as New York City cabaret venues including Metropolitan Room & Don't Tell Mama. Beverly Creasey of The Theater

Mirror writes "They say they don't write 'em like that anymore but they're wrong. Goldberg does."

Get Tickets

Tickets are on sale now at the Provincetown Business Guild office at 508-487-2313 or can be purchased at the Crown & Anchor box office before the shows.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the musical styling of world renowned Cabaret artists all gathered in one town at the same time. For more information, please visit: www.ptown.org.

Candidate From page 2

The Democratic Party is about Homosexuality

During a 2008 "Press & People of Faith in Politics" forum, Santorum proclaimed that the Democratic Party is about Homosexuality.

"Woodstock is the great American orgy" he said. "This is who the Democratic Party has become. ... They prey upon our most basic primal lusts, and that's sex. And the whole abortion culture, it's not about life. It's about sexual freedom. That's what it's about. Homosexuality..."

Anti-women, Logic & the GOP

According to a MSNBC report, Rick Santorum's top bankroller, Foster Friess, said that girls should "put Bayer aspirin between their knees" as the primary means of birth control. Santorum himself said he does not believe in any type of birth control under any circumstance. Not only is this barbaric, but as someone mentioned via TRT's FaceBook page, it is an offense to women who are disabled, have conceived through rape, and cannot physically be responsible for such a misogynistic belief.

Via The Advocate, national gay and lesbian news magazine, Actress and comedian Sandra Bernhard, said the "anti-women rhetoric now ...

Read the rest of this article online at: <http://bit.ly/zwvtSu>

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QUALIFICATIONS: Most important is responsibility. Other qualities sought are motivated and goal-oriented, honesty, integrity, trustworthy, punctuality, cleanliness, organizational skills, multitasking, driver's license, communication skills, computer savvy, personable, speak fluent English and Urdu/Hindi (if possible). Must be single (unmarried); divorced ok. Preferable (but not essential): Athlete, sportsman or muscleman. College degree and handyman skills helpful. Must be non-smoker, no alcohol, drugs, no pets, no visitors (except) parents or family. Someone who will treat this home like their own home.

COMPENSATION: Large room and bath free. All meals free. Salary negotiable. Health insurance. In addition, if college degree in biology, biochemistry or chemistry, can offer up to 20 hours/week job in office at good hourly rate. Tuition assistance for education/training after 6 months of successful performance.

Please reply if you can satisfactorily perform some of the requirements.

Please send your response to: specialpersonforuniquejob@gmail.com and provide names and addresses of three references.

Abortion From page 2

The recent congressional panel on contraception organized by Republican Chairman Darrell Issa got a lot of attention with its nearly complete lack of women's representation. One of the religious leaders on the panel accused the Obama Administration's plan to require insurance coverage for contraception as "soul rape." The outrage inspired by this rhetoric is important and is fueling dialogue about the right of women to control their bodies. However, we cannot allow the conversation to be dictated by misogynistic concepts. The fight for access to contraception need not be an apologetic one. Sex is not something to be embarrassed by or discreet about. Heteropatriarchy silences the greatness of sexuality and relegates the debate to procreative sex, but we must queer the conversation and ex-

pand the borders of what is acceptable.

March 8 is International Women's Day. I want to encourage everyone to use this day of recognition to focus on the need for reproductive justice in our society. The National Women's Law Center defines the reproductive justice movement as "the right of individuals to have the children they want, raise the children they have, and plan their families through safe, legal access to abortion and contraception. The movement also supports the right to express one's sexuality without oppression. In order to make these rights a reality, the movement recognizes that reproductive justice will only be achieved when all people have the economic, social and political power to make healthy decisions about their bodies, sexuality and reproduction." As the fight continues to eliminate all forms of oppression,

take time to talk with your friends about giving together to the EMA Fund and even consider showing up at the Milky Way on April 11 to cheer on the triathletes.

* Rev. Jason Lydon is a Unitarian Universalist minister in Boston. He is a long time anti-prison organizer and founder of Black & Pink, an LGBTQ focused effort working towards the abolition of the prison industrial complex. Jason is also an avid lover of famous people and blockbuster action flicks. You can reach Jason at blackandpink99@gmail.com

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Ms BHaven burnin' at Fred's Brickhouse, Willimantic, CT.

Ms BHaven rocks hard in the Hartford area

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

NORTHAMPTON, Mass.—The all-female tribute band Ms BHaven has been working up quite a local following with their combination of jazz, Latin, R&B and rock music. Recently they have been recording a six-song album with producer John Bolduc in Manchester, CT. The core members consist of Amy Blaze, Amy Epperson, Sue Lopes, Lynn Tracey, and Dawn Zukowski. Lead guitarist Tracey took the time to do an exclusive interview with TRT.

Clara Lefton: How do you decide what new song you want to sing?

Lynn Tracey: We kind of read the crowd and we play a few different genres ... what we've done is incorporate more R&B and they'll just dance all night or some Latin and they go nuts. The age of the crowd seems to vary; we thought we'd appeal more to the 30-50 age group but because of [the television show] Glee it's all age groups.

CL: What is the band's dream venue to play?

LT: We're hoping to play at the Mohegan Sun. A lot of local musicians will play there in the Wolf Den and it's a free show if you're a card holder, if you gamble or even if you don't ... We'd like to play at the Iron Horse [in Northampton, MA] too, it's real intimate.

CL: How did you choose the name Ms BHaven?

LT: We really struggled with that, but we had friends on Facebook vote and we had this lame name we were just going to go with. Then my partner said, "How about Ms BHaven?" We have a sanctuary here and it used to be called Green Haven and it's a safe haven for all of us ladies to chat. Then of course we do misbehave, at least I think we do back in our younger days but we're well behaved now. But we like to try to connect back to our days where we rebellious and young. 3/5 members of the band are lesbians and it's really fun because the other two kind of laugh and

joke with us- they're very open minded.

CL: What songs are your favorite to sing?

LT: I like "Rolling in the Deep" and I love "Send Me On My Way" by Rustic Root. Once in a while we'll play Santana but those are my favorites. They're covers but I have some originals that we're going to start introducing.

CL: Who are you closest with in the band?

LT: I've known Sue the longest, but we all support each other and help each other through things that come up in our lives. Sometimes our rehearsals are great because if there's something going on we'll all vent a little, go to the music and by the end of the session it was therapeutic. We keep in touch via text messages and phone calls and we all joke a lot.

CL: What was your first show like?

LT: We played at Black Eyed Sally's [Hartford, CT] for our first big gig. It was sort of our debut gig and it was incredibly packed. We had high energy, we were dancing—it was crazy there was a line out the door. I know there was a UConn game in town but all the other venues down the street were all open."

CL: What is your recording schedule like right now?

LT: It has been every Sunday for three weeks. It's 10-12 hours, either 2 p.m. to 12 a.m. or 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. You're in another world and everything else outside of that world totally disappears. You have the opportunity to really try to help each other work through parts, be creative and really precise—you want to be perfect; there's a little bit of pressure there but we joke around a lot with each other so we can just have fun with it. It's been a great experience."

The band's next gig will be at Fred's Brick House Café in Willimantic, CT on March 10 at 7 p.m. For more info about the band's schedule visit: www.msbhaven.org/

PHOTO BY: PAM STANDFEST

Boston Pride selects The Rainbow Times Official Media Sponsor & Guide Producer 2012

Boston, MA—*Boston Pride* recently announced its decision to name *The Rainbow Times* as one of the official media sponsors and the Pride Guide producer for the 42nd Annual Pride Parade and Festival. As an official media sponsor and guide publisher last year, the LGBT newspaper will again produce the annual Pride Guide that is distributed throughout Pride Week along with other event materials detailing the week's festivities.

"We are very excited to once again be working with *The Rainbow Times* and to continue to develop this relationship," said Boston Pride President Linda DeMarco. "Their newspaper has an incredible amount of passion and enthusiasm for Pride Week, which is reflected in their efforts."

The theme for this year's Pride Parade and Festival is "Celebrating 30 Years of Worldwide Pride Movement." The theme pays tribute to InterPride, the international association of Pride organizers, which was founded in Boston in 1982. As an official media sponsor and the guide producer, *The Rainbow Times* will be the go-to source for everything *Boston Pride* and Pride Week related. The glossy magazine guide will



be handed out at each Pride Week event and will be featured in *The Rainbow Times*.

Being the producer of the official Pride Guide,

Being the producer of the official Pride Guide, The Rainbow Times will also give back to the community by donating to Boston Pride a portion of the ad sales from the guide.

The Rainbow Times will also give back to the community by donating to Boston

Pride a portion of the ad sales from the guide.

Based in Northampton, *The Rainbow Times* is an LGBT newspaper that raises awareness about LGBT issues as well as works to unite the LGBT communities in New England. Founded in 2006, the publication is led by Grisel Martinez Ocasio and Nicole Lashomb.

About Boston Pride

Boston Pride produces events and activities to achieve inclusivity, equality, respect, and awareness in Greater Boston and beyond. Fostering diversity, unity, visibility and dignity, we educate, communicate and advocate by building and strengthening community connections.

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Sir Elton John and Queen's Freddie Mercury come to Springfield, Mass., almost

SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—Springfield is prepping for the arrival of two highly anticipated performers, iconic to the LGBTQ community—Sir Elton John and Queen's Freddie Mercury, well, almost. In one-of-a-kind events, these two revered personalities will take center stage at City Stage and Symphony Hall this April.

Gary Mullen and The Works take the audience through a show-stopping time warp of Queen and Freddie Mercury, performing their mega-hits such as *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *We are the Champions*, *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*, *Radio Ga Ga*, amongst many others. This performance is scheduled to take place on April 4 at Symphony Hall.

Another "Diva" of his own, Elton John illusionist Craig A. Meyer will morph into the flamboyant pianist and vocalist, famous for his brilliant performances of *Benny and the Jets*, *Philadelphia Freedom*, *Crocodile Rock*, *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road* and *Candle in the Wind*, amongst many others.

Award-winning Meyer will be sure to not disappoint audiences from April 11-14 at CityStage.

Recently, *The Rainbow Times* caught up with Mullen and Meyer to discuss their upcoming performances and incredible artistic transformations.

Craig Meyer is Almost Elton John

TRT: What inspired you to perform as Elton John?

CM: I grew up on Elton's music and cut my piano chops on Elton, Billy Joel, Barry Manilow and Stevie Wonder. Five years ago, a friend in the Tribute Industry, Melody Knighton, encouraged me to try putting together a show. I was not sure it was a direction I wanted to take my career and politely declined. Then, three years ago, I got a hefty residual check and decided to give it a shot. My reasoning was, it's an amazing catalog of music, I have a very unique skill set in that I play piano, have a gift for mimicking voices and with a little smoke and mirrors, I can create a plausible illusion that I am Elton John.

Q: Your vocals and resemblance of Elton John are amazing. How long did it take you to perfect your performance?

A: As I said, I grew up with Elton's music and was able to dissect the elements that make up his voice (one part Anthony Newley, one part Cher) and after hours of finding the key moments to employ that sound, I had the basis for the character. As for the guise, I spent two years on the road in CATS back in the late 80's. Doing my feline make up every night, I got to know my face pretty well. My friend Melody is also a makeup artist and helped me create the look. I get a kick



out of transforming myself into Elton prior to a show. It's a 45 minute process that includes darkening my hair and creating his signature gap in his teeth and the cleft in his chin. The costumes, I design myself, and work with a talented costumer to bring the designs to life. I have found fabric in New York, accessories in LA and had my custom Platform heels created by shoemaker to Broadway, T O Dey.

Q: You are obviously very talented. Why do you prefer impersonation instead of performing as yourself?

A: Thank you for your kind words. Almost Elton John is just another expression of my long career as a performer. In my years as a gypsy, I've been on Broadway, toured with Barry Manilow and Frankie Valli, sung with Mickey Mouse, as well as being a kitty in CATS and a Caboose in Starlight Express. So pretending to be Elton John isn't too far-fetched a job description for me. I am a native of Los Angeles and spent the better portion of my career there until I moved to Atlanta six years ago. In addition to my work on stage, I continue my TV and film work in Atlanta. Most recently, I was seen on the big screen in *Joyful Noise* with Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton and on the small screen—a TV movie for Cartoon Network, *Level Up*. One of my most favorite TV roles was on *Will & Grace* when I co-starred with Matt Damon.

Q: How did you make it big in the impersonation performance world? Was there a single event that changed the course of your career?

A: When I decided to make a go of Almost Elton John, I took all my years of experience and working with some of the best entertainment profes-

sionals and companies in the world and focused it on my show. From day one, I made sure that the stage production, costumes, marketing and overall presentation was a caliber of which I could be proud. I strive with each performance to bring that level of commitment and artistry on-stage with me. [On the] opening night of my first Equity show, my dressing roommate gave me a card that read: "Always remember ... Someone is seeing a show for the first time, and someone is seeing a show for the last time." When you have that perspective, each moment on stage is the opportunity to impact a life and create a memory.

Q: Tell me about *The Rocket Band*. When did the band form and was it always dedicated to Elton John performances?

A: I love The Rocket Band! They are an amazing group of Atlanta based musicians who have come together to support this project. We've had a few iterations of the group trying to find the right mix of folks and making sure everyone's in the best position for their skill set. Each of them is a consummate professional in both their musicianship and personality. I marvel during rehearsals when I see them bring something new to the table with a certain lick on the guitar or a flourish on the bass. They are truly invested in what we are creating and make me feel, if only for the moments I am onstage, that I really am a rock star! They are the ones that make it happen. Without them, I'm a guy with a piano.

Q: If you had to describe *Almost Elton John* and *The Rocket Band* in three words, what would those words be?

A: Electric. Passionate. Dynamic.

Q: What is your most memorable show to date? What made it so memorable?

A: This past summer we had an outdoor concert in Atlanta. It was a perfect night for being together and celebrating music. As the evening progressed, the area directly in front of the stage began to resemble a mosh pit. The most amazing part was the diversity of the dancers! [There were] little toddlers dancing with grandpas, teenagers bopping with the beat, couples' cutting a rug, and soon the whole place was on its feet. At another point in the concert, the audience was singing along so enthusiastically, I just sat back and let them sing to me! Being able to move a group of people that way is magical. It's the *why* of Almost Elton John & The Rocket Band.

Q: Soon you'll be coming to Springfield, Massachusetts to perform at CityStage. What can attendees expect from your performance?

A: I hope that the CityStage audiences will come ready to rock! The evening is predicated on them

being willing to go on a journey with us. It begins with my transforming into Elton and then all of us being caught up in the magic. I consider myself an illusionist. With the lights, costumes, music, band, make-up and the audience, I create a plausible diversion for me to sing the music of Elton John. So, I guess they can expect to be mesmerized by the artistry and magic that is *Almost Elton John & The Rocket Band*.

Gary Mullen as Freddie Mercury in *One Night of Queen*

TRT: What inspired you to perform as Queen?

GM: After winning the *Stars in Their Eyes* TV show, I started to receive offers to perform as Freddie, so after some thought, I decided to try and forge a career as a Freddie sound-alike.

Q: Your vocals and resemblance of Freddie Mercury are brilliant. How long did it take you to perfect your performance?

A: I never have! How I sing is how I sing. What I did do when I started professionally [performing], was study his movements more, and later on went for singing lessons, to maintain my voice for long tours.

Q: How did winning *Stars in Their Eyes* change



PHOTOS BY: CITYSTAGE & SYMPHONY HALL

your performance trajectory?

A: Well, before *Stars in Their Eyes*, the only singing I had done had been in bands with friends and karaoke. So the TV show opened a new door to a new career, and a chance to go around the world, and see and perform in places that I had always wanted to see.

Q: Tell me about the band you perform with, *The Works*. When did it form and was it always dedicated to Queen impersonations?

A: I formed the band in 2002, after performing for 2 years as a solo performer. I wanted to have a band and show that could recreate the feel of a Queen show with Freddie. I knew David Brockett, the guitarist from Glasgow, as he was a very well respected session player, and also, like me, a massive Queen fan. So, he got the rest of the guys together, and we performed our first show on the 22nd of May 2002. So this year is our 10th anniversary!

Q: If you had to describe *One Night of Queen* in three words, what would those words be?

A: Energetic, rocking, fun.

Q: What is your most memorable show to date? What made it so memorable?

A: One of the most memorable was in Hyde Park, in London, as part of the BBC's *Proms in the Park* concert.

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See Elton John on Page 16

The doors to the *future* are open.



Baystate Medical Center's expansion opens Friday, March 2. The magnificent new building features the Davis Family Heart & Vascular Center, with the most advanced heart and vascular technology available.

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What to expect at the doctor's when you are a transgender person

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



Everyone needs to go to the doctor for their physical well-being. We need to have whatever's in our bodies checked out, and, if there are problems, deal with them. Here are some glimpses into the transgender patient's experience at the doctor's office.

About 10 years ago, I remember some girls who went in for checkups as female and never said a word about being born into a male body. They just went in for their female checkups completely ignoring their male parts, which also needed to be checked out. They would smile and feel good that they "fooled" the doctor.

Now, I cannot believe that there are doctors who cannot tell the difference between a genetic woman's vagina and her inner workings from a transwoman's vagina and her lack of inner workings. If there really are doctors who, after check-

ing these areas, have no idea, I would say that it's time to find another doctor!

Moving on, many transgenders have not transitioned and are still in the closet and still appear in public in the gender into which we were born. One issue that I've known is of the closeted male-to-female transgender showing up physically as a male with shaved legs and chest. ("Hey! What happened to your leg and chest hair?") Depending on the people involved, this could lead to an embarrassing and/or comical situation. I've also known some closet trans who forgot to take off their toenail polish and came to a physical as male. Oopsie!

Now for some "Deja at the doctor" stories and other stories from transpeople who sought medical help.

I've been to doctors and they look at my file, which always has conflicting references to my physical gender. Some papers say male and others say female. With a puzzled look they ask me if I'm male or female. I just smile and say that I am a transwoman and they accept that. I just went for a blood test recently and the young lady who was looking over the tests my doctor ordered asked

me why I was to get a PSA test. I told her that I am a transwoman and that I still have my prostate and it needs to be checked. She said "Oh! that makes sense."

Speaking of learning experiences in a doctor's office, one of my girlfriends went in for her physical as a male with her lifelong doctor and, after he looked at the medications she was on, he asked her why she was taking estrogen. She told him that she was transgender and he suddenly put down her file and with a very serious face asked her to talk about it. She agreed and taught him and answered any questions that he had. Kudos to this doctor who wanted to learn about transgender patients!

Another story, this time from a transman friend of mine who was at the gynecologist for a pap smear. This transman has a full beard, a low voice, is tall, and you would never, ever guess that he was born into a female body. He is all man, for sure, but he still has female parts. Here he was, the only man sitting in the waiting room with a bunch of women and girls when the assistant came out and called his name and with a puzzled look asked if he was here for a pap smear. He

sheepishly said that yes, he was.

There are also horror stories about transgender people seeking medical help. I knew of one transman who was refused treatment and he eventually died of ovarian, uterus and cervical cancer, as he went untreated. Another girl got hurt on her job while dressed as male. When she was in the ER the doctor took off her shirt and noticed that she was wearing a bra. He stopped treating her, backed away and said that he was not going to work on "that." She laid on the gurney in the ER for about an hour before another doctor treated her.

Ask any transgender person and they will tell you their doctor stories. Some are good, some are bad, some are funny, and some are horrible. All of these types of stories will be around for a while until the medical profession as a whole begins to understand the transgender patient. They are getting much better, but they are not completely there yet.

*Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has three grown children and works at a local Fortune 500 company. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.

Ask a Transwoman: A rose by any other name ... is whatever she says it is!

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



If you were talking to someone and in the conversation they referenced your old birth/boy name (several times), what would you do? How would you feel? How bad would it creep you out? Stalker/weirdo maybe?

— Lady Fox

Ahhh, names! Identity can be such a minefield, most especially for transpeople, but also for anyone who is trying to change who they are in the world. We might argue about labels like trans, or cis or gay or straight or conservative or liberal all day. Our honorifics—Mr., Mrs., Ms., Madam, Sir—may be cause for contention. But our names imply whole realms of information about who we are, whether accurate or not, in an abbreviated form. A veritable databomb. Many people keep the same name from birth to death. But even cisgender people often have occasion to change their names. In this culture and others, spouses still regularly take different last names when they get married. Heck, my mom has had at least three different last names over the course of her life.

Also, people will sometimes change their name in response to some life-changing event. I have an aunt who adopted an entirely new first name when her husband died. And I've known others, especially when I was living in Hollywood, who took new names to go along with new lives. Some who simply took new names because the ones they

were using were already taken by another member of the Screen Actors Guild!

People also change their names for cultural reasons. I can't tell you how many folks I've met from other countries who have told me their name was "Sam" or "Sara" because they had grown tired of hearing their original names mangled in the mouths of monolingualistic English speakers.

As for myself, I've worn a number of different names. When I was still pretending to be a boy it was "Mac," "Reverend Mac," and another that only ever existed on official documents! When I finally decided to transition, I tried out several names, including "Gennifer (Gen) X," before I settled on Lorelei.

In the tradition of self-naming found in many cultures when a child reaches adulthood, I also adopted the name "Erisis." It was a nod of respect to my Goddesses Eris and Isis and

I can't tell you how many folks I've met from other countries who have told me their name was "Sam" or "Sara" because they had grown tired of hearing their original names mangled in the mouths of monolingualistic English speakers.

a distinctive way to assert my new identity.

So with all that as background, onto the specifics of the question. Unfortunately, the sort of misnaming mentioned happens to transpeople pretty regularly. Mine included, especially because I have chosen not to sever the continuity between my new life as Lorelei and my old life as "Mac."

I still have my family and many of my old friends. But it means there has been a pretty drastic learning curve for the people around me. In general, I try not to be offended when someone close to me slips up and calls me the name they knew me by for most of my life. I will politely correct them and move on. Much as I do when I'm misgendered.

People become easily stuck in their ways and often find change hard to adapt to. And of course it's also worth taking into account that people who

have known you a long time may have no problem calling you by your new name in the present tense, but get mixed up when speaking of the past. However, the socially po-

lite thing is to call a person by their chosen name.

If it continues to be a problem, I will explain to them how difficult it is for me, and painful, to be called by that old name. How it reminds everyone in hearing range that I am transgender, instead of simply a woman. After that point, if I'm really frustrated or feeling upset about it, I will simply not respond to that old name. Or I will correct them at every single usage, which tends to bring any conversation crashing down until they get it right.

Also, as I've mentioned before in this column, I'll let peer-pressure do a lot of the heavy lifting. If everyone in the room is calling me Lorelei, the one person calling me by my old name is going to start looking like a douchebag pretty quickly.

But that's with friends and family. With others it can be different. If somebody starts calling me by my other name(s) without having known me previously or only having known of me, it tends to piss me off fast. This can happen for all kinds of reasons. Frequently it's some officious jerk who refuses to call me anything but the name they have on a form or their computer screen.

It is often done as some sort of power play. It's a secret they know about us, a way to belittle us or disempower us and/or an assertion of authority or status. I've even heard stories of this happening among our own trans-spectrum community—"outing" each other for whatever reasons.

This, above all, will not do. It is more than upsetting. It is childish, disrespectful and even inhumane. Sadly, it is often not some easy-to-dismiss stalker or weirdo who does this misnaming. It is the people who should know better, who should be helping us, not hurting us. That is what I find creepy.

And to those people, the ones who use our old names intentionally, who make the most token effort to correct themselves. We should give no quarter. Make it clear to them that this is not OK. And if they will not stop, prune the twigs away and toss them on the woodpile!

Slainte!

*Lorelei Erisis, former Miss Trans New England, can be contacted at her TRT email address: loleleieris@therainbowtimesmass.com.

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Doing the Fried-Oppenheimer case differently: When transphobia arrives, we're all on trial

By: Tynan Power*/TRT Reporter & Columnist

TRANS MAN



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

In February, my community was gripped by the unfolding trial of David Fried-Oppenheimer, founder of a popular local performing arts center. Fried-Oppenheimer, a cisgender man, was charged with multiple counts of child rape, stemming from a sexual relationship that began when the victim, now 20, was only 14. The jury convicted Fried-Oppenheimer on all counts, after a week of hearing testimony from numerous witnesses, including a young FTM who also had been involved at the center.

In any case that draws significant media attention, there is likely to be an element of trial by public opinion. Often the accuser ends up being "tried." In this case, the witness seemed to be on trial for his gender. The witness's transition was referenced in almost every news story, even when his previous gender was not relevant to the point being made.

More disturbing, though, was the fact that the defense used the witness's gender identity to cast doubt on his testimony. In one instance, Fried-Oppenheimer attempted to make the witness seem less credible by saying that he knew the FTM was in therapy. This was repeated by the media, yet it seems that it was not put into context either in court or in the news. Even if you accept the idea that seeing a therapist means someone is mentally unstable – which I don't – it's not that simple for

transgender people. Therapy is a required part of the process of transition. Most people who wish to transition will see a therapist, no matter how sane and stable they are.

Additionally, during closing remarks, the defending lawyer reportedly called the FTM witness "a professional at fooling people," an apparent reference to his gender identity.

It makes sense that the accused, facing such serious charges, will say just about anything to be acquitted. What makes no sense to me is how it is permissible – in a state with nondiscrimination laws that cover gender identity – for a lawyer to make biased statements against transgender people in court, without it being questioned by Judge Rup, who oversaw the case, and without professional reprimand.

"Massachusetts' gender-identity-nondiscrimination law bans discrimination in employment, housing, education and credit. By its terms, the law does not affect how a lawyer argues his client's case in court," explained Cole Thaler, a former transgender-rights attorney for Lambda Legal, who clerked for Judge Rup earlier in his career. "Lawyers are permitted to use certain tactics to try to raise doubts about a witness' credibility. This is called impeaching the witness. For example, lawyers can impeach with a prior statement from the witness that conflicts with what he says now in court."

"A lawyer who uses a witness's transgender identity to try to cast doubt on truthfulness is attempting to arouse the jury's prejudice in his client's favor," said Thaler. "Lawyers have attempted similar tactics in cases where transgender

See Transman on page 23

Faith, Family, and God: LGBTQS prayers

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist

Depending on family and personal experiences, LGBTQS attitudes about prayer may range from curious to ambivalent to negative.

Because a social conservative prays doesn't mean anyone should avoid it. Think about it. Would you stop being a Mets, Yankees or Red Sox fan because a homophobic, anti-marriage-equality crusader happened to support the same team?

In addition, prayer is like golf, skiing, sailing, gardening or exercising. The more you do it the better the outcome. (No. The more you pray will not increase the chances of winning the lottery.)

Below are several modest prayers I crafted for LGBTQS persons of faith and their families. They're nondenominational so anyone can use them. Read them, use them, change them, ignore them or place them on the bottom of Fluffy's litter box.

The last prayer is a modification of the "Lord's Prayer" also known as the "Our Father." It should be noted that use of the word "Father" was not intended to limit God with gender. Although I do not think of "God" in a masculine context, some do.

Hence, I've tried to use names that are gender neutral.

BETTER WORLD

Giver of Life –
Hold me when I am rejected.
Holy One –
Console me when I am mocked.
Great One –
Teach love to those who hurt me;

Holy Author –
Give knowledge to those who misunderstand me;
Pure Light –
Feed my heart with hope and optimism during darkness.
Blessed Being –
Remind me of your unconditional love when I am overwhelmed.
Perfect Soul –
Inspire me with your love, strength, and patience to change the world.
Amen.

RAINBOW PRAYER

Like the rainbow you made me special.
Like the oak tree you made me strong.
Like the sunflower you made me majestic.
Like the blade of grass you made me delicate.
Like the star filled night you made me wondrous.
Like the field of wild flowers you made me beautiful.
Divine Light let me always hear the music of your voice in my soul.
Amen.

I AM YOUR CREATION

Maker of All,
You made me who I am;
You gave me life;
You gave me a soul;
You made me worthy of your love;
You made me in your holy image to love and be loved;

Holy Author,
Give me the courage never to lose hope;
Give me the strength never to lose faith;

See God on page 23

WOW!
WOW!
WOW!

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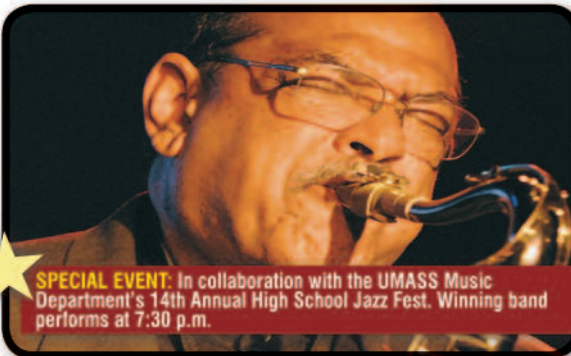
CIRCA

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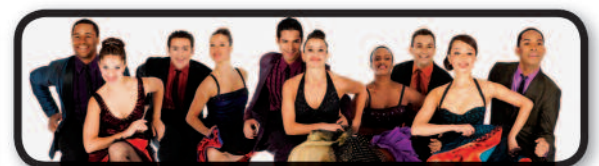
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Funded in part by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts.

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Monday, April 2, 6:30–7:30pm, Fine Arts Center Lobby. Join us for this family-friendly workshop for anyone who would like to learn Salsa, one of today's most popular Latin dances. Participants at any age and skill level can enjoy taking a turn around the dance floor to these irresistible rhythms. Free and open to the public.

PHOTO: JUSTIN NICHOLAS, ATMOSPHERE PHOTOGRAPHY

JOY OF SAX FILM SERIES: IN GOOD TIME, THE PIANO JAZZ OF MARIAN MCPARTLAND (2011, Huey). Live music and commentary by WFCR Jazz à la Mode host Tom Reney. The filmmaker will also be present. Monday, March 26 @ 7pm, Amherst Cinema; Tickets are available online www.amherstcinema.org or at the Amherst Cinema box office. Presented in collaboration with New England Public Radio and Amherst Cinema.

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Jane Lynch, Matthew Bomer, Hugh Jackman & Gay season

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Jane Lynch, out of the tracksuit

Admit it, as much as you appreciate her evil one-liners on *Glee*, part of you misses the days when Jane Lynch felt more like your own little comedy secret, when she would show up as a surprise supporting character in films like *The 40 Year Old Virgin* and *Julie & Julia*. But with the track suit taking up so much of her time lately, we've seen less and less of her in feature films, so it's nice news to report that she's recently signed on for the indie feature *A.C.O.D.* Starring alongside Richard Jenkins (*Eat Pray Love*) and Adam Scott (*Parks and Recreation*), Lynch will play "Dr. Judith," a therapist and author—we're imagining Suze Orman meets Dr. Phil—who's experiencing a career downturn and takes on Scott as a patient.

Of course, if you can't wait for that one's eventual release to see her on the big screen again, you can always catch her in this spring's sure-to-be bizarre Farrelly Brothers reboot of *The Three Stooges*.

Matthew Bomer: gay and Normal

Welcome to the 137th update on the decades-long gestating movie adaptation of Larry Kramer's '80s stage classic *The Normal Heart*. Now a period piece, the AIDS drama about gay men caught in the wide net of the disease's

first, devastating wave has, as reported earlier, found a director in Ryan Murphy and a cast including the now-officially-publicly-gay (as opposed to everybody-on-the-Internet-knew-he-was-already) *White Collar* star Matthew Bomer. Joining him for the angry, sorrowful story is *Big Bang Theory* star (and, for the purposes of this discussion, right now classified as merely probably-maybe-gay because he won't talk about it) Jim Parsons. And joining them? A powerhouse supporting cast including Julia Roberts, Mark Ruffalo and Alec Baldwin, none of whom have to stumble around the new media glass-closet scenario. Lucky them. And lucky you, the movie will, we hear, finally hit theaters in 2014.

Gay(ish) pilot season casting news: the roundup

Recently, on the hilarious *Happy Endings* (which you should be watching, as it boldly allows its gay male character to be both a layabout slob and to make out with guys with no crazy special-episode build up) "Max" (Adam Pally) kissed Jimmy Wolk. Wolk's name will only be familiar to fans of the cancelled-quickly *Lone Star*, but the handsome young actor has also just been cast on Greg Berlanti's (*Brothers and Sisters*) drama pilot *Political Animals*. So here's hoping it doesn't get *Lone Star*'d... Meanwhile, Ellen Barkin has joined the cast of Ryan Murphy and Ali Adler's comedy pilot *The New Normal*. She'll play the mother of a woman who becomes involved as a surrogate for a gay male couple trying to have a baby... Kevin Bacon will take on the lead role in Kevin Williamson's still-unnamed pilot about a serial killer using the internet to build a serial-killing cult... And the outcome of a network bid-



Hugh Jackman

ding war sees Portia DeRossi starring in *The Smart One* for ABC. Produced by DeRossi and Ellen DeGeneres, it's a comedy concerning an intelligent, successful woman who goes to work for her sister, a former beauty queen who's now a big-city mayor (and, presumably, not so smart). Start building your scorecards now; pilot season is a tricky beast to keep track of.

Houdini is happening with Hugh

Hugh Jackman can't stay away from Broadway. The part-time *Real Steel/Wolverine* tough guy is, apparently, incapable of curing his song-and-dance lust. So now that *The Boy From Oz* is a distant memory and he's finished up with *Hugh Jackman: Back on Broadway*, he needs a new reason to belt out the big numbers for matinee audiences. Enter *Houdini*, in the works for a couple years now with Jackman in mind for the lead and, at one point, set to feature music from Danny Elfman. Jackman is still the man in the title role but now the score will come from Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*), the script from Aaron Sorkin (*The Social Network*) and Jack O'Brien (*Hairspray*) will direct. And rather than a straightforward biography approach, *Houdini* will tell the story of a conflict the legendary magician encountered in the form of a trio of women known as "Spiritualists." The women had convinced scores of followers, including editors at *Scientific American* and *The New York Times*, that they could communicate with the dead. *Houdini*, on the other hand, was less than convinced. If audiences believe – and they probably will – this could be the big hit of the 2013 season. Start planning your New York visits now.

* Romeo San Vicente has plenty of experience with tricky beasts.

Thinking Out Loud: The 9th Circuit's Love Letter to Kennedy

By: Abby Dees*/Special for TRT



Over the last two years I've had some version of this conversation maybe two dozen times: Random Person: "Isn't it great about the Prop 8 opinion?" Me: "Fabulous!" RP: "So can people get married again in California?" Me: "Um, no." RP: "Wait...huh?" This month's 9th Circuit Court ruling on Prop 8 was no different – great news, but no one's getting married anytime soon. I don't blame people for being completely

purpose other than to tell LGBT people they suck. This is never an acceptable reason for a law. We don't even do it to felons or street mimes.

There are certain distinctions that must meet a much higher bar, such as when the law discriminates because of race, gender or religion. Then the government must prove there's an especially compelling reason to discriminate. When Prop 8 was passed, sexual orientation discrimination too was one of the classifications accorded such "strict scrutiny" in California. Many had hoped that the 9th Circuit would extend this status into federal law, but it didn't.

Prop 8 is a big, mean gigglefest, with no purpose other than to tell LGBT people they suck. This is never an acceptable reason for a law. We don't even do it to felons or street mimes.

bewildered now by our apparently paper-only victories in the courts. As law-wonk-in-residence, I will accept the task of reducing the 76-page majority opinion in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* down to an ADD-friendly 700 words. If you're a lawyer, turn away now, for I will be merrily hopscotching over countless legal fine points with barely a glance back.

The main idea in *Perry* is that you can't discriminate against a group of people just because you don't like them. The 9th Circuit Court side-stepped any decision about whether we have a fundamental right to marry, and instead up-ended Prop 8 on the basis that if the law is going to target any group of people, there has to be some conceivably plausible rationale for it. Not a good one, mind you, or even an intelligent one, but one that can pass the straight-face test. According to the Court, Prop 8 is a big, mean gigglefest, with no

In fact, the Court was relieved that it didn't have to go so far as to drag all of society into the 21st century with regard to our rights; understandably this angers people. Courts will usually take the path least disruptive to the status quo if they can, which is what happened in *Perry*. The Court struck down Prop 8 in the narrowest way possible. In other words, it agreed that Prop 8 can't be defended with a straight face.

To support its holding, the Court took particular note of the following: (1) Because marriage is legally indistinguishable from domestic partnership in California, Prop 8 serves only to deny LGBT people the cherished symbolic right to call themselves married; (2) The Prop 8 proponents used blatantly false advertising to convince people that we are out to get the children; and (3) just because you've always discriminated against a...

See Out Loud on page 20



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Finances at 'turning point' for LGBT groups, stabilizing; but donors fleeing

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

Good news and some concerns about the LGBT equality movement emerge from a new study by a LGBT think tank.

Finances of the nation's leading LGBT organizations have stabilized following the recent economic downturn, and the overall financial health of the LGBT movement remains strong, the study found.

But fewer than three percent of LGBT adults contribute to national LGBT organizations; and the number of individual donors to LGBT groups dropped 12 percent between 2009 and 2010, a continuing trend now for five years.

"Finding ways to reach the 97 percent of LGBT adults who do not give to [LGBT] organizations is becoming a more urgent priority," said Ineke Mushovic, executive director of the Movement Advancement Project (MAP), which released the 20-page report in early December. It is available at <http://bit.ly/rOp3Mo>.

Anti-Gay Opponents Largely Outspend LGBT Efforts

The urgency to reach the 97 percent is underscored, she said, "given that our opponents have far greater resources."

Consider one measure of LGBT detractors' financial advantage: "The 10 largest anti-gay opponents spent almost three times as much (\$330.4 million versus \$126.8 million) as that of the 40 national LGBT organizations" participating in MAP's 2011 National Movement Report, said Mushovic.

Focus on Family alone outspent the top 40 leading LGBT groups combined, according to MAP's study.

In its analysis, MAP examined audited financial data from 40 leading organizations, 27 of which had budgets of more than \$1 million and 13 others with smaller budgets, but whose work is "of critical concern to the LGBT movement."

National & New England Ties

MAP's study included leading national groups, for example, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), Gay and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, the Point Foundation, and the Task Force.

Three groups with regional ties to New England were also included in MAP's study. They are Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, Mass Equality, and the Family Equality Council.

An independent think tank based in Denver, the Movement Advancement Project seeks "to provide independent and rigorous research, insight, and analysis that help speed full equality for LGBT people."

Fourteen foundations and individual philanthropists provided funding for MAP's recent



study, including Arcus Foundation, David Geffen Foundation, Gill Foundation, and Jim H o r m e l , among others.

set by the American Institute of Philanthropy and Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.

More good news

After a sharp 25 percent decline in revenue from 2008 to 2009, the finances of organizations working to advance LGBT equality stabilized in 2010.

Altogether, the 40 LGBT non-profits increased their combined cash and in-kind revenue by one percent between 2009 and 2010 — up from \$163 million to \$164 million — and spent all but \$4.6 million of that revenue.

In other words, combined 2010 revenue surpassed expenses by \$4.6 million, a reversal from 2009 when expenses exceeded revenues by nearly the same figure.

LGBT movement 'stabilizing'

"While [LGBT groups] continued to cut expenses in 2010, they also saw a slight increase in 2010 revenue and are projecting expense budget increases [13 percent] for 2011," the report states, adding, "This suggests the LGBT movement may be at a turning point, or at least stabilizing after seeing large drops in expenses and revenues over the last three years, mostly related to the economic downturn."

Leaders from the Boston-based organizations included in MAP's study agree with the report's suggestion.

Read the rest of this story online via TRT's homesite at: <http://bit.ly/yEQXT1>

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| ○ Family & parenting services, including alternative insemination | | |

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30 Years of Worldwide Pride Inspires Boston Pride's Biggest Event

By: Linda DeMarco/Boston Pride President

Every year, Boston Pride Week shows our pride for the LGBT community through the Parade, Festival and other activities, but this year, it means even more. 2012 Pride Week marks the 42nd annual Pride Parade and Festival in Boston, an accomplishment of which we are extremely proud, especially considering the continuous growth of the community that we serve. Our theme is "Celebrating 30 Years of Worldwide Pride Movement," as 2012 also marks the 30th anniversary of InterPride, the international association of Pride organizers founded in Boston in 1982. We are thrilled to announce that the 2012 InterPride conference will be hosted by Boston Pride in Boston October 3 - 7. We are excited to pay tribute to the pioneers who founded InterPride through our Boston Pride Week and we are honoring the revolutionary role that Boston has played in the Pride movement.

InterPride is an organization created to promote Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride on an international level. It works to increase networking and communication among Pride organizations, to encourage diverse communities to hold and attend Pride events and to serve as an educational resource. Additionally, InterPride aims to be an international voice for the global LGBT community throughout the world, standing up for equality and justice in every region and collaborating with each other.

When InterPride was first established, the yearly conference featured representatives from half a dozen U.S. Pride organizations. As the push for equality in our community has grown stronger over the years, with the inclusion of civil rights and marriage equality, the needs and scope of the organization have deepened and expanded to reach an international level. Now, the organization is a global network which reaches out all over the planet. Each year, the InterPride Conference is held in a different city to bring together the different Pride organizations throughout the

world. Attendees include InterPride members, Pride Organizers, members of Pride groups, LGBT activists, community leaders, members of student and corporate diversity committees and corporations and public agencies.

The InterPride conference provides a place for people of diverse backgrounds and locations to come together over our shared interest in the LGBT community. Participants have the opportunity to network, discuss best practices in planning Pride events and attend discussions on human rights. It is amazing each year when our community joins together for an inspiring and rich experience.

Thirty years of InterPride is a significant milestone as it shows longevity, evolution and strength. It is fitting that the 2012 conference is held in Boston, bringing InterPride back to its roots to celebrate everything it stands for, all it has accomplished and all it seeks to accomplish in the future. This is an honor for Boston and so we felt that simply hosting the conference would not be enough. We determined that the best tribute to this closely connected organization and its 30-year milestone would be to organize this year's Boston Pride Parade and Festival around the achievement, and made it the theme of Pride Week. By doing so, we hope to draw in an even greater range of participants, allowing this event to further inspire all volunteers, vendors and attendees by letting them become a part of something even larger than the traditional Parade and Festival.

We invite all of you as members of this community to view your participation in this year's Pride Parade and Festival as not only showing your support for Boston's and Massachusetts' Pride communities, but also for InterPride and every other Pride community in the world to which we are inherently connected.

For more information on how you can get involved in Boston Pride Week & InterPride go to www.bostonpride.org and/or visit InterPride at: www.interpride2012.org

InterPride

come together over our shared interest in the LGBT community. Participants

Letters from page 2

in which he compared the treatment of celebrity females and males was right on target. He ensured that we thought about the disparities in how women are judged when they are addicted to substance abuse and how differently men are treated under the same circumstances. One

group belittled, the other glorified. I appreciated his last column too, in which he speaks of the GLBT women of color and how white privilege gets in the way of equality in all forms. He is a person I'd like to meet and a true ally who does not mind how much heat he will get for this true and commendable beliefs.

—Joe Johnson, Hartford, CT

Theater Offensive presents Annual Fundraiser ClimACTS! Guilty Pleasures: Indulge Your Senses for a cause

BOSTON, Mass.—The Theater Offensive presents its annual fundraiser ClimACTS! (<http://bit.ly/qsMAIH>) the "can't miss party of the year" according to the Boston Phoenix. Proceeds from ClimACTS! benefit underserved neighborhoods in Boston and LGBT youth programs. This year's theme is Guilty Pleasures, alluding to the ubiquitous sexiness at all of The Theater Offensive's provocative events.

Hundreds of the Boston LGBT community's most influential and fun-loving folks will get together for delicious food, stunning celebrity performances, exuberant action on the dance floor, and the legendary fantasy auction. Auction items include one-of-a-kind encounters with Ellen Degeneres, the Red Sox vs. the Yankees, a walk-on role on "How I Met Your Mother," a luxury Bermuda resort getaway and our infamous global "Fluffer" package in Prague.

ClimACTS! Guilty Pleasures performers include pop musician JBDubs (<http://bit.ly/smkfS>) of the Boston Ballet, gender-bending MC Johnny Blazes (<http://johnnyblazes.com/>), and award-winning Alec Mapa (www.alecmapa.com/) from "Ugly Betty," "Desperate Housewives" and playwright Sharon Bridgforth (<http://sharonbridgforth.com/s/>).

All proceeds benefit The Theater Offensive's OUT in Your Neighborhood programs and True Colors: OUT Youth Theater (<http://bit.ly/zOvVNO>), a youth involvement and leadership development program for LGBT youth.

Since the inception of ClimACTS! in 2001, the annual fundraiser has featured artists including Alan Cumming, Amanda Palmer of the Dresden Dolls, Paula Vogel, Vogue Evolution and the cast of "Queer as Folk." Auction items from previous years included once-in-a-lifetime opportunities like escorting Alan Cumming to the Cannes Film Festival, VIP treatment from Ellen Degeneres, a

PHOTO: ANA-REYES



walk-on role with Neal Patrick Harris in "How I Met Your Mother," and an infamous 'Fluffer' Package Eurotrip.

The Theater Offensive (www.thetheateroffensive.org/) grew out of the seminal street theater troupe United Fruit Company in 1989, led by current Executive Artistic Director Abe Rybeck. The creation of The Theater Offensive was

a response to the founders' experiences as activist members of underserved, marginalized communities and active participants in the early years of the Rainbow Coalition. Throughout its history The Theater Offensive has furthered its mission

"to form and present the diverse realities of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) lives in art so bold it breaks through personal isolation and political orthodoxy to help build a more honest, progressive community."

The Theater Offensive's OUT in Your Neighborhood strategy works with locally and nationally-known artists and community members to create original, groundbreaking and interactive works by, for and about the LGBT community, as well as through education programs, year-round

community-based workshops, intensive engagement with at-risk youth, and street theater performances. Programming reflects the diversity of the city of Boston, gives voice to underserved LGBT community members, creates avenues for cross-cultural dialogue and breaks down the barriers of homophobia, bigotry and hate.

True Colors: Out Youth Theater (<http://bit.ly/zOvVNO>) troupe provides year-round theater programming for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth and their straight allies (LGBTQQA), ages 14 to 22. True Colors is dedicated to presenting an honest portrayal of the youth through group playwriting, production, performance and theater training intensives.

WHO: The Theater Offensive

WHAT: ClimACTS! Guilty Pleasures Annual Fundraiser

WHEN: Friday, March 16th 6:30 pm

WHERE: Guilt Nightclub (275 Tremont St)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Yes (Tickets start at \$75: <http://bit.ly/climACTS>)

AGE REQUIREMENT: 21+

TRT: Main Media Partner/Boston Pride 2012

Elton John from page 10

The audience that day was over 40,000 people, and the atmosphere was amazing. It was incredibly nerve wracking, but also a huge blast.

Q: Soon you'll be coming to Springfield, Massachusetts to perform at Symphony Hall. What can attendees expect from your performance?

A: The show is the most fun you can have

with your clothes on! We say to people that come to the show they can dance, sing, play air guitar, and hopefully have as much fun as we have on-stage every night.

More information

For more information about Gary Mullen or Craig A. Meyer, check them out online at www.garymullenandtheworks.com and www.almosteltonjohn.com, respectively. For upcoming show details, including ticket information and purchasing, please visit CityStage and Symphony Hall at www.symphonysouth.com or call 413.788.7646.

Symphony Hall is located at 34 Court Street and CityStage can be found at One Columbus Center. Both venues are located in Springfield, Mass.



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The Kate Clinton Q&A: On her responsibility to be political

By: Chris Azzopardi*/Special for TRT

ENTERTAINMENT

Times like this—election years, when politics are a comedian's punching-bag—were made for Kate Clinton, who has hilariously riffed on 30 years of stupid presidents and right-winged morons.

In the midst of her All Fracked Up Tour, we caught up with Clinton to talk about the presidential race, progress made in the LGBT community and how comedy is a great tool for creating change.

Chris Azzopardi: What's the focus of the All Fracked Up Tour?

Kate Clinton: Isn't that a great title? It's not easy to be thinking in November what will work in February, because everything changes so fast. My topics are always political and I'm barely keeping up with what's going on. (Laughs) I can't believe that anyone ever said, "What will we do without George Bush?" Like, are you kidding me? That got very boring because it was always the same: He's bad. Oh, yep. He's bad.

Q: Now you have Santorum.

A: Ah, it's a comedy gift. People drop off. Michele Bachmann drops off, but Rick Santorum, for some bizarre reason, is rising to the top. A friend of mine says, "Cream rises but scum floats."

Q: What are your thoughts on the changes and progress within the LGBT community?

A: For a 40-year movement, we've made incredible changes. And it's state-by-state levels, so

that means there's conversation about LGBT rights in all the states—and that's great. The great Mae West said, "It's better to be looked over than to be overlooked," and we've been really looked over. But you can see the poll number changes on America's belief about marriage equality, so I think we've done our work. I think we still have a lot of work to do. I sometimes worry that people will just kick back and go, "Well, excellent, we got that," but we still have a lot of work to do about race in our community and poverty issues and violence and bullying.

Q: Does that mean you have to work harder and be even more political?

A: Oh yes, absolutely. I feel like the longer I've performed, the more political I've gotten. The difference is that when I began the mainstream community was really quite homo ignorant, but now, whether they like it or not, they know there are gay people—they've met gay people—so that's a big change.

Q: How does comedy help you get your point across?

A: People let their guard down and become more open when they're laughing. They let things in I don't think they ordinarily would. I love my shows when a straight couple comes out and goes, "We're Republicans but we laughed." I've done my job then.

Q: What are your thoughts on the One Million Moms who rallied against J.C. Penney because they chose an out lesbian, Ellen DeGeneres, as their spokesperson? And what do you think of Ellen's reaction?

A: I'm always happy when she speaks out be-



PHOTO: DAVID ROGERS

Kate Clinton

cause I love to hear her take on anything, whether it's toilet paper or it's to give her take on what J.C. Penney did and her sly humor that (One Million Moms) only has 48,000 people on their Facebook site. That's a great example to

people.

Years ago, I met a young guy at a fundraiser meeting and we were talking and he said things like "What's ACT UP?" "Who's Larry Kramer?" And finally I said to him, "Where are you from?" (Laughs) He was from Ohio and newly out and thought he was the only gay person in the world. I said, "What made you come out?" And he said it was Ellen. It was the first time he realized he wasn't the only one. Oh god, he was so funny. It was the season she came out on her show and he said, "It took me a season, too!"

Q: You must hear similar stories, right?

A: Mm-hmm. The stories people tell me are wonderful: they had their first date at my show, they brought their mom. "We had some talking to do after, but she liked it." (Laughs) But it's great. I feel very blessed to have this job.

Q: By now most people must know what they're in for when they go to a Kate Clinton show. But have you had angry right-wingers at your shows?

A: People have gotten up to leave and I just pretend they're going to the bathroom. One time I was doing a show and these two couples just huffed out and made a big stink in the lobby and security said they wanted to go back there and teach me a lesson. I said, "Thank you for protecting me." And they were like, "We weren't protecting you. We were protecting them. We knew you'd turn the audience on them." (Laughs)

Read the rest of this story online via TRT's homesite at: <http://bit.ly/ApaE5F>

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Nuestra Hermandad Latina LGBT en Cuba y PR

Por: **Wilfred W. Labiosa*** / Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

¿Qué nos une como comunidad Latina? Tenemos tantas diferencias pero a la misma tenemos muchas similitudes. Por supuesto que nos une el idioma. El idioma de cada país

Latino es diferente ya que tenemos idiosincrasias que algunas veces nos hacen particulares, pero nos entendemos. Las categorías de Latino o Hispano, a la misma vez aunque nos unen como comunidad también nos separan ya que significan diferencias de raíces, historias de colonialismo, y de políticas de más de 500 años. Hay tantas políticas envueltas de como estas dos palabras surgieron en los Estados Unidos y todavía en el 2012 estamos discutiendo que se nos considere como una raza y no como un grupo étnico. ¿Qué nos une?

Fui invitado como el orador del 6to Congreso Cubano de la Educación Sexual y Sexualidad en un panel sobre diversidad de orientaciones sexuales. Allí presente mi trabajo en el tema. Tuve otra oportunidad de viajar a Cuba pero esta vez me lleve a mi esposo conmigo, que no sabe español y no es considerado Latino. Ahí me percaté de todas las cosas que nos unen como individuos y comunidad.

Al ver a mi pareja tratar de comunicarse con otros que no hablaban inglés noté que nos unen las sonrisas, el saludo caluroso, un abrazo, compartir un cafecito y las miradas de ser “amigos”. El miraba a la otra persona y la otra persona no sólo se sonreía con él, también trataba de entenderlo por sus expresiones. Al yo preguntarle, ¿lo entendieron? ¿Qué dijo? Ellos/as me decían lo que él se quiso comunicar. ¡Se podían comunicar y entender sin hablar el mismo idioma! También noté que entre individuos LGBT y los/as aliados/as allí presente, nos entendíamos aunque no sabíamos el idioma de la otra persona, sabíamos que hablábamos el mismo “lenguaje”. ¡Allí hablé con alguien de Japón, Italia y Brasil y nos entendíamos de lo más bien!

Siempre se dice que entre los Cubanos y Puertorriqueños hay tantas similitudes que hasta un poeta, Lola Rodríguez de Tío, escribió que somos las dos alas de un mismo pájaro aunque el mismo poema menciona nuestras diferencias políticas. Políticamente diferente, con historias diferentes, y constituciones son diferentes, nos unen nuestros espíritus y corazones ya que latan al mismo ritmo y nuestra alegría de ser quienes somos. Nuestros lenguajes e idiosincrasias son similares, nuestras comidas, música, y delicias son casi idénticas pero nos separa de que nosotros en Puerto Rico somos una colonia y Cuba es “libre”.

La comunidad LGBT Cubana es diferente a la que vive en Puerto Rico. Ellos/as tienen a una



De Izq. A Der.: Wilfred Labiosa, John Barter y Mariela Castro-Espin durante la Conferencia.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WILFRED LABIOSA

aliada que puede traer cambios, aboga y trabaja arduamente para los/as LGBT— se llama Mariela Castro Espín. Al lado del significado de aliada debe estar su nombre escrito. Ella aboga y siempre está para y con la comunidad LGBT. ¿Quién está allí para la comunidad LGBT en Puerto Rico que pueda traer cambios y abogar por nosotros/as y que el gobierno escuche? No hay nadie que pueda hacer esto. Sólo miembros de la comunidad LGBT y aliados/as abogan todos los días por cambio pero lamentablemente no es suficiente. Es tiempo que tengamos alguien en el gobierno que nos apoye. ¡Es tiempo que pensemos en abogar por alguien que pueda tomar una posición en el gobierno como senador/a o representante que nos ayude! Si hacemos esto podremos observar a la comunidad LGBT Cubana la cual está más adelantada que la nuestra. Por supuesto que hay crímenes de odio allá o acá, pero la justicia se mueve rápidamente. Además, la constitución de Cuba ya incluye idioma en contra de la homofobia y transfobia.

Como comunidad nos unen tantas cosas. Nos une la misma homofobia y transfobia; nos unen las mismas “jornadas” y “campañas” en contra de la homofobia y de las diferencias que la sociedad nos imponen a nosotros/as en las leyes. Siempre buscamos a otro/as como nosotros/as para sentirnos más cómodos/as. ¡Nos une la música, el baile, el arte, nuestras raíces, nuestra gente y nuestro “calor” humano! Nos unen nuestras experiencias LGBT. Como comunidad LGBT nos une nuestro “idioma,” y como escribió en su poema Lola Rodríguez de Tío, “De un pájaro las dos alas, reciben flores y balas sobre el mismo corazón...” Si Puerto Rico y Cuba son las dos alas de un mismo pájaro, yo propongo que la comunidad LGBT son los pétalos de una misma flor, ya que somos diversos pero pertenecemos a una misma estema. Las flores siempre se ven diferentes pero siempre traen una misma alegría y regocijo a nuestras almas y corazones. ¡Esto nos une como individuos y comunidad!

Escrito por Wilfred Labiosa, director ejecutivo de CASPAR y miembro de la Mesa Directiva de Directores de Unid@s: La Organización Nacional LGBT Latina y de Boston Pride.



Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: Transición en el Trabajo

Por: **Greg Nevins/Abogado, Lambda Legal**



P: Soy una mujer transgénero, y es hora de comenzar mi transición. ¿Me protegerá la ley de la discriminación en el trabajo? ¿Puedo seguir trabajando durante mi transición?

R: En la marcha por la igualdad, todavía hay muchos problemas legales para la comunidad transgénero, especialmente en el área laboral, a pesar del progreso que hemos logrado en los tribunales.

Un reciente caso de Lambda Legal, *Glenn contra Brumby et al.* es un ejemplo de un dictamen positivo: una mujer transgénero fue discriminada cuando encontró el valor para hacer la transición en el trabajo.

Vandy Beth Glenn trabajaba como editora legislativa en Atlanta, Georgia, hacía dos años. Después de consultar con su médico y establecer que su transición de género era necesaria (Vandy Beth fue asignada el sexo masculino al nacer, pero tiene una identidad de género femenina), informó a su supervisor inmediato en la Oficina de Asesoría Legislativa de la Asamblea General de Georgia que pensaba hacer la transición. El director del departamento la llamó a su oficina, confirmó que ésta pensaba hacer la transición, e inmediatamente la despidió del trabajo.

Lambda Legal presentó una demanda federal a nombre de Vandy Beth, afirmando que su despido fue a causa de discriminación basada en su sexo, una violación de la protección igualitaria que garantiza la Constitución. Los abogados presentaron sus alegatos en una vista ante un panel de tres jueces de la

Lambda Legal
abogando por la igualdad

Corte de Apelaciones para el 11o Circuito. Sólo cinco días después, el 6 de diciembre de 2011, los jueces confirmaron unánimemente la decisión del tribunal de distrito que la Asamblea General de Georgia había discriminado en contra de Vandy Beth a base de su inconformidad con los estereotipos de género a consecuencia de su intención de hacer la transición para poder vivir de

acuerdo con su identidad de género femenina. Tres días después, ella regresó a su trabajo.

Aquí en Lambda Legal estamos muy emocionados por el im-

En la marcha por la igualdad, todavía hay muchos problemas legales para la comunidad transgénero, especialmente en el área laboral, a pesar del progreso que hemos logrado en los tribunales.

pacto de nuestra victoria en el caso *Glenn contra Brumby et al.* Pero todavía queda mucho trabajo por hacer para lograr la igualdad laboral para las personas transgénero. Dieciséis estados y el Distrito de Columbia prohíben la discriminación en el empleo público y privado a base de la identidad o expresión de género: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawái, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, Nueva Jersey, Nuevo

México, Oregón, Rhode Island, Washington y Vermont. Cada vez más ciudades y condados aprueban ordenanzas que prohíben la discriminación a base de la identidad de género, tanto en empleos públicos como privados, a falta de leyes estatales similares.

Para aprender más acerca de sus derechos y protecciones en el trabajo, visite <http://bit.ly/wY4kDN>.

Si tiene cualquier pregunta, o siente que ha sido discriminado a causa de su identidad/expresión de género, por favor llame a nuestra Línea de Ayuda al 1-866-542-8336 o visite <http://bit.ly/we0vND>.

Read This Article in English at: <http://bit.ly/wdZKLN>



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Anti-hate-crime bill passes R.I. House, still needs to clear Senate

By: Casey Rocheteau/TRT Reporter

While it is short, House Bill 7111 in Rhode Island has the potential to be an important step forward in hate-crime legislation. In essence, the bill, which passed through the House on Feb. 8, adds gender identity and expression to the list of hate-crime markers. The bill is being put forward with the intention of increasing hate-crime monitoring. In the words of Jaye Watts of Youth Pride Inc., one of the bill's advocates, this entails "recognizing that trans people are a group that needs protection, and has been victimized for who they are. It will provide training for police on how to recognize hate crimes against trans people." This would allow for statistics to be kept on biased crimes committed against gender variant people, and may clear a path for future legislation.

The bill would also provide specific training for police in recognizing a hate crime of this nature in hopes of being able to prevent further crimes against transgender and gender non-conforming people. This is something that Jodi Glass of Hate Crimes R.I. has been working toward, though she wasn't available for comment.

The bill still needs to pass through the state Senate before it reaches the governor's desk, and it has made it through both the House and Senate in previous years only to be vetoed by former Governor Donald Carcieri. With the bill already through the House so early in the legislative session, those working on the bill are quite hopeful that it will pass this year.

One important thing to note is that the bill



would not increase penalties for hate crimes. As Edie H. Ajello, one of the bill's sponsors states: "I've been very clear all along, that I don't support the idea of increased penalties. My point is knowing if it's happening, where it's happening, and when it's happening so that we can stop it effectively. I don't think enhanced penalties stop anything. I don't think the death penalty stops murder." Ajello stressed the point that this bill is striving toward a more understanding community. She said she had been approached years ago by Jaye Watts and Jodi Glass, and has "been very moved by the people that I've met and the stories that I've heard. I've learned a lot, and this legislation is toward other people learning."

Karen Loewy, a senior staff attorney for GLAD, explained that the bill is "a commitment to nondiscrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression, which has been part of Rhode Island law since 2001 (and) a recognition that bias-motivated crimes require a different kind of attention." He added that those cases "are more than just heinous crimes experienced by an individual," and that they are "destructive to society as a whole because they create an environment of fear for an entire segment of the population."

Indeed, there are some, including the House members who were in opposition to the bill, whose statements in dissent were still biased and did not necessarily reflect those commitments. When asked what people could do to support the bill and see that it passes this year, Watts replied, "We need it to be heard in the Senate. People need to contact their senators, or if they know people on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and bring it up for a hearing." He remained hopeful that it would pass in the Senate and that Governor Lincoln Chafee would sign it into law.



Fight for marriage equality in RI persists in 2011; leaders continue to be hopeful

By: Casey Rocheteau/TRT Reporter

One thing is clear after last year's failed attempt to pass gay marriage in Rhode Island: champions of equal rights will not accept civil unions as a second-class compromise. From the R.I. Pride Honors to politicians to the everyday advocacy of groups like Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI), the issue is still very much on people's minds. Within the RI community, many were taken aback by the abrupt change in the outcome of last year's marriage equality bill. Seeing their hopes ultimately subverted has only fueled the fight.

Speaking with Senator Dawson Hodgson about the issue shined some light on what to anticipate for the upcoming year.

"I did not expect same-sex marriage to be such a big issue during my election (in 2010)," he recalled. "You don't choose your times, they choose you, and it clearly became a very prominent issue. If I had to vote on marriage equality today or the status quo, I would vote for marriage equality."

When the civil union's bill came up in the Senate last year, he said, "I voted against it because of the Corvese language in the law, which meant that any religiously affiliated organization, including hospitals, could discriminate against civil union partners. The hospital would have the ability to disallow access to civil union partners in situations of life and

death. I would have supported it as an incremental change, but with that language it was clearly discriminatory."

MERI, one of the lead advocacy groups for marriage rights, has not slowed down by any means. Campaign Director Ray Sullivan said that for this upcoming legislative season MERI is lobbying for three bills: "different than in years past," he said. "The access to marriage act, which is different than previous bills, because now we have to deal with civil unions being in effect. The second is the equal religious protection act -- repeal the discriminatory aspects [of the] Corvese amendment. We stand by common-sense provisions that will allow religious institutions to maintain whatever their beliefs are. And then there's the equal access to family court act -- access to our judicial system is a fundamental right. Same-sex couples who were married in another state would not be allowed to dissolve their marriages in the same way that other couples can. And the children of those couples don't have the same protections as the children of other families do."

Both Sullivan and Sen. Hodgson agreed that marriage equality would be an important issue during this upcoming election year, and one that politicians on either side of the issue could not afford to ignore.

Out Loud from page 14

group doesn't mean you can now.

And there's perhaps a bigger reason the court didn't venture further than the narrow facts of Prop 8 in California, and his name is Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Kennedy will likely be the swing vote when Perry gets to the Supreme Court (my money is that it will get there). Kennedy wrote the opinion in the 1996 case of *Romer v. Evans*, in which a Colorado law was struck down for -- singling out LGBT people for disfavored legal status just because. Perry is filled with comparisons to *Romer* and many, many juicy Kennedy quotes from that landmark case. Though Kennedy is no LGBT rights crusader, he

does hate sloppy, hysterical laws that serve no decent purpose. The 9th Circuit Court appears to have handed this new case to Kennedy on a silver platter. We don't yet know if the Supreme Court will choose to hear Perry, but if it does, all eyes will be on Justice Kennedy.

So while we're farther along than ever, we still have to wait. As a courtesy to those yammering wingnuts trying to save marriage from people like me, the courts will probably keep the brakes on marriage until all the inevitable appeals are heard. There's at least another year to go -- and then we'll have something to talk about.

** Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. Whether examining our community's latest legal battles or the delicate etiquette of coming out to evangelicals, she always finds humor and compassion in even the most challenging situations. She is a busy presenter on diversity issues as well as the author of *Queer Questions Straight Talk*. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionsstraighttalk.com*

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LESBIAN TOP 10

1. And Then Came Lola
2. The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls
3. Hannah Free
4. The L Word: The Complete Series
5. Circumstance
6. Elena Undone
7. Leading Ladies
8. Trigger
9. Big Lesbian Love Collector's Set
10. The Lovers & Friends Show Season 4

GAY TOP 10

1. What Happens Next
2. @SuicideRoom
3. KickOff
4. Mangus!
5. Beginners
6. The Green
7. Judas Kiss
8. Eating Out: The Open Weekend
9. Big Gay Love Collector's Set
10. The Broken Tower

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– The Boston Globe

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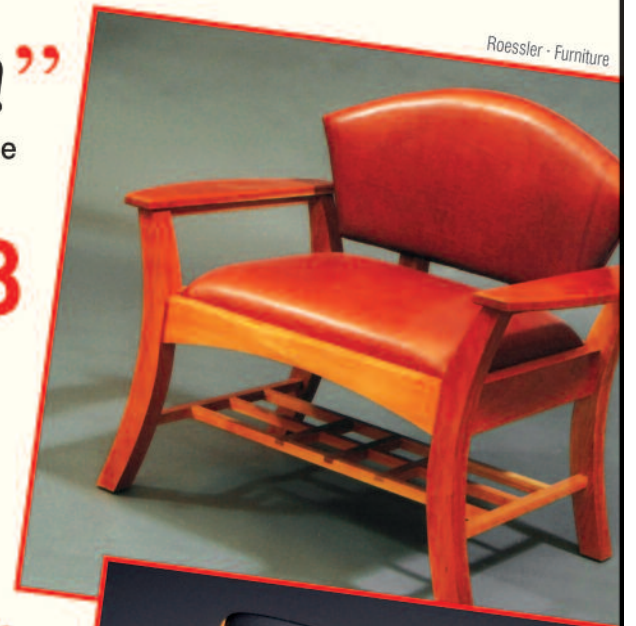
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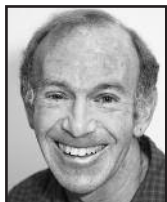



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The OutField: Two Super Bowl winners, and no worries for LGBTs

By: Dan Woog*/Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



Although billions of dollars were bet on this month's Super Bowl, the score of the game shouldn't have mattered to the LGBT community.

Both the New England Patriots and New York Giants were winners.

As the website OutSports noted, the title contenders are among the NFL's most gay-friendly teams.

Both have long and varied histories of supporting LGBT issues. For example, when the Gay Bowl took place in New York, the Giants sent a lesbian staffer to a panel discussion on being gay in the NFL. A team spokesman told Outsports founder Cyd Zeigler that the Giants were "an all-inclusive family that does not care about sexual orientation."

Those are not mere words. Last spring, team owner Steve Tisch and former star Michael Strahan created videos supporting New York's successful drive for same-sex marriage.

Patriots' owner Robert Kraft is at least as gay-friendly as Tisch. Last year he spoke at an LGBT networking event. The Pats had already become the first NFL team to sponsor a Gay Bowl. They also sent player Andre Tippett to the opening ceremonies to speak on behalf of the team, and make the ceremonial coin toss.

Kraft's support for gay issues has created an environment of openness and celebration that filters down throughout the entire organization. Player Brett Lockett has appeared in the NOH8 ("No Hate") campaign against California Proposition 8, and has been a vocal supporter of gay marriage.

Zeigler also notes that the two Super Bowl teams represent states—Massachusetts and New York—that allow same-sex marriage. New Jersey—where the Giants actually play—may soon do the same. In addition, the NFC runner-up San Francisco 49ers offer same-sex domestic partner benefits to all employees.

(As for Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow, who last year participated in a Super Bowl

ad for the anti-gay Focus on the Family group: He got trounced by the Pats.)

But it's not just Super Bowl participants that—Tebow-types notwithstanding—are moving the NFL forward on gay rights. Baltimore Raven Brendon Ayanbadejo—he, he played for a team that was in the conference championship too—has been an outspoken supporter of Equality Maryland, the gay marriage effort in that state. And he too stripped down—well, he took off his shirt, which was plenty—to make a NOH8 statement. When a Twitter fan wanted to



Fujita too knows something about prejudice. His adopted father, a Japanese-American, was born during World War II in an internment camp in Arizona.

As the website OutSports noted, the title contenders are among the NFL's most gay-friendly teams.

know his greatest accomplishment, he tweeted back: "marriage equality support & playing in a Super Bowl."

In a speech at the University of Delaware, Ayanbadejo told students that hearing some negative responses to his own background—his mother is white, his father is Nigerian—impelled him to fight for equal rights for gays.

He added that straight allies are important, and that he has never received backlash from teammates.

Also standing up for the LGBT community: Scott Fujita. In a 30-second "Americans for Marriage Equality" video for the Human Rights Campaign, the Cleveland Browns linebacker said, "I've been married for 12 years and I know that it

is unfair to keep other loving and committed couples from getting married and protecting their families."

"It's just me standing up for equal rights," he told the New York Times last year, about his earlier advocacy efforts. "It's not that courageous to have an opinion if you think it's the right thing and you believe it wholeheartedly."

Fujita too knows something about prejudice. His adopted father, a Japanese-American, was born during World War II in an internment camp in Arizona.

Fujita began speaking out on gay rights when he learned about laws limiting gay adoption. Such

Tansman from page 13

or gay people were victims of crimes, as if that aspect of identity makes the person inherently suspect. In 2006, California enacted the Gwen Araujo Justice for Victims Act specifically in response to that practice. That law amends jury instructions to state that the use of societal bias to influence the proceedings of criminal trials is not allowed."

To my knowledge, no such law exists in Massachusetts. Yet, I can't imagine a similar statement being made about any other minority group. Would it be tolerated for a lawyer to say that gays are "professionals at fooling people?" What about African-Americans? Latinos? Jews?

Throughout the trial, daily articles about the case drew prolific comments online. Many seemed to view the gender identity of this one FTM witness as having "confused" the entire case. One comment on the local news site MassLive.com stated that some witnesses seemed to have "deep emotional/mental issues" while another said they didn't see how the accused could be convicted because the case was "bizarre"—and specifically mentioned "transgenders" as an example of what made it bizarre. In fact, what was bizarre was the defense's transphobic statements and the disproportional attention to this tangential detail about one witness.

God from page 13

Teach me to love and respect myself in mind, body, and spirit;
Send your guidance to teach me your ways and show me your revelations.

Divine Mystery,
Never let me forget that I am beautiful because I am your Creation.
Amen.

CREATOR PRAYER

Our Creator, Who is in the heavens.
Holy is your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in the heavens.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses

legislation, he said, focuses on sexual orientation, rather than finding safe homes for children. "It's also saying that we'd rather have kids bounce around from foster home to foster home throughout the course of their childhood, than end up in a permanent home."

"By and large, the players are more tolerant than they get credit for," he said. "It's not a big issue. Some guys will think you are crazy for believing one way, but they'll still accept you."

The league itself is also more accepting of gay issues than many people believe. Its collective bargaining agreement protects all players against discrimination based on sexual orientation, and the league office offers same-sex domestic partner benefits.

Former NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue has been a very public supporter of PFLAG. He spoke at a New York chapter dinner about his love for his gay son, Drew, and Drew's partner. Tagliabue also made a major contribution to the organization. Last fall he and his wife donated \$1 million to his alma mater, Georgetown University, to establish the Tagliabue Initiative for LGBT Life.

What we don't know, though, is which gay-friendly team—the Patriots or Giants—Tagliabue supported in this year's Super Bowl.

*Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at www.danwoog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

The treatment of the witness' gender identity in the media and the "court of public opinion" has left me very concerned and angry—for all transgender people and for this witness, in particular, who came forward to do the right thing and testify, despite the disruption to his personal life and the public dissection of his identity. (Not surprisingly, I discovered late in the case that I know the FTM witness—it is a small community, after all.) Even aside from my concern for him personally about what he's had to endure, this case worries me.

Will other transgender witnesses refuse to testify, knowing how their identities will be treated? Will transgender victims choose to let perpetrators off the hook rather than be tried by public opinion themselves? It is clearly time for Massachusetts to enact its own version of the Gwen Araujo Justice for Victims Act.

And what of the rest of us? In the past few years, the transgender community has made great strides, securing legal rights in Massachusetts and several other states. But it's clear that we have a long way to go before the court of public opinion affords us the basic rights of dignity and respect.

*Tynan Power is an FTM parent, writer, Muslim and interfaith leader. E-mail him at tynanpower@yahoo.com.

as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into wrong doing,
but deliver us from the harm we may cause or receive. Amen.

It doesn't matter what prayer you use. Ground yourself in something bigger and better than all your cares, troubles, or anxieties. If you don't like structure then wing it each time. Prayer in its most basic is a conversation with something holy.

Perhaps you'll be inspired to craft your own. Be creative. Be reflective. Be contemplative. Be awed by the mystery of Supreme Goodness. Prayer is spiritual food. Enjoy the feast, but remember to feed the soul daily.

*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary-trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. Email questions to Dilovod@aol.com.

To Cook is To Love: Water is a must!

3rd in a Series concerning Food & Politics and the 2012 Elections

By: John Verlinden/Special for TRT

iMUCHO GUSTO!



We take clean water for granted—it's as close as the nearest faucet. Why then, do many believe that water will be our next big national crisis? Unlike oil, water is abundant and it's constantly being renewed. It covers seventy percent of the earth. So why worry?

First there's a supply problem -- only about 1% of all that water is fresh water that we can get at, and we're using it at a faster rate than nature can replace it.

Then there's a distribution problem -- our fresh water isn't always where we need it, wet areas get more than they can use while arid regions don't have enough; some states have lots, others very little. To deal with this, we built dams to capture water in dry places and we irrigate desert areas to grow crops. And, to get water to cities we built massive water delivery and processing systems. But, these solutions won't be enough for the future. We must find

ways to conserve the amount we use, and ways to recover and reuse more. Already thirty-six States are coping with some kind of water stress. And, out West the situation is severe due to rapid population growth and a decade of drought.

How do you want candidates to stand on these water issues?

Who does all that water belong to—should the "have" States be required to share with the "have-nots"? Should they be compensated? What should the role of government be? Should water be a public utility, and access to cheap, clean water a human right? Should it be a commodity subject to free market controls? Should we make public investments in infrastructure -- treatment plants, water mains, desalination plants? Should we invest in awareness and conservation? Should we regulate industries that use water? Should we require drinking water to meet certain standards? Should we impose limits on usage/sanctions for wasting it?

Next month we'll take a look at food security concerns. Share your thoughts about hunger in the U. S. and what should be done, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article -- contact me: john@muchogusto.com or visit www.muchogusto.com and join our food forum.

Until next time -- ¡Mucho Gusto! ¡Muchas Gracias! y ¡Buen Provecho!

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