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Denied: An open invitation to Brown U.

By: Nicole Lashomb*/TRT Editor-in-Chief

OPINIONS Recently, Brown University, located in Providence Rhode Island, announced that its renewed student insurance policy would include coverage for gender reassignment surgery. When this significant information came to my attention, I was compelled to assign a reporter to cover such a historic decision by the Ivy League University. I was in disbelief at what my reporter encountered.

After numerous attempts to reach many University officials, only one finally responded to our reporter's outreach. In lieu of answering a series relevant of questions of LGBT interest, the News & Communications Director responded with six generic sentences that had already been dispersed several times to various outlets. Despite our reporter's documented insistence to receive

more information from the Director, she was told that they couldn't help us. How is it possible that such a forward thinking University, as demonstrated by its policies, refused to provide any other information to one of New England's few LGBTQ publications to better inform our diverse readers about a topic that directly impacts our community?

I would still like to extend to Brown officials the invitation to appropriately respond to our queries, address our community in the way it deserves and express leadership not merely by its Ivy League status and policy implementation but by effective communication by the "powers that be."

**Nicole Lashomb is TRT's Editor-in-Chief. She holds an MBA from Marylhurst University and a Bachelors from SUNY*

Potsdam. Contact her at: editor@therainbowtimesmass.com.

How is it possible that such a forward thinking University, as demonstrated by its policies, refused to provide any other information to one of New England's few LGBTQ publications to better inform our diverse readers about a topic that directly impacts our community?

Faith, family, and God: No change with new Pope; empowering LGBTQ Christians a must

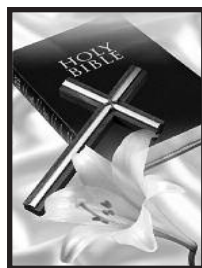
By: Paul P. Jesep*/TRT Columnist

Benedict XVI's unexpected abdication as Pope and Bishop of Rome doesn't mean much for LGBTQ civil and human rights. His successor won't change the Catholic Church's official position toward LGBTQ people and families.

Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana, for example, a top tier contender to be the next Pope, has defended anti-gay laws or proposed legislation in African nations because they're based on culture and tradition. In the off chance he is elected and maintains homophobic rhetoric harsher than his predecessor, it will not bode well for the Church. Even Catholic conservatives will wince at such extreme comments.

Historically, leaders of organized religion have been suspicious of change, even if it includes social justice. Change disrupts the status-quo and such disruption can alter an existing power structure. Religious leaders supported or were indifferent to slavery and serfdom. Many opposed giving women the right to vote. Colonialism was wrongly justified in the name of God and civilizing the inhabitants.

Jesus, a practicing Jew, was crucified more than 2000 years ago because he called on people to love more, judge less and do a better job looking out for one another. By his example and the growing number of admirers, he threatened the high priests who were politically entrenched, lived comfortably and enjoyed the widespread respect such power brings. Jesus ignored them to pursue his ministry.



Jesus, a practicing Jew, was crucified more than 2000 years ago because he called on people to love more, judge less and do a better job looking out for one another.

Although religious institutions are reluctant to change, LGBTQ people, and many straight people of faith, still have choices. They can choose like Jesus, not to be dependent on the approval or affirmation of religious leaders and hierarchies. Church leaders are out of touch. Traditional church worship is leaving many unfulfilled. Hence, people regardless of politics, party affiliation, or self-identified

See Pope on page 18

Transforming & empowering through action

By: Jason Lydon*/TRT Columnist



On Saturday, April 27th, the Hispanic/Black Gay Coalition will team up with Black and Pink to host a summit for formerly incarcerated, convicted, policed and court-involved LGBTQ people in New England. This event is an opportunity to build community, challenge stigma, share stories and strengthen the movement to abolish the prison industrial complex. This is an effort to lift up the voices of people within our communities who are continuously silenced, marginalized, or actively ignored. While some march with the Gay Officers Action League at Pride, many others in our community, particularly transgender women of color, experience violence at the hands of police. The Summit will be created by those who attend. This article is an announcement and an invitation.

This past fall, Black and Pink collected funds from a number of donors to post bail for a transgender woman being held on \$500 awaiting her trial. I have had the pleasure of accompanying this woman to court, meeting up with her to provide some support as she navigates the system and sit in a planning meeting with her to make The Summit a success. When members of our communities are locked up behind the walls, we all lose the potential for relationships. Certainly reaching through the walls, with letters and visits, is

"... she informed the Court that she is a transgender woman, her public defender proceeded to refer to her as "sir" and "he."

important, but the trauma and violence of concrete cages creates unbearable barriers to our communal health. Those who are targeted by this violence need space to come together to strategize for healing and building power.

I had the pleasure of being part of two different summits for formerly incarcerated people in 2007; a summit for survivors of sexual violence in Los Angeles and Transforming Justice, a historic conference that brought to-

gether transgender/gender non-conforming former prisoners, activists and attorneys to develop shared vision and strategy to end the criminalization of TGNC people. Both of these gatherings facilitated a space for me to begin owning my story as a formerly incarcerated person, while also recognizing that I am not the primary target of the violence perpetrated by the prison industrial complex. As a white cis-gender man who served a short sentence in prison, my role is to ...

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The Rainbow Times

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Rainbow Times Editor,

Sometimes change is elusive, and sometimes you can feel the momentum and know change is around the corner. That was true for the civil rights movement, women's movement and currently the LGBT rights movement. Change is truly in the air, in the state houses and on the street. This is where Veterans For Peace comes in, on the street. We have a wonderful welcoming parade on the streets of South Boston on Saint Patrick's Day, the (Saint Patrick's Peace Parade, the *Alternative People's Parade for Peace, Equality, Jobs, Environmental Stewardship, Social and Economic Justice*). If you believe in peace and equality you are welcome to march in our parade. We will form up at 2:00 p.m. on D Street and West Broadway, South Boston. Together we proudly walk one mile behind the first parade in our welcoming and inclusive parade.

It is shameful that it has taken twenty years (and counting) for the LGBT community to be able to walk in the traditional parade in South Boston without harassment and hostility.

See Letters to the Editor on page 8

St. Patrick's Peace Parade marches in solidarity with LGBTQ groups in Boston

Third annual alternative parade promotes social justice in the face of historic exclusion

By: Lauren Wallaser/TRT Reporter

IN THE LIMELIGHT BOSTON, Mass. — On Sunday, March 17th, Veterans for Peace will lead the Third Annual Saint Patrick's Peace Parade, the Alternative People's Parade for Peace, Equality, Jobs, Environmental Stewardship and Economic Justice, a response to the exclusion of Veterans for Peace and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) groups from the historic St. Patrick's Parade in South Boston.

The Allied War Veterans Council organizes the St. Patrick's Parade and is allowed to deny any group's participation based on the 1995 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Hurley v. Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group of Boston*.

Pat Scanlon, Coordinator for Veterans for Peace, Chapter 9, Smedley Butler Brigade, has been working for peace since returning from serving in the Vietnam War. His passion for the environment, labor, social and economic issues led him to take up the cause of the St. Patrick's Peace Parade.

"The Hurley Decision gave the legal right for the Allied War Veterans Council to discriminate against anyone they wish to discriminate against, for what ever reason they choose and they don't have to tell anyone

why, not the local community, the police, the City of Boston, no one," Scanlon said. "We understand the legality that they can discriminate and deny veterans, peace groups and LGBT groups from participating. We do not understand the morality of such actions."

According to Scanlon, when Veterans for Peace were denied the right to participate in the parade in 2011, they were told it was because The Allied War Veterans Council "does not want to have the word peace associated with the word veteran." Shortly thereafter, Veterans for Peace filed a permit to start their own parade, inviting LGBTQ groups to participate as well.

"When there is an injustice against one, it is really an injustice against all of us," said Scanlon, who was also born on March 17th. "I am proud to stand arm in arm with my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, as is every member of our chapter of Veterans For Peace."

This year's parade, said Scanlon, will have six bands and even more groups and attendees than last year's participation of 2,000 people. The parade has eight divisions: Veterans For Peace, Peace, Religious, LGBT, Labor-Jobs, Environmental Stewardship, Political, Economic and Social Justice.

"We are trying to win the hearts and minds of those celebrating in South Boston," Scanlon said. "This is a working class neighborhood and for the past two years the residents



Pat Scanlon and his quest for equality for all, especially at St. Patrick's Day.

of South Boston have warmly and enthusiastically welcomed us."

While the City of Boston does not sponsor or organize the St. Patrick's Parade, they do provide an estimated \$300,000 in services for the parade, including police presence and other public safety efforts. While Scanlon praised Mayor Menino for not walking in the parade due to the exclusion of certain

groups, Scanlon said he believed the City of Boston should take back the organizing of the parade.

Emilee Ellison, spokesperson for the Mayor's Office, gave the following statement:

"The St. Patrick's Day parade is a private parade run by the Allied War Veteran's council. The Mayor does not march in this parade because he feels strongly in his position that everyone should be included. This case was taken to court and the City lost an historic and controversial case that allows for the Allied Veterans to hold their parade without interference from Government. The City supports many cultural events throughout Boston and it would not be responsible of the City to withhold public safety and other basic city services from an event that draws thousands of people to our neighborhoods. Other parades are given permits to have their own events."

Scanlon and other event participants repeatedly stated that they do not want to shut down the St. Patrick's Parade or do away with the tradition; their goal is still to eventually have one, inclusive parade for all.

"South Boston has always been one of my communities," said Kay Walsh, project coordinator of South Boston CAN Reduce Underage Drinking. "I have sent out a petition asking the Allied War Veteran to have one

See St. Patrick's on Page 8

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VAWA Passes House: Full protections for LGBT, native americans, more

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

EQUALITY & HISTORY

In a major victory for Democrats, the U.S. House voted Thursday (February 28) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act with a bill that includes language to ensure that victims of domestic violence can receive assistance from federally funded program regardless of their sexual orientation. The vote was 286 to 138.

The legislation originally passed the Senate February 12 on a 78 to 22 vote, but House Republicans initially introduced their own version of the bill—one that excluded the language to include gay victims and to provide greater protections for Native American and immigrant women. White House and Democratic leaders in the House expressed their disappointment about the exclusion of LGBT provisions and others.

“The Administration is disappointed that the House bill does not ... explicitly protect LGBT victims of crime from discrimination when they seek services or protections funded by VAWA,” said a White House statement February 26.

Following Thursday’s vote, President Obama issued a statement saying he was “pleased to see the House of Representatives come together and vote to reauthorize and strengthen the Violence Against Women

Act.”

“Today’s vote will go even further by continuing to reduce domestic violence, improving how we treat victims of rape, and extending protections to Native American women and members of the LGBT community.”

An unidentified aide to an unidentified House Republican leader told a Washington Post blog early in the week that a House version of the bill, which excluded language protecting LGBT people, did not discriminate against LGBT people. The aide criticized the Senate version of the bill for “enumerating actual categories of people that are covered” in a way that “requires constant updating.”

“We’re giving the states the resources they need, and we’re also making sure no one is discriminated against,” said the aide. He did not explain how the House version ensures no one is discriminated against.

On the floor of the House Thursday, many Republicans echoed the point, saying there

was no language in the bill to exclude anyone.

“I would just ask my colleagues on other side of the aisle to please point to anywhere in the House bill that coverage for anyone is denied,” said Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers

(R-Wash.). “The House bill covers all victims. It does not exclude anyone for any characteristic. In fact,” she said, “it directs the Attorney General to make a rule regarding anti-discrimination efforts as he sees fit.” And she said the grants associated with the VAWA are “authorized to permit funding to go toward men as well as women.”

To some extent, debate over the inclusion or exclusion of LGBT victims of domestic abuse was conducted through discussion of protecting “all women” or “all victims,” rather than LGBT people—including gay men—specifically.

Eric Cantor (R-Va.), the House Republicans’ majority leader, repeatedly emphasized on the floor Thursday his desire to help “all

women” through reauthorization of the VAWA program, but he limited his support to the House Republican version of the bill which does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Twice, Cantor seemed to correct himself—changing “all individuals” and “all people” to “all women.”

Openly gay Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.), while mentioning members of the LGBT community, also emphasized the importance of protecting “all women.” House Democratic Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) emphasized the importance of passing the “fully inclusive” version of the bill protecting “all” victims, as did numerous other Democrats.

But some Democrats were more direct. “I don’t believe that my Republican colleagues, if they saw a lesbian woman being beaten by their neighbor, that they would not want to have that violence stopped,” said Rep. Joe Crowley (D-New York).

Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Wisc.) noted that all members of the House seemed to be against violence against women, “but the question is which women.”

“The Senate bill protects LGBT victims but the House bill strikes LGBT women as underserved communities and strikes the language that would have them as a protected group,” said Moore.

Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) spoke forcefully

To read the rest of this story visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/trtvawa2013>

“The Senate bill protects LGBT victims but the House bill strikes LGBT women as underserved communities and strikes the language that would have them as a protected group.”

—Rep. Gewn Moore

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Cliff Hanging: LGBT centers bracing for the domino effect, the fear

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

When Thelma and Louise drove off the cliff, the only people who got hurt were Thelma and Louise. But when Congress drives off the fiscal cliff, everybody's going to feel the pain – especially those who depend on government-funded programs and organizations that depend on charitable contributions.

So, when Congress let the March 1 deadline for a deficit-cutting budget go by without adopting a deficit-cutting budget, the painful crunch was officially underway.

Darryl Cummings, chief of staff for the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, said his organization is "very concerned" about the potential impact of the sequestration – the term used to describe the 8.4 percent across-the-board cuts in the federal budget for non-defense discretionary spending.

"With the nation's economy not yet recovered from the Great Recession," he said, "low and moderate income people, including LGBT people, continue to be in greater need for health and human services. While the precise impacts of the sequester cuts are yet to be known, the Center relies on federal funding to provide services to people living with HIV, victims of domestic violence, mental health care, services to LGBT foster care youth, housing for homeless youth and many other services. We fear that the political antics being acted out in Washington will cause reductions to all of these programs and further strain the California and Los Angeles budgets to produce an even bigger

loss in vital services, at a time when these services are needed the most."

Cummings noted that a document released by the White House Tuesday (February 26) indicated AIDS Drug Assistance funding for California would take a "sizeable reduction." And he said reductions to funding for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would "greatly affect" the Los Angeles center's efforts to expand the reach of its health care services.

A 2012 study by the independent Movement Advancement Project (MAP) of 63 LGBT centers found that 35 percent of them received federal grants and provided 27 percent of revenue to LGBT community centers in 2011. The majority of LGBT centers who received federal grants, said MAP, received them from the Department of Health and Human Services for HIV-related programs and services.

Cece Cox, chief executive officer of the Dallas Resource Center, the fourth largest LGBT center in the country, says a "large portion" of her organization's funding for health services comes from the federal Ryan White CARE Act. Last July, the Center, as part of a multi-group Texas HIV/AIDS Coalition, warned that their caseloads are in-



creasing and that flat-funding has already crippled efforts to reverse the spread of HIV.

In its comments concerning reauthorization of Ryan White, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago urged "new funding" to coordinate local infrastructure to better serve needy populations.

Capping charitable deductions

But its not just direct funding that various LGBT and HIV groups are worried about. One

hidden impact of the fiscal cliff sequestration is the domino effect it is expected to have on worker income in a deepening recession and the subsequent impact that will have on the ability and willingness of donors to contribute to non-profit service groups. There is also concern that Congress may eventually adopt a change in the tax code that will put a cap on the amount of charitable donations a person can take as a deduction on their tax returns.

The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center relies on private donations to cover roughly 20 percent of its overall budget, noted Cummings.

"We, like non-profit organizations nationally, experienced a substantial drop in private giving resulting from the recession,"

said Cummings, "and should the economy worsen because of the failure of the federal government to reach budget agreements, we would likely experience a further reduction in private giving. This is part of the negative ripple effect that is created when the only solution presented to 'fix' the economy is based on cuts to discretionary spending."

A study released in December 2011 by MAP noted that giving to LGBT groups dropped 12 percent between 2009 and 2010, a trend that has been in play for the past five years.

Leslie Calman, executive director of the Mautner Project, which helps lesbians with breast cancer and other life-threatening illnesses, said the sequestration problems won't appear immediately for her group.

"We currently have one federal grant, but that grant is in progress and won't be affected," said Calman.

"The implications are more mid- and long-term and have to do with the fiscal health of metropolitan Washington D.C., where the expectation (according to what I've been reading) is that there will be lay-offs and furloughs of thousands of federal employees living in the metro D.C. area," said Calman. "This is expected to have a negative impact on the economy of the region, and, of course, on the households of those immediately affected. Since half of Mautner Project revenues come from donations from individuals, this cannot be good for Mautner ...

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Dyke Night Productions: Lesbian nightlife, charitable giving & community building

BOSTON, Mass. — Dyke Night Productions has made a lasting impression on the women's community in Boston through memorable dance parties and charitable contributions. The organization continues to grow and attracts women from all over New England to experience Boston's lesbian nightlife.

Dyke Night was started in 1998 by Kristen Porter as a party at a local bar near her home to assist the underserved.

"I was sitting in my living room with a group of lesbian activists trying to figure out a way we could raise money to purchase supplies to support the volunteer street outreach we did to homeless queer people," Porter explained.

The group planned to have a party at The Midway Café, charging a nominal amount for entry. "We used the money to purchase bleach kits, safe sex materials and toiletries for the homeless in their street outreach," said Porter.

Since then, Dyke Night has been hosting events for the Boston LGBT community. "Dyke Night is the longest running, most award winning, lesbian event company in Boston's history and hosts the largest parties in New England," Porter said.

But Dyke Night isn't just about providing quality parties and events to the lesbian community. Porter started the organization as a way to support her philanthropic efforts and goals, and the proceeds raised at events are donated to a variety of nonprofit and community organizations.

According to the organizer, over \$100,000 has been donated to these causes, including the LGBT Aging Project and the Network/La Red, but contributions to these organizations and the community are not just monetary. Porter has collaborated and partnered with leaders to create safe spaces and awareness of issues in the LGBT community.

Bren Cole, co-founder of ButchBoi Life, partnered with Dyke Night for "One Night Stand" events. "Dyke Night has given ButchBoi Life a huge opportunity to spread awareness of our group through our collaborations on One Night Stand," Cole explained. "It's helped us reach out to potential new mem-



Opening night of Fourth Saturdays at Machine.

bers, build our name recognition and foster the sort of welcoming queer community that we support."

Dyke Night fosters a welcoming community through its collaborations with Mad Femme Pride, a queer/femme community meet-up group.

"Dyke Night has made many efforts to include us in collaborations in the past, such as the Glitz New Year's Eve Party at Machine and the Spring Fever! party at Felt," said Madeleine Ashley Blum, Mad Femme Pride organizer. "Through these collaborations, we have been able to spread our friendly, positive, all-inclusive vibe to more people."

Dyke Night is also an active supporter of Boston Pride. "They have collaborated on fundraisers and some of their members have come to volunteer at many Pride events," said Linda DeMarco, Boston Pride president.

The organization's philanthropy also includes animals. "After so many years helping humans, one of our newest big loves is the work we are doing helping rescue animals," Porter said. "Last year we partnered up with PAWS New England and had a 'Divas, Dykes, & Dog' show at the Jamaica Plains

outdoor block party." Due to the show's popularity, Dyke Night includes a rescue dog of the month in its e-newsletter, and many of the featured dogs have found new homes.

"We've had several adoptions as a direct result of the fashion show event and the monthly newsletters where one of our dogs is featured," explained Joanne Hutchinson, co-founder of PAWS New England. "The exposure to the gay and lesbian population that has resulted from our collaboration, and Porter's efforts on our behalf, is priceless."

Giving back to the community and supporting important causes isn't just an important aspect of Dyke Night, it's the guiding mission of the organization. "I have no desire to be part of the nightlife world," Porter said, "but I do have a passion to make the lives of underserved people better, and this is a means to that end."

Porter may not have a passion for creating a bustling and popular lesbian nightlife scene, but these events are wildly popular. According to Porter, the Second Saturday event hosted at Machine is the largest women's night in Boston history. "Even with one thousand women and friends attending

the event each month, we've been turning away hundreds," Porter said. In response to the growing demand, Dyke Night has expanded its event offerings to include Fourth Saturdays at Machine.

"This expansion marks a new era in lesbian nightlife in Boston, with five distinct events hosted each month in four different venues, providing women and LGBT folk the diversity and choices they deserve," Porter explained. "Each of the venues we work with has a very different feel, so we aim to cater to many different tastes."

These events have created a lesbian nightlife community that Boston was lacking. "In the most simple of terms, Dyke Night provides a safe space for women to come out, figuratively and literally," Porter said.

Cole agreed that Boston did not previously have a full-time lesbian space, and Dyke Night has helped fill that void in the community.

"I think people really need to know that they have a place to go where they can be safe, be accepted and have a great time with fellow lesbians," Cole explained.

DeMarco recognized Dyke Night as the leader in creating a lesbian nightlife, and commended its contribution to the community.

"Dyke Night took the lead in bringing the lesbian community out, giving them a safe place to gather in the evening at dances," DeMarco said. "They also do fundraisers for the awareness of women's health and social issues within our community."

Supporting and enhancing the LGBT community is important to Porter. "I always like to remind people that in order to have event offerings and a vibrant LGBT nightlife, events need to be supported, so be political about your choices in entertainment," Porter said. "Support LGBT-owned business, support LGBT-promoted events and choose to attend the gay-promoted, gay-staffed events. We will only continue to have a community if we painstakingly continue to nurture it."

To learn more about Dyke Night Productions and the organization's upcoming events, visit www.dykenight.com.

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Letters to the Editor From page 2

It is 2013, there is gay marriage in Massachusetts, don't ask don't tell is history, gay and lesbian men and women now serve openly and honorably in the armed forces. Guess what, the LGBT community is finally walking proudly, to an overwhelmingly positive reception on the streets of South Boston.

Sadly the AWVC, the group who initiated the lawsuit twenty years ago, resulting in the Hurley Decision, still clings to antiquated attitudes. Although the Supreme Court ruling gave the AWVC the legal right to exclude anyone for any reason from walking in their parade, that does not make it right. It is not the *legality*, it is the *morality* of their discriminatory actions towards Veterans For Peace, and members of the LGBT community that is the issue.

Where are the politicians on Saint Patrick's Day? They will be telling jokes at the morning breakfast and probably walking or riding in the first parade, smiling, shaking hands, politicking and soliciting votes—all the while knowing that the parade they are walking or riding in is excluding veterans and the LGBT community. It is great to participate in the pageantry and fun of a parade; it is very difficult to stand up when you see an injustice marching by right in front of your face. These same politicians will court the LGBT community

for votes and run ads in the LGBT publications expounding how they support gay rights, etc. Someone should let them know that civil rights do not begin and end in the voting booth. Not until justice and equality have permeated our culture do real civil rights take root.

Now is the time for politicians of conscience to stand up and say enough is enough. Prejudice, bigotry and exclusion on the streets of South Boston have to end once and for all. It is time for all of us, gay and straight alike to notify our elected local, state and national representatives and tell them that it is time to take a moral stand and not walk in that 1st parade. By walking in the 1st parade they are giving full approval to blatant discrimination against veterans who work for peace and the LGBT community. If a politician professes to sup-

port equal rights for the LGBT community and support the right of veterans to express their desire for peace and want our vote, now is the time for them to stand up against this ongoing, very visible and embarrassing affront to veterans and the LGBT community.

Hope to see you on Saint Patrick's Day, Erin Go Bragh!

—Pat Scanlon

Coordinator, Veterans For Peace, Chap 9, Smedley D. Butler Brigade

It is not the *legality*, it is the *morality* of their discriminatory actions towards Veterans For Peace, and members of the LGBT community that is the issue.

Summit From page 2

consistently bring attention to the harm of our carceral structures, while centering the leadership of those most impacted. This summit in Boston is going to be an opportunity for people to find moments of healing and the strength to use their own story for power.

Over the past few months that I have been in court doing support for a number of individuals, I have witnessed consistent harassment of LGBTQ people. In particular, while sitting awaiting a hearing for a friend to be released to a drug rehab program, I met a transgender woman who lives in shelters in Boston. We had a pleasant conversation while court was in recess, and then after she informed the Court that she is a transgender woman, her public defender proceeded to refer to her as "sir" and "he." This inaccurate pronoun use was similarly used by the judge, clerk and prosecutor, despite the individual explicitly identifying herself to the court. Transgender and gender non-conforming people may choose to use pronouns they do not identify with in the courtroom in order to experience less harm or discrimination because of their gender identity, but this is a decision that must be left up to the individual. When defense attorneys, judges, or prosecu-

tors make this decision for someone they are causing further harm to someone who is already stuck in the violence of the court system. People navigating this system need a space to come together, to strategize with one another, to build community together, to make demands of our mainstream organizations who turn away time and time again.

The Summit will be a space for all kinds of people. Those who consider themselves to be allies, who have not experienced policing, incarceration, court-involvement, are encouraged to inform others and support the work that comes out of the summit, rather than attend it. The work of the day will be a continuation of work started by those who have come before us. It will be neither the beginning nor the end, but rather a piece of the important work that transforms victimization into empowerment and action.

**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 toward 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 jason@blackandpink.org.*

St. Patrick's From page 3

to do."

Walsh also noted that the St. Patrick's Peace Parade has had to march behind the street cleaners, one mile behind the Allied War Veterans Council's parade, which she found offensive.

"I am Irish, first generation on both sides, Catholic, an American and remember going to Parade with my father," she said. "He said 'here march the leaders, the people with power, some are good and some are not.' Only in America do all the people have a voice and places to speak and this parade is one of those places."

In 2012, MassEquality filed an application to march in the St. Patrick's Parade and were also denied.

"The exclusion of openly LGBTQ people from the St. Patrick's Day Parade is representative of more life-altering rejection that LGBTQ people face in Massachusetts every day," said Kara Suffredini, Executive Director of MassEquality. "MassEquality is working to ensure that everyone across Massachusetts can thrive from cradle to grave without discrimination or oppression based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. This takes continued effort to change laws and

sustained effort to change hearts and minds. As we continue to change laws and attitudes, I do believe that there will be a day when openly LGBTQ people are welcomed into the St. Patrick's Day Parade. And all that will take is for the parade organizations to approve our application to march."

Tony Flaherty, a Veteran for Peace and Co-Coordinator with Scanlon, shared why he believes this issue is important.

"The suppression of voices for peace, and civil rights of gays and lesbians could not exist without the complicit silence of the political establishment of the state, and the media," Flaherty said. "My main objection is the pollution of the minds of children by promoting the glory of dying for wars of lies, enriching the prosperous and their political servants."

Scanlon claims that the militaristic tone of the St. Patrick's Parade—which also celebrates Evacuation Day, the day the British were run out of Boston—does not fall in line with the tradition of celebrating Irish heritage.

"A little over a hundred years ago it was the Irish who were out in the streets of Boston demonstrating against discrimination against the Irish," he said. "Our parade is in the best of Irish traditions, walking the same streets as our forbearers, demonstrating against discrimination. How ironic that in

2013, these self anointed keepers of what they believe is in the best interest of the Irish community of South Boston can be so wrong. They are now out of touch with of the very community they claim to represent. Their parade sadly no longer represents the attitudes of the majority of residents of South Boston. That in and of itself is a real shame."

The St. Patrick's Peace Parade will begin to assemble at 2 p.m. on March 17th and commence at 3 p.m. The starting location will be at D Street and West Broadway in South Boston.

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PHOTO: FOCUS FEATURES

Tina Fey and Paul Rudd in a scene of *Admission*.

Paul Rudd & Tina Fey: The dream duo

By: Chris Azzopardi*/Special to TRT

They say dreams come true, and that one where Tina Fey and Paul Rudd act (and shower) together on the big screen – it's really happening. Two of the most charismatic, gay-loved actors team up for *Admission*, about a college admissions officer (Fey) and her could-be biological son who she meets through an old classmate (Rudd).

"It's a movie about chasing acceptance. That formal outward acceptance shouldn't be valued as much. That's the message: Just be who you are," says Fey, a GLAAD winner for *30 Rock* who recounted her gay musical-theater origins in her *Bosspants* memoir.

Rudd's career started, and still is, just as queer: besides *Clueless*, he starred as Jennifer Aniston's best gay pal in *The Object of My Affection*. And that's just the beginning of his homo happenings.

"Yes, it's true. It's really true," he says, reflecting on the increasingly gay apex of his career at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City, seated next to Fey.

What does he have to say about that important message of self-love and acceptance, then? Surely something gay, right? In goofy Rudd-style, just what you'd expect: "Lily Tomlin's in it!" he quips with his sly smirk, referring to the comedian's role as Fey's mother. "There's your answer."

Q. What did you see as the biggest challenge of taking on these characters?

Tina: For me, it was just trying to do a good job of what I felt was the dramatic arc of the movie. There were certainly scenes that were more emotional than anything I have ever had to do before.

Paul: Just doing it – that was the challenge. (Laughs) That you buy me in the part and it works in the context of the story, and that the conflict seems legit and the character is not one-dimensional – all those things that I think kind of existed in the script. The challenge is just bringing the material to life. Oh god, did I just say that?

Tina: You did.

Paul: Forgive me.

Q. Can you relate to the admissions process?

Tina: I wasn't growing up in some kind of private-school world where it was expected of you to try to get into an Ivy League school

or something. I think there are people who grow up in a family where it's like, "If you don't get into Harvard or Yale or Princeton, you're done!" I think that's craziness.

Paul: I never grew up with that at all. I didn't apply to any of those schools – mainly because I know I wouldn't have gotten in. I was just out to lunch when it came to all that stuff. Living in New York City, I'm certainly much more aware of it now. I'm much more aware of it having friends that went to those schools and even having young kids and seeing how they're being groomed for these schools.

Q. As an actress, and even more so as a writer, what do you think the secret is to great comedy?

Tina: Oh gosh. Obviously try to surround yourself with people who are really funny and good at it. Like Paul.

Paul: Aww.

Tina: Yes! And trust your own instinct.

Q. Was it hard to shoot the shower scene?

Tina: There are so many built-in humiliations in a thing like that. We shot that shower scene very late in the evening.

Paul: And it was cold.

Tina: Just out of frame, I'm wearing a rolled-down bikini top they gave me; they're like, "We have a skin-colored one just in case."

To read the rest of this interview visit:
<http://tiny.cc/dtwdtw>

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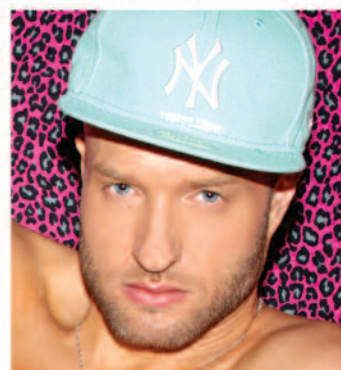
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1/5 of Trans Women Believed to be HIV+

By: By: Eric Brus*/Special to TRT

About one in five transgender women worldwide are living with HIV, according to a major new study by Johns Hopkins researcher Dr. Stefan Baral and his colleagues. The study also found that transgender women are in urgent need of HIV prevention, treatment, and care services.

The research team conducted a meta-analysis, which combined data from 39 studies involving more than 11,000 transgender women in 15 countries. Their review of the research literature from 2000 through 2011 found that data on the HIV prevalence among transgender women were available only in countries with male-predominant HIV epidemics, including the U.S., six countries in the Asian-Pacific region, five in Latin America, and three in Europe.

Overall, about one-fifth (19%) of the transgender women studied were living with HIV. The calculated HIV prevalence rate was somewhat higher for transgender women in five high-income countries (21.6%) than the rate found in ten low- and middle-income countries (17.7%). The researchers noted, however, that transgender women in all the countries studied had HIV prevalence rates roughly 50 times greater than that of other adults of reproductive age.

"In view of the limited worldwide data for transgender women and extraordinary disease burdens we have identified, the present HIV surveillance and prevention interventions for transgender women are clearly inadequate,"

the research team noted. "The high burden of HIV is probably a function of both low coverage rates for effective interventions, and an insufficient range of interventions to reduce HIV infection risks for this population. Transgender-specific interventions are scarce, and no randomized trials of prevention technologies have included sufficient transgender participants to assess efficacy for these people."

In addition, "Structural change will also be essential," according to the researchers. "Transgender women and communities are emerging and advocating for their rights as citizens, and their full inclusion in the HIV response. The sexual orientation and gender identity strategy of the Global Fund is a welcome example of

expanding efforts at such inclusion. Removing gender dysphoria/gender identity disorder from . . . the 11th International Classification of Diseases could provide support for increased visibility of transgender people with less fear of being automatically labeled mentally ill. Greater visibility should be coupled with transgender people and communities having a stronger voice." The researchers also recommended that transgender persons be specifically counted in national HIV surveillance programs and in HIV-focused research studies, rather than lumping data for transgender women with that for men who have sex with men.

To read the rest of this story visit:
<http://tiny.cc/diwdtw>



PHOTO BY: GLENN KOETZNER/TRT ARCHIVES/BOSTON PRIDE 2012

Six million in U.S. have an LGBT parent

By: Dana Rudolph/Keen News Service

As many as six million adults and children in the United States have an LGBT parent, and an estimated three million LGBT Americans have had a child at some point in their lives, according to an analysis released February 27 by the Williams Institute of UCLA.

Including single and married or partnered LGBT people, the study found that nearly half of LGBT women and a fifth of LGBT men under age 50 are currently raising a child.

This new report also reinforces an emerging picture of LGBT families as racially and ethnically diverse, and living in places and in economic conditions that contradict popular impressions.

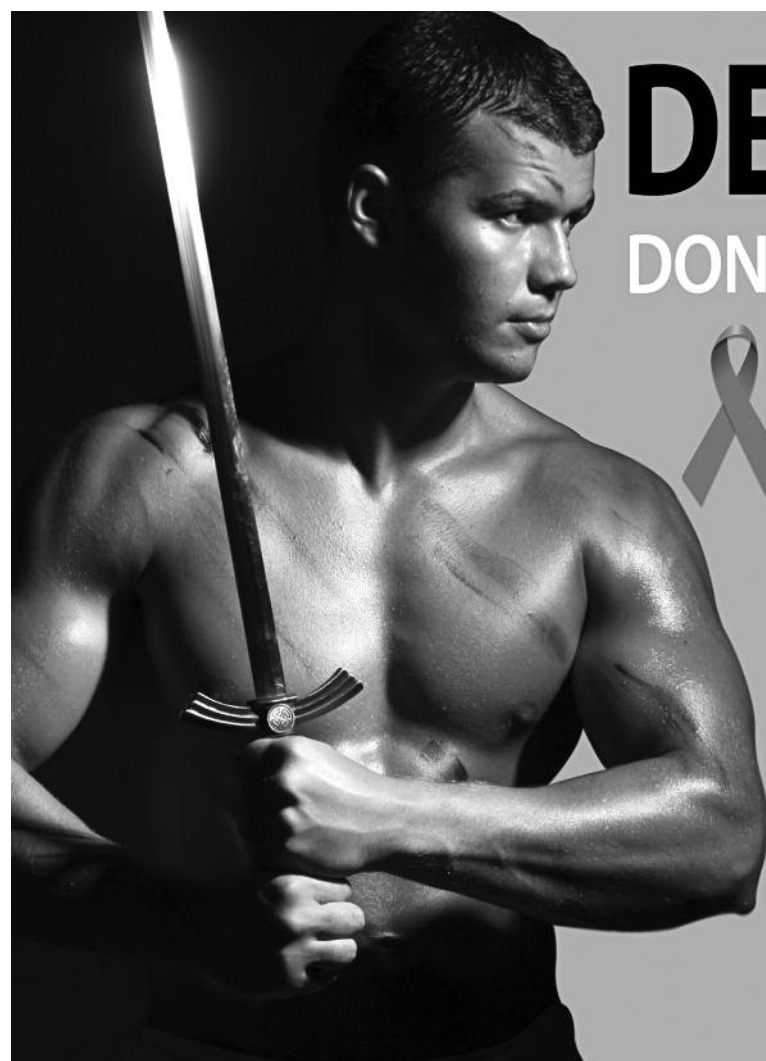
The study, "LGBT Parenting in the United

States," by Gary Gates, Distinguished Scholar at the Williams Institute, also comes at a time when issues of parenting have been implicated in the historic marriage equality cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gates used multiple data sources, including Census 2010, the Census Bureau's 2011 American Community Survey (ACS), the 2008/2010 General Social Survey (the most frequently analyzed data source in the social sciences after the Census), and the Gallup Daily Tracking Survey.

The study found that more than 125,000 same-sex couple households in the U.S. are raising nearly 220,000 children. These include more than 111,000 same-sex couple ...

To read the rest of this story at:
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LGBTQ youth find support, family through empowering youth-led, adult-advised group

By: Lauren Walliser/TRT Reporter

For gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth who continue to be targeted by bullying and isolation in schools, Safe Homes offers a refuge where they are able to navigate and explore their sexual and gender identities in a supportive and secure environment.

Operated through the Worcester-based human service agency The Bridge, Safe Homes is the only program of its kind serving LGBTQ youth between the ages of 14 and 23 in Central Massachusetts. Through education, outreach, advocacy and support, they not only provide services to the youth themselves, but also parents, community members and professionals who work with youth in order to create a network that is healthy and conducive to empowerment and safety.

Judi Kirk co-founded Safe Homes back in the mid-90s, and has continued to serve on the board since The Bridge adopted the program.

"From my view, LGBTQ youth are, or should be, one of our protected classes and deserve special attention and programming to overcome the barriers set up by many years of discrimination and stigma that in many communities and environments still continues," Kirk said.

She expressed that even though Massachusetts offers LGBTQ people many protections under the law, there are still issues within communities and families that must be dealt with as youth begin to come out earlier and

earlier in life.

"By the mid-90s youth were beginning to feel safer 'coming and being out' and that was creating all kinds of problems for the youth and the school administrations and parents that interacted with these youth," she said. "The stories were horrific."

Kirk said she herself did not come out until 1989, moving to Massachusetts from Delaware in order to explore her sexual identity.

"As an adult trying to manage coming out, I had many more skills and resources at my disposal, something we need to equip youth with at a much younger age as they confront the struggles of adolescent sexual identification," she said. "Safe Homes serves as an expert to other youth serving organizations and institutions that are ready to confront their own prejudices when it comes to some of our most vulnerable youth."

Safe Homes began as meetings of individuals invested in youth development, mental health, higher education and foster care, and grew into the organization it is today, now serving more than 75 youth per week. According to Laura Farnsworth, program director of the organization, these youth are very much

involved in running the meetings and activities.

"Being a youth led, adult advised group, we emphasize the importance of understanding Adulthood and the oppression of young people in our culture," Farnsworth said.

"This gives our young people the feeling of ownership of our program, which in turn inspires them to take action in their own communities, homes and schools for both themselves and for those who have no voice."

Weekly meetings begin with time for socialization and dinner, which Farnsworth noted is the only hot meal some of the youth may get that day. According to Farnsworth, after dinner, peer leaders go over the group's core values and expectations, current events in the community, job opportunities and milestones in equality that week. There are then two to three groups for youth to choose from with programming covering topics such as violence prevention, safe sex, drug and alcohol awareness, cyber safety, healthy relationships and coming out groups. They also have poetry slams, open mic nights and dances.

"When you ask our youth what the atmosphere is like at Safe Homes, they refer to us as a 'family,'" she said.

Safe Homes also offers free one-on-one

counseling with clinicians, trainings for professionals who work with LGBTQ youth and support groups for parents and family members. Advocating on behalf of youth in the community is another big part of their services.

"We find gentle, respectful ways to let resistant parents know about the high risk of suicide and danger they are putting their child at when they reject them," Farnsworth said. "We're careful to be respectful of their feelings. We try to inspire them to first stop any more harm doing, and secondly to talk with other parents who have been through similar situations so they will feel less overwhelmed and be open to educating themselves further."

The point of Safe Homes' meetings, activities and community involvement is to give marginalized youth a voice and empower them with the tools necessary to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others. As Farnsworth acknowledges, this process can indeed be life saving.

"We have had numerous youth tell us that if it were not for Safe Homes, they literally would not be alive today," she said. "I've had parents call to thank us for saving their child's life. Many youth come with suicidal ideation and self harm behaviors as a direct result of the constant, daily harassment and for those who face rejection from their families, the risks are even higher. We give them the education, support and the coping skills they need in a 'nurturing' environment. This gives them hope and truly does save lives."

For more information, visit www.safehome-sma.org.



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"CALL FOR HELP" Greater Boston LGBT Community

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the start of the infamous "Hurley Decision". "Veterans For Peace" is out front fighting to make Saint Patrick's Day in South Boston, inclusive and welcoming for all. The LGBT Community has been excluded from this parade for 20 years. Veterans For Peace was denied to walk in that parade in 2011, because they had the word "peace" in their name. They decided, "The time has come for change".

Veterans For Peace decided to fight this discriminatory denial and started their own parade. They reached out to the LGBT community stating: "You were not allowed to walk in their parade eighteen years ago, how would you like to walk in our parade?" The reception we have received the past two years in South Boston has been overwhelmingly positive. In 2011 there were 500, in 2012 there were 2,000 with bands, a Duck Boat, trollies and seven divisions, in 2013 – it is up to you!

If we want to stop this last vestige of institutionalized bigotry and exclusion on the streets of South Boston we have to join with our brothers and sisters of Veterans For Peace. They are standing for us, we have to have their backs. Please join the LGBT Division in this wonderful, welcoming, inclusive and fun parade on Saint Patrick's Day. We proudly walk one mile behind the 1st parade.

Two Things You Can Do:

1. There is a religious division in Saint Pat's Peace Parade. If you are a member of a religious community, church, synagogue or temple please ask them to join in support of you and the LGBT community by participating and walking in this welcoming and inclusive parade.
2. Please consider a donation to help with parade expenses. Make a secured online donation at <http://bit.ly/YWqIWz> or mail your check to: Veterans For Peace, P.O. Box 1604, Andover, MA 01810.

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Transgender employees stand ground despite discrimination, challenges

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

Despite the liberal progress the transgender community has made in terms of rights in the 21st century, many challenges still lie ahead. According to the 2011 National Transgender Discrimination Survey of Massachusetts, 76 percent experienced harassment or mistreatment as a professional, while another 39 percent were without a job.

As a result of statistics like these, a website called the Transgender Job Bank was created. The online database is a trans-friendly webpage where employers may identify themselves in favor of equal opportunity. Currently, Boston has become the area with the most job postings on the site, followed by Washington, D.C. and New York City.

"The overwhelming majority of jobs posted are from nonprofit organizations who tend to be more inclusive than other employers, and have been shown to be more likely to post trans-inclusive opportunities than mainstream companies," said Jillian Barfield, director of the Transgender Job Bank.

The employers or their surrogates do all job postings through submissions, which are in turn manually reviewed for authenticity. Just by posting an opening on the website, employers are showing that their organization is inclusive and accepting of transgender applicants. The web page receives approximately 30,000 unique visits per year, and a total of 50,000 overall visitors, includ-

ing repeat visitors.

"There needs to be more positive representation of transpeople in general. I feel like, as a trans-identified female, there's a lot of stereotypes and misconceptions about women like me," said Elyse Quadrozzi, a 28-year-old who grew up in Springfield, Mass. and is a high school teacher in the area. "We're prostitutes, we're escorts, we're drug addicts, we're so illegitimate that it's almost comical in a lot of ways."

Although settled with where her life is now, Quadrozzi experienced bullying grow-



PHOTO: JESSICA CONLAN/EVOLVING IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY

Mac MacDougall wears a t-shirt displaying his original design for Mac Ink Clothing Line, which donates 10% of each sale to a fund for transgender individuals that need financial assistance for surgery.

ing up and even contemplated suicide. She said she first experienced prejudice in the workplace during a job she held at a retail chain, about six years ago, and as the first transgender employee the particular branch had ever hired, the human resources department had to create a specific cis-gendered policy.

"[I had] to abide by the dress code of being a woman, like shaving your legs, etc. So I did it. Although on certain days, because I was going through laser treatments for hair re-

moval, I would come in more like androgynously dressed," explained Quadrozzi.

Despite co-workers misusing female and male pronouns on a regular basis, the worst, she said, was when she wore nail polish to work while wearing more masculine clothes. She was sent home for not abiding to the male dress code for that day.

"[Nowadays] I'm out on a need-to-know basis; I'm the master of that information. I've had more than one or two [students] in my room crying and saying that they're being bullied, and asking me how I've done what I've done," explained Quadrozzi, who is a self-proclaimed Roman Catholic Italian. "I finally feel like I'm living, and I think it's important to show young kids who might be struggling."

Although Quadrozzi experienced this incident several years ago, the retailer might have a very different approach today. One of the most recent historic moments in transgender rights came on April 23, 2012 from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The agency decided that if an employer singles out any worker or potential worker because of being transgender, it would be an infringement of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that forbids bias based on sex.

Tyler Rose has never experienced discrimination from an employer, but rather support.

See Trans Employees on page 16

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Receiving that phone call from a friend: Thinking about loss in the trans community

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



It happens. You get a call from your friend and they ask you if you are sitting down. At that point you know that you are going to hear something awful.

As you sit there, not knowing anything yet, your mind spins and whirls at what is possibly going to be said. Then the message is delivered. Someone you both know just could not take it anymore and they've ended their life.

Now you lean back against your chair and begin to process what is being said to you. The shock, the feelings of disbelief, the questions, the search for the answers, the blaming of yourself about not picking up any clues, the anger within, the feelings of hopelessness, the realization of what happened and the resigned acceptance all come at you at once. It's very confusing and very uncomfortable, but then suddenly the grief hits you like a ton of bricks. You now cannot think of anything else. You feel helpless. You cry.

I just received one of these calls just a few weeks ago. What made it extra rough was

the fact that the newly deceased was a young transman who never even made it to high school. It was devastating news and completely caught everyone off guard. This young man's whole life was in front of him and things were going seemingly well. His

male inside is not an easy thing to deal with especially when you are young. Your breasts develop, your hips widen, and your menstrual cycle begins. These things must be terrifying to you, as a young male, but you are determined to be who you are. You go to

Your breasts develop, your hips widen, and your menstrual cycle begins. These things must be terrifying to you, as a young male, but you are determined to be who you are.

future looked bright and things seemed to be going his way. You never know though. You never know what someone is carrying within themselves. You never know the pains they have, the hopelessness they feel and the events leading up to tragedy. This young man evidently had more than he could bear and he succumbed. We all wondered why? What happened? What were the events leading up to this? How could this ever happen? We don't really know the answers to any of these questions, but we probably have a pretty good idea if we think about it.

Let's face it, being trans is not easy. Being born as a physical female but really feeling

school or to work and everyone who knew you as female now sees you as male. Yes, of course there are going to be wonderful supporters, but there are also going to be those who will disassociate from you, dislike you, make fun of you and even bully you.

I grew up as a male and I remember the tough guys who loved to intimidate, humiliate and beat others up. I was fearful of those tough guys and I avoided them as much as I could. I can only imagine what it's like to be a young transman who comes in contact with these bullies. "So you think that you're a man? Hey! I'm talking to you! You need to learn a few things about being a man!"

Come over here, girlie! I'll show you what it's like to be a man!" Then the physical beatings begin. It's even worse when there are others watching you get beat up and no one helps you. Sometimes they even cheer the bully.

Besides being born with a body that wants to give you breasts, you are also born with a body that gives you the wrong genitals. Can you imagine having the wrong genitals? It's a horrible feeling. Lots of transmen hate their bodies and some have issues with bulimia.

Then there is dating. Dating as a male without male genitals can be awkward. Yes, there are people that do not mind, but they have friends and relatives that might not understand. I have known of a couple of situations where young couples are broken up because the parents of the non-trans person find out that the new boyfriend is trans and they forbid their child to date the boy.

When you take all of these issues and you put them into the mind of a young man, you can see how difficult life must be for him and how he could get discouraged and look for a way out. Still, when it's someone you know, it's very hard to accept. It's very, very hard to accept. I hate these phone calls.

**Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has 3 grown children and works at 3M. She can be contacted at de-javudeja@sbcglobal.net.*

Ask a Transwoman: Trans-ceptions; not being consumed by transness, to live happily & fully

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



Sometimes it's important to remember that it's not all about being trans. I have to keep reminding myself of this lesson. I think about being trans a lot. I write a column about it, I speak about it, I teach people about it. I've got

two sashes that say "Miss Trans New England" and one that says "Miss Trans Northampton" (my original title). Plus, I am, of course, trans myself.

Some days it feels like I eat, sleep and breathe trans! I am essentially, "Professionally Trans." I think about what it means to be trans all the time, and I talk to people about it often. Even sometimes when I'd rather be talking about anything else, like my love of the smoky goodness of Lapsang Souchong Tea, or the finer points of improv.

It can be awfully easy to start seeing trans everywhere, and associating transness with every interaction I have encountered.

Even for transgender and transsexual folks I know who aren't "Professionally Trans," this can be a real issue. When you've spent so much of your life thinking about it and then you're out in the world actually trying to be you, whether you're actively "trying" to be trans or not, it can tend to dominate your perceptions.

And yes, it's true, often people are treating you different because you're trans, or looking at you because you're trans -- wanting to ask questions, hit you, hurt you or have sex with you because you're trans. Especially in the earliest, most awkward stages of transition, when we sometimes feel like we have a sign on us that says in blinking neon let-

ters, "Trans Person!"

But then, a lot of the time, no one really cares. They are maybe accepting or unaware or particularly enlightened or perhaps they simply don't care. It's huge for you, but it's a non-issue for everyone else. It happens, and it's just as important to remember as any of the other advice I've given here.

For instance, just recently, my dad and my stepmom, who have been together since I

I knew they all know about my transition and my stepmom has been very accepting, but there are few things more intimidating in my experience than a Jewish mother. Especially one who has lived almost a century and is the matriarch of a large family, which I was about to become officially a part of.

I geared myself up, prepared to forgive more than a few misgenderings and answer a host of potentially awkward questions, and

I geared myself up, prepared to forgive more than a few misgenderings and answer a host of potentially awkward questions, and to be very sweet and patient about it. Then something happened. Or rather, nothing happened.

was 10, finally decided to get married. It was a small ceremony, performed at their house by the City Clerk. The only guests were myself, my uncle, his wife, the photographer and her husband, and my stepmom's two brothers and 90-year-old mother.

I was pretty excited and more than a little nervous myself. My close family is well-adjusted to my transition, but I haven't seen my stepmom's family since I was a gangly teenager! I used to go to Passover with her family in Syracuse, NY, where I often felt conspicuously tall, blond and blue-eyed. They were always very sweet though and I still love that particular holiday and everything about it, except maybe gefilte fish.

So I was unusually nervous about seeing my stepmom's family, especially her mother.

to be very sweet and patient about it.

Then something happened. Or rather, nothing happened. When my stepmom's mother arrived, she was amazingly full of energy and very talkative and ... absolutely perfect with my pronouns, with not even a single question about my gender status! I kept waiting for a slip, but no, it did not come. As far as she was concerned, I was just another woman. It was oddly disconcerting.

Also, recently I took a pretty epic journey, flying down to Florida via Detroit, with a cat in a cage. I'm pretty used to flying while trans, but again, it's something I always try to be prepared for. There will be awkwardness and explanations and hopefully nothing too terribly humiliating or insulting.

This time though, the cat in a cage trumped all of that. People couldn't have cared less about my gender status and general transness! Though everyone was staring at me, they only had eyes for my pussy (cat). Pretty much the only thing I said to anyone over the course of a trip that took 11 hours door to door was, "It's a cat and her name is MaryAnne." I even had a little girl basically stalk me the entire trip because she was so fascinated by my feline traveling companion, and little kids like that are almost always very reliable for a good, blunt, "Are you a boy or a girl?"

But nothing. I was just a very tall woman who happened to be traveling with a cat.

Even in the mundane every day, I find I often have to remind myself that maybe that person isn't staring at me because I'm trans. Quite possibly it's just because I'm considerably taller than most people, men or women, or because I have pink hair, or maybe it's just because they think I'm pretty!

It can be all too easy to become consumed with the experience of being trans; to let it color our every interaction.

And though I do believe it's good to be proud and out as trans, and to be aware of our passage through the world and the reactions of others to our gender variations, it's just as vital to remember ourselves, that we are also simply people living our lives, and to remember that oftentimes we are not being judged for our transness, we are simply being judged as people.

And isn't that kind of the point?

Slainte!

**Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009. Send your questions about trans issues to her at: loreleierisis@gmail.com.*

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Trans Employees from page 14

Although the 24-year-old Spring Lake, MI native is comfortable in his own skin, he considers himself "stealth" at work, and is only openly trans-identified to his bosses. He makes sure to have his paycheck handed out privately so other employees won't have the

The meeting will address mental health care, specific populations and clinical care.

"You have to give people the benefit of the doubt to accept you, for who you are. You can't just go around thinking people aren't going to like you for saying what you are -- that's not typical conversation anyway,"

The online database is a trans-friendly webpage where employers may identify themselves in favor of equal opportunity.

chance of seeing his female state identification.

"My bosses right now are very supportive of me and treat me just like one of the guys," said Rose, who currently manages a pizza parlor near Atlanta, GA. "[In five years] my ideal job is to be a probation officer. I would love to help teens so they don't mess their lives up like I almost did with drugs and skipping school."

In an effort to change public opinion on the subject, this May, The National Transgender Health Summit will be held in Oakland, CA.

laughed the openly transgender Mac MacDougall of Pawtucket, RI.

The artist, realtor and AIDS Care Ocean State employee enjoys his current jack of all trades approach to professional life, as opposed to the decade he spent working for a package delivery company.

"[The company] was probably one of the hardest companies I've ever worked for. A great company, the way they run the business, though, the people involved were just hard to work for ... I actually had to wait, and then when I changed my name and gender and all

that, I had to redo all my [pension] paperwork. They didn't give me a hard time, but I was glad I was out of there," said MacDougall. "I'm much happier now that I've figured it out."

To learn about the Transgender Job Bank visit www.tjobbank.com, and for more information about the 2013 Summit contact tranhealthsummit@ucsf.edu.

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igualdad para todos en Puerto Rico es lo humano y civil!

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa* /Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

En las pasadas semanas se ha acentuado en Puerto Rico la homofobia. Aunque las noticias del apoyo del Presidente Obama ha rendido apoyo en varios ámbitos a nuestra comunidad LGBT, en Puerto Rico no han llegado estas noticias. Y ¿quieren ser estado 51? Si Puerto Rico fuese estado hoy, los fundamentalistas y políticos en Puerto Rico no podrían hacerse de las suyas, ni la corte suprema en Puerto Rico. Muchos/as de estos/as políticos son personas pro-estadidad, ¿y entonces? Muchos/as de los/as jueces que votaron en contra de que dos mujeres pudiesen ser madres y adoptar legalmente a su hija son personas pro-estadidad, ¿y entonces? No debe importar si son pro-estadidad o no, pero sí debe importar que los derechos de nuestra comunidad LGBT deban ser iguales a esos que representan el Presidente y muchos estados en esta nación. En Puerto Rico, ninguno de los crímenes de odio en contra de miembros de nuestra comunidad LGBT ha sido reportado como tal; ¿por qué no cuando todo indica que deben ser reportados como tal? Ahora hay un caso que lo van a reportar como tal porque el criminal lo testifico así.

El Gobernador García Padilla ha hecho

concesiones a parejas del mismo sexo y se ha reunido con líderes de la comunidad LGBT, es momento que los/as políticos en El Capitolio se percaten y cambien su manera homofóbica de pensar. Los miembros de la Corte Suprema en Puerto Rico deberían de leer los libros con decisiones en las cortes supremas de acá para que vean como justicia es rendida – todos por igual, los derechos iguales no diferentes. ¡La política está tan inmiscuida en los derechos civiles y casos legales de Puerto Rico! Esto debe cambiar.

Existen muchos líderes en Puerto Rico, no sólo uno. Entre ellos está Francisco J. Cartagena Méndez mejor conocido como “El Jimagua”. El no sólo fue uno de los líderes que comenzó la batalla para quitar a “la Comay” de la televisión sino que también es uno de los organizadores de la huelga na-



FOTO: FRANCISCO CARTAGENA MENDEZ

Foto de la Protesta acontecida en Puerto Rico a principios de Febrero. De izq. a derecha al frente: El Jimagua.

dad a través de e-mail y peticiones cibernéticas en nuestros países de origen, y en específico en Puerto Rico.

Como nací, así moriré; homosexual

Como nací, así moriré; homosexual

Nací homosexual,

Siempre lo he sabido.

Nací pato;

eso decían mis amigos

Nací marica;

así describieron a alguien como yo en la radio.

cional en Puerto Rico en contra de esta decisión unilateral sobre lo que significa ser una familia adoptiva. Hable con él a través de la Internet y me dio permiso para publicar este poema que dice mucho. Por favor léanlo y espero que a u n q u e vivan por acá aboguen por la igual-

Nací demonio;

en la iglesia así me llamaron.

Nací promiscuo;

no es fácil amar siendo señalado.

Nací temor;

En silencio voy amando.

Nací mentira;

La sociedad a una doble vida me ha doblegado.

Nací rencor;

Por el tiempo que la homofobia me ha quitado.

Nací perdón;

La sociedad es víctima de un fundamentalismo generalizado.

Nací pasión;

Si avistarán cómo él y yo nos amamos.

Nací deseo;

De con mi compañero poder caminar de la mano.

Nací pecado;

Una vez más un religioso me ha condenado.

Nací equidad;

Que tus derechos sean los míos, sin mi identidad ir preguntando.

Nací verdad;

Soy quien soy, y eso nunca ha cambiado.

Nací hijo de aquel al que llaman Dios;

Si él mismo así me ha creado.

Yo nací heterosexual;

Y a mis amigos de la comunidad LGBT así los estoy amando;

y homosexual he de morir dentro o fuera del armario.

Vea Latin Vision en la página 19

Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: ¿Qué son las exenciones religiosas?

Por: Jenny Pizer/ Abogada y Directora, Proyecto de Ley y la Política de Lambda Legal



Querido Lambda Legal:

P: Vivo en Illinois y he estado ansioso con la posibilidad de que seamos el próximo estado que legalizar el matrimonio civil para parejas del mismo sexo. ¿Lea acerca de un asunto con exenciones religiosas – me pueden explicar que es eso?

R: Además de Illinois, Rhode Island y Hawái también están considerando una ley de matrimonio civil y Colorado está considerando una ley de uniones civiles. En esta lucha por la igualdad para parejas del mismo sexo a través del país, hemos tenido que resistir la sugerencia que nuevas exenciones a las leyes estatales actuales contra la discriminación sean adoptadas.

Las exenciones propuestas son cláusulas diseñadas para permitir que organizaciones religiosas puedan discriminar contra las parejas del mismo sexo que se casan o efectúan una unión civil. La creencia religiosa y su expresión ya son protegidas por nuestra Constitución federal y por cada constitución estatal, así que las exenciones en los proyectos de ley no son necesarias para proteger la libertad del clero y las iglesias a decidir cuales matrimonios solemnizarán. Los problemas surgen cuando los grupos religiosos desean exenciones que cruzan el umbral de la iglesia y se extienden a la esfera pública de las transacciones comerciales y los servicios sociales. Especialmente queremos prevenir el lenguaje que exima “celebraciones” matrimoniales. Las “celebraciones” matrimoniales a menudo significan la recepción, no sólo la ceremonia de solemnización realizada en la


iglesia. Entonces, si un proyecto de ley incluye lenguaje similar, una agencia con afiliación religiosa que alquila un salón para bodas sin importar fé o herencia, podrá negarle la oportunidad de alquilar el salón a las parejas del mismo sexo. Este tipo de discriminación es generalmente ilegal bajo leyes de derechos humanos como la de Illinois, que dicta que organizaciones que ofrecen mercancía o servicios al público no pueden discriminar en base a ciertas características, inclusive la raza, religión, origen nacional, estado civil, la discapacidad, la edad, el sexo u orientación sexual. Otro tipo de exención religiosa que puede perjudicar a las personas LGBT permitiría una organización religiosa a no “aceptar” el matrimonio de una pareja del mismo sexo. Esto es especialmente preocupante cuando consideramos lo que puede suceder en los hospitales religiosos cuando la

visita o las decisiones médicas dependen de su relación legal al paciente. Imagínate necesitar cuidado médico urgente, y que tu cónyuge no pueda acompañarte porque el hospital se rehusó a respetar tu matrimonio legal.

Un tercer ejemplo concierne los servicios sociales. El gobierno proporciona fondos a muchas organizaciones que proveen servicios de adopción, rehabilitación de adicciones, alivio al hambre, servicios para ancianos, y ayuda para los desamparados. Generalmente, si una organización recibe fondos públicos para proporcionar servicios como estos, no pueden discriminar en base a ciertas características, inclusive la orientación sexual. Si permitiéramos una exención para las agencias con afiliación religiosa, eso podría tener amplias repercusiones. Por ejemplo, las agencias podrían rehusarse a colocar a los huérfanos

con parejas del mismo sexo idóneas o rehazar albergue a una persona desamparada gay.

Es emocionante ver a nuestros aliados luchar por nuestros derechos al matrimonio civil en las legislaturas a través del país, y trabajamos atentamente con ellos para proteger nuestras leyes contra las discriminación actuales a la vez. Si crees que has sido discriminado/a basado en tu orientación sexual, identidad de género o estatus de VIH, por favor llama a nuestra línea de ayuda en 1-866-542-8336 o en la Internet visita <http://tinyurl.com/bxo9dj7>.



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Jane Lynch, Matt Bomer, Kelly McGillis, Jonathan Groff

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



The sun'll come out tomorrow for Jane Lynch

And that sun will stay out for exactly eight weeks. That's how long *Glee*'s mercurial Sue Sylvester, aka Jane Lynch, will star as fearsome orphanage meanie Miss Hannigan in the ongoing Broadway revival of *Annie*. She'll take the boards beginning May 16 and will end her temp run in July, just in time to shoot more *Glee* episodes and begin her stint as host of Sean Hayes' new primetime game show, *Hollywood Game Night*. Lynch will oversee contestants as they make their way through Hollywood cocktail parties, mingling with celebrities and competing for cash. We're still not sure how this game will work, or how knocking back martinis with *Dancing with the Stars*-level celebs constitutes a heated battle for game show dominance, but the unknown is enticing, isn't it? Meanwhile, it's just good to see Lynch diversifying and looking past *Glee*, lest that tracksuit become a corset.

Matt Bomer heats up *Winter's Tale*

Every time a hot young actor comes out and keeps working in high-profile projects it further destroys the perception that openly

gay men can't succeed on screen without the closet. So here's to Matt Bomer and his next movie, a little thing called *Winter's Tale*, co-starring nobodies with names like Will Smith, Russell Crowe and Colin Farrell. The fantasy feature is based on Mark Helprin's novel set in both 19th century and present day Manhattan and it involves a young thief, the dying visionary girl he loves and a flying white horse named Athansor that helps him ride into the future through a cloud wall. Or something like that. Anyway, it's to be directed by screenwriter/producer Akiva Goldsman (*A Beautiful Mind*, *The Da Vinci Code*) and also stars Jennifer Connelly, William Hurt and screen legend Eva Marie Saint (*On The Waterfront*).

Kelly McGillis rides into a different kind of danger zone

Kelly McGillis is back, both the 1986 and the 2013 versions of her. With a 3D IMAX re-release of *Top Gun* drawing the retro-minded curious (and diehard Kenny Loggins enthusiasts) back into a smattering of theaters, McGillis is currently popping off screens nationwide. But the older and wiser McGillis (she made news for refusing to comment on fellow lesbian thespian Jodie Foster's recent Golden Globes speech) is also back in acting action in a creepy new film that just hit the Sundance Film Festival. It's called *We Are What We Are* and it's based on a 2010 Mexican film of the same name. This version, from filmmakers Jim Mickle and Nick Damici, is transplanted to New York state but the key disturbing elements



Jane Lynch

remain the same: It revolves around the adventures of a family of ritualistic cannibals. Fun! Picked up at the festival by eOne Distribution, it should hit indie and arthouse-minded theaters later this year. And who knows, with this and last year's unnerving Ti West horror film *The Innkeepers*, McGillis may become a middle-aged scream queen. There are much worse career

paths.

Jonathan Groff's *Untitled* career move

We've already reported that Jonathan Groff (*Glee*, *Spring Awakening*) will star in *C.O.G.*, the indie feature based on a David Sedaris story from his bestselling book *Naked*. And later this year Groff will voice the male lead in the latest Disney animated feature, *Frozen*, based on a Hans Christian Andersen tale, which co-stars Kristen Bell and his fellow *Glee* colleague Idina Menzel. But it's the project with the least – and yet most intriguing – amounts of information that has us the most excited right now. Groff is starring in what is now known only as the *Untitled Michael Lannan Comedy*, which wouldn't be of interest unless you already knew that Lannan is one of the producers of the buzz-making James Franco Sundance entry *Interior. Leather Bar.* (the half-real, half-fake documentary about finding the missing footage from William Friedkin's *Cruising*). And the soon-to-be-actually-titled project has found a director in Andrew Haigh, the man behind the acclaimed (as in the Criterion Collection has already included it in their DVD release roster) gay indie feature *Weekend*. We figure it'll be about something gay. But that's just an informed hunch.

* Romeo San Vicente's own weekends are always acclaimed. And sometimes filmed. He can be reached care of this publication or at his own e-mail at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Pope from page 2

religion, no longer find the current organizational structures around faith relevant, yet they still hunger for something spiritual or faith-based. There needs to be a new way to share and explore sacred teachings and timeless wisdom, often misused and misunderstood by those in positions of religious authority.

Conservative and progressive Christian churches are closing. Membership continues

to drop in many North American Christian denominations. Some have argued society is moving toward a post-Christian period. This is incorrect. People are tired of phony religious hierarchies, not the overall Christian faith.

In my travels, I recommend to straight and LGBTQ families to designate at least one day a month to hold a communal meal in their homes with friends, family and acquaintances. It is informal, yet structured and reverential, which may include Eu-

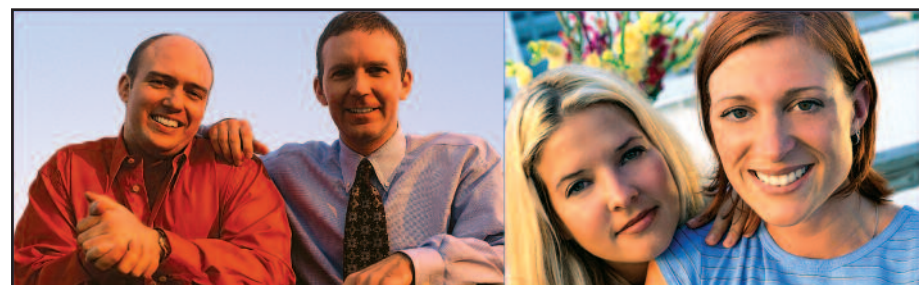
charist. A communal chalice for wine or grape juice and the blessing of a small loaf of bread everyone shares during the meal are among the many options. Sacred readings whether poems, prayers, or scriptural verses can be added.

The most important part of any mass or liturgy is the Eucharist supper. The Lord's Table doesn't belong to religious leaders of any denomination. It belongs to Jesus, who welcomed everyone to it for love, fellowship and community. It's what occurred in the early church before there were priests. Women sometimes led these suppers.

Roman Emperor Constantine politicized

Christianity by making it the state religion. In doing so, he enabled priests to become princes of the church more concerned about status and ceremony than putting the teachings of Jesus into practice. LGBTQ Christians have options to empower themselves as Catholics. The spiritual life is very personal and comes from within, not from men with titles.

*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He recently authored "*Lost Sense of Self & the Ethics Crisis – Learn to Live and Work Ethically*," and is founder of www.CorporateChaplaincy.biz."



Corporate Chaplaincy provides personalized, confidential services for LGBTQ people of faith, who are spiritually hungry or healing from the abuse of organized religion. Corporate Chaplaincy offers spiritual health and wellness services to senior executives and their organizations in an interfaith, non-denominational way with a particular sensitivity to LGBTQ faith.

Paul Peter Jesep, JD, MPS, MA
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Cliff Hanger from Page 5

Project nor for other charities that serve the region."

Cox of Dallas says there's no way to

know whether or how many potential donors might withhold contributions if a cap on charitable deductions is implemented.

"I think most people give because they believe in what we're doing," said Cox. But, she noted, studies have indicated that as many as 20 percent of charitable deductions are made online in the last two days of a tax year. "So some people might be doing a calculation of the tax benefit to them," said Cox. "And, if now, we're going to realize less tax benefit, they may be giving less and that plausibly impacts all non-profits."

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Thinking Out Loud: Who's Afraid of a Lesbian in a Tie? Tie it right!

By: Abby Dees*/Special for TRT



I have a problem with lesbians in ties. I don't have a problem with lesbians with short hair (I've got short hair), big clunky boots (those too), tattoos (yep), excess facial hair (no comment) or even drag kings (I'm not cocky enough). I'm not talking about FTM transsexuals either – they're not lesbians as far as I know. It's a lesbian in a tie that makes me groan. Standard issue lesbians in poorly executed Windsor knots.

Please, before you flame me for my inter-

in a gaggle of lesbians; instead, it's skinny dad ties, typically uncoordinated and too loose. Still, "hate" is a strong word for poor tailoring. I doubt she would have such a reaction to practical shoes and acid-washed jeans, which are about as fashionable.

I prodded her more and, no surprise, she voiced what I felt when I looked at all those pictures: that a lesbian in a tie confirms that old stereotype about lesbians – that we want to be men. This doesn't explain, however, why my partner and I don't have the same reaction to all those other traditional signifiers of masculinity that lesbians (including the two of us) often appropriate; i.e., the clunky boots and short hair.

Please, before you flame me for my internalized homophobia or unsolicited sartorial judgment of my sisters, allow me to be the first person to admit that I might be a hypocrite.

nalized homophobia or unsolicited sartorial judgment of my sisters, allow me to be the first person to admit that I might be a hypocrite. After all, I put my own cat in a tie last month and posted the pictures on Facebook. There are worse things in the world than lesbians in ties, which is why I am examining my excessive reaction to it here, today, with some guarded hope that you will nicely debate the point in the comments section if you're reading this online.

This came up because I invited my straight sister to a big gala event for my favorite lesbian civil rights organization. She asked about the dress code and to assure her that she didn't need to go shopping for something new to wear, I emailed her the photo page for last year's bash. After scanning dozens of thumbnails, I summarized my assessment of the expected attire thusly: "Clearly, all you need is a tie."

Because my sister has hung with lesbians for years and is also the butchiest straight woman I know, I felt no need to explain further, but I did have that giggling feeling that I didn't want the rest of the world to see what lesbians wear to parties. Which made me feel like a schmuck.

I asked my partner how she felt about lesbians in ties and she barked, "I hate it!" I asked her to explain, and she said, "Because they look like high school boys from the '80s." I knew what she meant – one does not find nicely tailored suits and French silk

What's the thing about a tie? Maybe it is the fact that lesbians wear them so badly. Think about it. We have made an art form of lesbian hair. We put Doc Martins on the map for women in America. If you want to see how to make jeans look cool, find a young lesbian and follow her around. There is, in fact, such a thing as lesbian fashion. Except that lesbians never did figure out what all moderately stylish men know: throwing any old tie onto any old outfit just won't cut it.

I think if I saw a confident butch woman wearing her tie like she gave it some serious thought, I'd be impressed. Straight people probably still wouldn't get it, but they couldn't possibly miss her sense of self-worth and dash, also known as pride.

My advice, though you weren't asking, is to get the best damn tie you can afford, practice your knot technique, proudly ask your local cleaners to make your suit actually fit your girly body, and wear it like you mean it. Thankfully, there are now even some clothing companies that cater specifically to the butch woman of style. I probably won't be buying a tie myself (except for my cat), but you're well within your rights to tell me to get over it.

**Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-auteur who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestion-straighthttalk.com.*

Creep of the Week: Matt Barber's homophobia turns into bullying of LGBT teens

By: D'Anne Witkowski*/Special for TRT

CREEP NEWS

If any of my readers have daddy issues and get off on being told "you're a bad bad boy," you'll love Matt Barber's new slash fiction open letter to the gays.

Published on Feb. 25 on the WND (Wing-Nut Daily) website, Barber's "An Open Letter to 'Gay' Teens" is a sexy romp through love-the-sinner-hate-the-sin land. That is, if you define "sexy" as demoralizing and belittling.

Barber wastes no time "sticking it" to the gays. In the piece's very title he puts "gay" in quotation marks because he doesn't believe in gay.

"I've had many people ask me what I'd say to my children if one of them came to me and declared: 'Dad, I'm gay,'" he writes. "I'd tell them exactly what I'm about to tell you. I love you. I neither judge you nor condemn you. I accept you and I would die for you. But you are not 'gay.'"

Got that? You aren't gay. You're, well, I'll let Barber explain it: "You are a wonderful, beautiful, precious human being created in the image and likeness of the one righteous and Holy God of the universe."

Aww, isn't that sweet? Especially how he considers "wonderful, beautiful, and precious" and "gay" as mutually exclusive categories.

The problem, Barber says, is not that you're gay, it's that you're *doing gay stuff*. Knock that off and everything will be fine.

to the story problems in grade school. Is it because "gay" rhymes with "day?" Or does it have to do with the moon and the sun? Wouldn't that be getting into some kind of pagan shit? I am so confused.

Bottom line, says Barber, "you're a sinner." Don't worry, he admits that he's a sinner, too. But you're probably a worse one because "Homosexual behavior is always wrong – demonstrably and absolutely wrong. Period."

And you know a statement is true when even the punctuation is pronounced.

So if "homosexual behavior" is wrong without exception, if you're a teenager doing or thinking about doing gay stuff and you're feeling kind of stressed out about the whole thing, it's totally your fault.

"If you feel such despair, know this: it is not 'homophobia' causing it, as adult enablers might tell you, but, rather, it is the sin itself that causes it," Barber advises gay teens. "You are being used. Adult homosexual activists with a political agenda are using you as a pawn to achieve selfish goals in a dangerous political game."

Yes, a dangerous political game called equality. Wanting our families treated with respect. Wanting to be treated like full citizens under the law. Boo!

Barber warns, "If you continue down this wide, empty path, make no mistake: it will not 'get better.' It gets much, much worse."

Is it just me, or is this wildly callous thing to say to a group of young people particularly vulnerable to suicide?

According to the Trevor Project, "LGB youth are 4 times more likely, and question-

Yes, a dangerous political game called equality. Wanting our families treated with respect. Wanting to be treated like full citizens under the law. Boo!

"Yes, you may be physically attracted to people of the same sex, but how you act on those attractions is entirely your choice," Barber explains. "Who you are – your identity – is not defined by your sexual feelings, temptations or behaviors. The difference between who you are and what you feel or do is as the [sic] difference between night and day."

Which leads to the question: If who you are = good and what you do = bad, then in this scenario would night = good and day = bad? Damn it, I wish I'd paid more attention

ing youth are 3 times more likely, to attempt suicide as their straight peers."

Not that Barber would ever entertain the idea that this has anything to do with "loving" people like him. A "dangerous political game," indeed.

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

Latin Vision from page 17

Hay tanto que hacer por aquí y allá. La batalla por la igualdad no acaba con el derecho al matrimonio entre parejas del mismo sexo. Aunque quizás en un futuro Puerto Rico se convierta en un Estado, ¡bendito! Si sigue como estamos, ¡bendito! Así que hay que traer el cambio, hay que abogar por la igualdad, y separar la política de los derechos. Hay que separar la iglesia de la política.

En la unidad esta la fuerza – únete al movimiento en Puerto Rico a través de Face-

book, página de internet o dirigiéndote directamente a los/as senadores, representantes y jueces homofóbicos/as. Toda la información está en las páginas de Puerto Rico Para Todos (prparatodos.org), El Jimagua (www.jimagua.com), Fundación de Derechos Humanos en PR (www.fdhpr.org) y tantas otras. ¡Educa y moviliza ya!

** Columna escrita por Wilfred W. Labiosa con la colaboración del poema escrito por Francisco "El Jimagua" Cartagena Méndez.*

BOSTON PRIDE 2013 ... ADVERTISE!

GSA Coalition Leadership Conference inspires activism and youth leadership in RI

By: Ashley Mark/TRT Reporter

RHODE ISLAND PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island — Youth Pride Inc. will be hosting its 8th annual GSA Coalition Leadership Conference in March in Providence, Rhode Island. The conference brings LGBTQ youth, their allies and supportive educators together to network and learn from each other, according to one of the officials for Youth Pride Inc.

"For some, the conference may be the first opportunity they have to meet youth from other school communities who are having similar educational experiences," said Elana Rosenberg, GSA Network and Programming Coordinator for Youth Pride Inc. "For others, it may be an opportunity or the inspiration to take their activism or leadership to the next level."

The conference is open to youth between 13 and 23, and interested educators, according to the website. Rosenberg is expecting 50 to 75 participants this year, mostly high school students from Rhode Island.

"We often have college age students and adult supporters who attend, as well, from Rhode Island and neighboring areas of Massachusetts," said Rosenberg.

The GSA Coalition is a project of Youth Pride Inc., an organization that seeks to improve the lives of LGBTQ youth and inspire social change.

"Youth Pride Inc.'s mission is to meet the unique and ongoing needs of youth and young adults impacted by sexual orientation

and gender identity/expression through advocacy, support and empowerment," stated Executive Director Kerri Kanelos.

The organization started in 1992 as a support group for LGBTQ youth, according to Kanelos, but has grown into an organization that offers a variety of services to Rhode Island LGBTQ youth. "We offer a drop-in center that offers a safe space for youth to meet other peers, leadership development, one-on-one counseling, support groups, a food pantry, and wellness programming," Kanelos explained.

Youth Pride Inc. has identified several issues in the local LGBT community that it works to address and resolve through its programming. "Some of the issues that make up the core of our work include transgender rights, HIV prevention and comprehensive sexual health, bullying prevention and marriage equality," said Kanelos. The GSA Coalition plays a crucial role in addressing some of these issues.

According to Rosenberg, the GSA Coalition functions as a statewide GSA, providing support, a social outlet and educational op-



find ways to make everyone within the student body comfortable was very helpful," Puello commented about the conference.

The organization's website states that the Coalition strives to bring Rhode Island GSA students together and connect them with

safer sex, GSA troubleshooting, youth/adult partnerships and working with teachers and creating allies," Rosenberg said. She also added that the opening and closing sessions will focus on networking and sharing best practices between GSA members.

In addition to its annual conference, the Coalition holds meetings that are open to all youth enrolled in high school or college.

"We meet about every 6 weeks," said Rosenberg. "The structure and activities in the meetings are intended to offer examples of possible GSA meetings, and can often be replicated within the school GSA."

The Coalition's members also help plan for the leadership conference and organize common GSA events, like a Day of Silence or Ally Week.

"In the spring, the focus is more on transitioning leadership, evaluating the successes and challenges of the year and setting the GSAs up to be successful in the following academic year," said Rosenberg.

The GSA Coordinator believes in the importance of GSAs, both to group members and the community.

"Many GSAs take on the task of intentionally and actively educating the school community on LGBT people, bullying and discrimination," said Rosenberg. "This type of education and activism within the school community improves the school climate for the entire community, not just the LGBTQ youth and their allies."

In addition to the education efforts of GSAs, these groups also provide a safe space for LGBTQ youth and their allies to gather. "It is an opportunity to address the isolation that many of them may feel at school," said Rosenberg. "The groups offer solidarity, ally identification and development and an outlet for those interested in activism."

According to Rosenberg, members of the Coalition looking to develop their leadership skills can join the Leadership Conference Planning Committee and help determine the conference theme and workshops. Including more youth input in the conference planning is an aspect that Rosenberg felt was important to the event. Since she started at Youth Pride Inc., Rosenberg has "worked to incorporate more youth voice and participation in the planning and running of the conference, increasing the opportunity for youth to actually lead in preparation for, as well as, at the conference."

The GSA Coalition Leadership Conference will be held on March 16th. For more information, visit www.youthprideri.org.

The GSA Coalition is a project of Youth Pride Inc., an organization that seeks to improve the lives of LGBTQ youth and inspire social change.

portunities to members. The annual leadership conference is an important event hosted by the Coalition because it helps further the mission of the project.

Noel Puello, a participant at a GSA Coalition Leadership Conference, attended the conference to learn from other Rhode Island GSAs. She was interested in understanding how the other GSAs were feeling within the school environment and what was working for their groups, she said.

"Having a GSA in any school brings some sort of controversy as to what the students will be talking about, since it is a club that brings students together based on their sexual orientation," Puello said. She expressed concern about questions from faculty and harassment from the student body towards the GSA.

"For me, coming together to find ways to either stop the questioning and harassment or

valuable community resources. The leadership conference is an opportunity for participants to discuss current social issues they are facing, and network with other GSA members.

Michi Olivo, who also participated in a previous conference, learned valuable information about GSAs and advocacy at the conference.

"I received so much information from the exciting workshops that was beneficial not only for my GSA, but also for self-advocacy and advocacy for others in the LGBT community," Olivo said.

This year's conference will address a range of subjects through workshops and sessions.

"We will have workshops covering topics such as queer pop culture, including the transgender community in GSA work, healthy relationships and LGBT-focused

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Openly gay female boxer from CT overcomes adversity, gives back to community

By: Ashley Mark/TRT Reporter

LONDON, Conn. — Shelito Vincent has struggled against all odds throughout her life and found a renewed purpose in an unlikely source. As an openly gay, female professional boxer from New London, CT, Vincent harnesses her energy to create positive results both inside the ring and within the community.

Vincent may be empowered now, but she faced indescribable horrors in her childhood.

"I was raped repeatedly by a family friend at a young age," Vincent explained about her difficult childhood, "and I also survived prolonged abuse from the children and adults around me."

When she was only 18, Vincent lost her young mother to leukemia. "I fell into a deep depression and had bouts of alcoholism," Vincent recalled. She described this time in her life as "crazy," with thoughts of ending her life to escape her harmful habits and debilitating emotional struggles.

Vincent went to live with her grandparents after her mother passed away. "She was broken for so long after her mother died," said Roberta Vincent, the boxer's grandmother. "But boxing is what keeps her going now and gives her a place to put all her past struggles."

The boxer attributes the sport to offering her an outlet for her pain, providing the therapeutic release she had been searching for. "Boxing is what turned me around and snapped me out of the destructive pattern," Vincent said. She said she had always loved the sport, watching it as a child and mimicking the moves she saw on television. Vincent thrived on the focus and discipline required by boxing, and it encouraged her to live a healthier lifestyle so she could be a successful athlete.

Peter Manfredo, Sr., Vincent's coach, agreed that she is focused on perfecting her craft. "Her strongest asset is her ability to get to the next level, to overcome any obstacle in her path," Manfredo said. "She wants to win and will do whatever it takes to get there."

Manfredo has known Vincent for almost two years, ever since she approached him about coaching her in the sport.

"At first I wasn't that interested," Manfredo explained. "But she promised to work as hard as I wanted, so I agreed and fell in love with her."

Both Manfredo and her grandmother say



Shelito Vincent getting ready to fight. The boxer came from a dark place to light and, according to her, boxing saved her.

that people seem to fall in love with Vincent when they meet her. "She has a personality that is welcoming and inviting, and a smile that's infectious," said Roberta Vincent.

Her personality and steadfast commitment has garnered many fans for Vincent, Manfredo confirmed. "She has a huge following that continues to grow because of the effort she puts into her craft," he said.

The rigor and demands of boxing weren't the only things that helped Vincent turn her life around. "The new family I found in the boxing gyms supported me," Vincent explained. That new family and much-needed support gave Vincent the strength to overcome her opponents in the ring. "When I get in the ring, I take it all out on that person across from me," Vincent described. "Come fight night, they are fighting my past, my demons and [the painful loss of] my mother."

Vincent enjoyed significant success as an amateur boxer with an 11-4 record, according to the profile on her gym's website, the Striking Beauties, winning numerous State and National titles, including a National Golden Gloves Championship in 2011. She made her professional debut in October 2011, and currently holds an impressive 7-0 record.

Being an openly gay woman in a male-dominated sport has its challenges.

"I've come to find that a lot of guys don't know how to deal," Vincent explained. "Do they treat me like one of the guys or like a woman?" At the end of the day, though, they all train hard together, she said. "We are all fighters, part of the same family."

Vincent also faced pressure from her previous coach to change her appearance and present herself as more feminine. "They usually go for the pretty girls, to market their looks, because sex sells," Vincent said. "But I refused and stayed true to myself, and I am the highest ticket seller on my team."

While Vincent feels as though she is more accepted now as an openly gay boxer, she has faced discrimination in the past in her profession. "I have been robbed of decisions in fights for being gay," recalled Vincent. She persevered, trained harder than anyone and believes everything is coming together now, she said.

Vincent focuses on her community and people in need as much as she focuses on her training and professional goals. She does what she can when there are cancer fundraisers, donating

money from her parties and volunteering her time at events that raise money for can-

cer research. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the American Cancer Society are particularly significant for Vincent's philanthropic efforts. "It's important for me to give to them, in honor of my mother," Vincent explained.

Roberta Vincent knows that her granddaughter carries the loss of her mother with her. "She went to her mom's grave after her last fight," her grandmother said. "She always has her mom with her."

At-risk youth are also an important aspect of Vincent's contributions to her community. She frequently visits local schools to speak with kids about anti-bullying, and she is interested in being an at-risk youth counselor. She said she feels it is her responsibility to give back in this respect. "If one person would have talked to me during my situation it would have changed my whole life," Vincent said.

Vincent knows the pain that bullying can cause, and the trouble that retaliation can bring. "I have been bullied because I am gay, but I was a fighter and I fought back," she said. "I got into a lot of trouble for lashing out with my fists and my mouth, I even ended up in jail." She believes in the power of reaching out to someone when you need help and asking for advice instead of letting emotions turn into destructive behavior. This is the advice she gives to students when she speaks out against bullying.

As a trainer at Striking Beauties, she impacts the children she works with by teaching them not to judge by appearances.

"They see that despite my appearance, I am kind and smart."

She is also heavily involved with World Boxing Cares, an organization that promotes anti-bullying. "I am proud to be one of the fighters that they have on call to speak to kids, or support and encourage wherever it's needed," Vincent said. She believes that initiatives like this help change negative attitudes and build stronger character, and can significantly impact the lives of the youth she reaches out to.

Reaching out to troubled youth, support-

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://tinyurl.com/trtshelito2013>

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LGBTQ news from around the country: The good, the bad and the ugly

By: Emily Scagel/TRT Assistant Editor

Albany, NY **NY to introduce transgender nondiscrimination measure**

A bill is making its way in NY state legislature that would protect gender identity and expression from discrimination. This measure would add gender identity to state law that already prohibits discrimination based on race, sexual orientation, age and more. Law enforcement officers testified that this law would help them to act more quickly on threats to head off violence. 16 states and several cities already have this protective law.

Boston, MA **Guidance issued to ensure schools follow transgender nondiscrimination law**

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has issued guidance to ensure that public schools in Massachusetts comply with the new nondiscrimination law that prohibits discrimination against transgender students in all school programs and activities. These guidelines were applauded by advocates, educators, families and youth. The Transgender Equal Rights Law took effect in July 2012 and prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, credit and education.

Funds raised for domestic violence through plunge into Boston harbor

The GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project, formerly the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project, is hosting its annual Winter Plunge fundraiser. This community fundraiser helps to raise awareness about domestic violence, as well as raise funds to provide support and services to survivors. Participants raise money by collecting pledges for plunging into the Boston harbor in costume. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/cm99qfu>.

Colorado Springs, CO **Transgender child faces school discrimination**

The Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund has filed a complaint on behalf of a 6-year-old girl who has been banned from using the girls' bathroom at her elementary school. The first-grader was using the girls' bathroom for the past year, but was told in December by the school district that she would no longer be able to. The Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act prohibits discrimination against transgender students in schools, but the District has refused

to reconsider its decision. The girl's parents have removed her from school and are home schooling her until the issue is resolved. To read more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/cqqu9pr>.

Indianapolis, IN **Facebook page created to applaud and encourage gay youth**

Indiana PFLAG has created the "You Have a Purpose" project, which will use a Facebook page to collect videos submitted to encourage gay youth. The project started after an Indiana teacher said that she believes gays have no purpose in life, and town residents proposed holding a prom that would ban gay students. The organizers of the "You Have a Purpose" campaign said that this is not about the remarks, but about the kids themselves.

Leesburg, FL **School board attempts to ban all non-curricular clubs to prevent GSA formation**

A Florida school board plans to ban all student clubs to prevent the formation of a Gay-Straight Alliance. A group of students at a middle school tried to establish the GSA, saying that it was need to address bullying and harassment in school. In response, the school board began the process to ban all other clubs, instead of following their legal obligation to recognize the GSA.

Montclair, NJ **Coalition formed to end bullying and support marriage equality**

The HRC and Garden State Equality have formed a coalition of LGBT, civil rights, labor, progressive and faith organizations in an effort to win equality and end bullying in New Jersey. The coalition will work to win statewide, bipartisan support for marriage equality, and also includes anti-bullying work in schools.

New York, NY **Report details experiences of LGBT student athletes**

GLSEN has released a research brief detailing the experiences of LGBT student athletes. The brief, The Experiences of LGBT Students in School Athletics, shows that students may greatly benefit from participating in school athletics, but they also experience negative harassment and discrimination. Findings uncover four key concerns, including that LGBT students may be underrepresented on sports teams and may not fully be supported by athletic staff and policies, but the study also shows that LGBT student athletes report better academic

and mental health outcomes.

Princeton, NJ **Study shows distribution of LGBT adults in each state**

Gallup has released a poll and report based on a survey of the percentage of U.S. adults who identify as LGBT in each state. The results reveal that all states are within two percentage points of the nationwide average of 3.5 percent. This study is the largest single study of LGBT population distribution, and the first time that a study has had enough participants to provide estimates per state. The report showed that states with high percentages tended to be more liberal and foster more supportive LGBT legal climates. Hawaii had the largest percentage, while North Dakota had the lowest.

Providence, RI **RI Bar Association endorses gay marriage**

The RI Bar Association, which represents RI's licensed attorneys, has endorsed gay marriage. Both the association's executive committee and the House of Delegates have endorsed the legislation, which is awaiting consideration in the Senate and has passed the state's House of Representatives. The decision may hinge on an exemption that allows religious leaders who oppose gay marriage to not participate in same-sex marriages.

Salt Lake City, Utah **School district settles lawsuit, agrees to not restrict access to library books**

A school district in Utah has agreed to never again remove a children's book about a family with same-sex parents from its library shelves. This is in response to a lawsuit filed by the ACLU and the ACLU of Utah on behalf of a mother with children in the district. The mother who filed the challenged said that no one should be able to tell other people's children what they can and cannot read. Originally, the district had restricted access to a children's book about a family with two mothers.

San Francisco, CA **Fund helps undocumented LGBT youth**

A fund made possible by over four dozen LGBT organizations will help LGBT undocumented youth receive work permits and reprieves from the threat of deportation. Obama created a program to enable those who came to the U.S. as children to apply for work permits and deportation relief. In response, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the LA Gay & Lesbian Center and the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund launched the "LGBT DREAMers Fund" that will help pay for the fees to apply for relief under Obama's program. Over \$100,000 has been raised so far, and 160 LGBT DREAMers have received financial assistance.

Springfield, IL **Illinois passes same-sex marriage bill in the Senate**

The Illinois Senate has passed a bill extending marriage equality to gay and lesbian couples. This bill poises Illinois to become the 10th state to recognize marriage for gay and lesbian couples, and the bill will move to the House for a vote. Marriage equality legislation has been endorsed by every major newspaper in Illinois, and 50 of the state's most prominent business leaders and corporations have called on the General Assembly to pass the bill.

Washington, D.C. **AIDS United awards nationwide grants for HIV programming**

AIDS United, in partnership from the MAC AIDS Fund, is awarding \$1 million in grants to seven organizations nationwide for their Retention in Care Initiative. This money will be used to help define and expand programming that helps to keep HIV-positive people in care and on treatment. Retention in care is critical to fighting HIV, as treatment is proven effective in prolonging lives and in reducing transmission. Even so, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention estimates that only 41% of individuals living with HIV are retained in care.

Act reintroduced to reform immigration law to include gays and lesbians

Representatives have reintroduced the Uniting American Families Act that would allow gay and lesbian Americans to sponsor their partners for legal residency. This right is currently only for married heterosexuals under United States immigration law. It is being asserted in Congress that any legislative proposal for immigration reform must include equality for LGBT families.

Boy Scouts charged with more anti-gay discrimination

Boy Scouts of America has been charged with new acts of anti-gay discrimination. The BSA job application explicitly states that they will not employ known or avowed homosexuals. This language contradicts the organizations practice of not inquiring about employees' sexual orientation. HRC's president stated that the Boy Scouts must do more to end this discrimination and send a message to youth that there is nothing wrong with being gay. GLAAD president said that the organization is becoming defined by discrimination, instead of focusing on scouting.

Gay and lesbian military families to receive some equal benefits

The Pentagon has announced that it will extend a slate of equal benefits to gay and lesbian military families over the coming months. The announcement guarantees some, but not all, of the benefits provided to straight military members. DOMA still prevents full equality to gay and lesbian service members and their families.

Obama called upon by senators for non-discrimination executive order

Thirty-seven U.S. senators are calling for a ban on discrimination in hiring on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The senators sent a letter to the president, urging him to issue a non-discrimination executive order. It is legal to fire or not hire someone based on their sexual orientation in 29 states, and based on gender identity in 34 states, because of a lack of federal protection. To read more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/cb325us>.

Wilmington, DE **Delaware labor unions endorse same-sex marriage**

Three major labor unions in Delaware have endorsed marriage equality. These unions represent 40,000 Delawareans and say they will support a marriage equality bill once it is introduced in the General Assembly this session. The president of Equality Delaware stated that this support makes it clear that this is the year for marriage equality in Delaware. The support of organized labor has been a crucial part of the passage of marriage equality bills in a number of state legislatures and winning ballot measures. Delaware Governor also fully supports a same-sex marriage bill.



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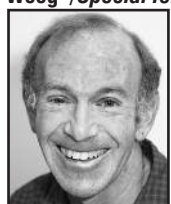
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The OutField: U.S. Soccer, and all that trans Jazz

By: Dan Woog*/Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



Born a male, Jazz began to live as a girl at a young age. Thanks to supportive parents, she was well-adjusted and happy – except

for one thing. For more than two years, the Florida Youth Soccer Association prohibited her from competing as a female player.

Her birth certificate said she was a boy. Her passport called her a boy. FYSA would not budge.

Jazz and her parents took their case up through various administrative levels. When it got to the U.S. Soccer Federation, the board of directors almost unanimously agreed to let her play as a girl.

Then, U.S. Soccer set about devising a formal policy, to cover future transgender players, too.

It sounds like a straightforward case of a clear-thinking, objective board making a decision based both on 21st-century realities, and what's right for athletes who have not had a voice or advocates in the past.

And it is. But U.S. Soccer's decision is very rare. In fact, it may be the only national sports governing body with a blanket policy covering transgender athletes.

Shortly after voting to allow Jazz – then 11 years old – to play as a female, U.S. Soccer appointed a committee to study the broader issue of transgender soccer players. The chair was Dr. S. Robert Contiguglia. A former president of the organization, and a noted Colorado nephrologist, he and the committee pored through an enormous amount of literature and scientific data.

They studied what other sports bodies

Then Contiguglia brought three outside experts to an all-day meeting in Chicago. Led by Helen Carroll – sports project director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights – the trio helped the US Soccer task force understand the broad spectrum of sexuality.

It was not difficult. "By the time we got in the room, they were already pretty well versed on everything," Carroll says.

The result was a draft of a policy that,

undergone surgery to compete as a different gender. "The trend in the U.S. is toward chemical transition," Contiguglia notes.

After U.S. Soccer passed its policy – with only a few concerns from youth representatives – it was posted on the organization's website. The next step is formal ratification by the national council at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. Contiguglia expects little opposition.

"As a physician, having had transgender patients, this was all pretty clear to me," the committee chair says. "There were some misperceptions that someone born a male would have an unfair competitive advantage playing against girls. But that's not true."

As the coach of an Under-13 boys team, Contiguglia says, he regularly sees girls the same age who are "6 inches taller than our guys."

An important part of U.S. Soccer's policy is educating its members about transgender issues. "We haven't taken that step yet," Contiguglia notes. "That comes next."

"U.S. Soccer did this the right way," Carroll says. "They set up a task force and are going through the legislative process."

"They're the first large sports organization to put a policy into place that includes all recreational athletes, in every state. I hope this is a model for all other organizations, and that when they look at it, they'll see how well it works."

Soccer's national governing body was not looking to be a leader in transgender sports, Contiguglia says. But when the issue arose – thanks to Jazz in Florida – the organization responded.

So far, no other groups have asked for U.S. Soccer's advice. "This is not the only thing we do," Contiguglia explains. "But I think it's important we've done it. And we're happy to share what we know with anyone who asks."

**Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is "We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars." He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.*

Shortly after voting to allow Jazz – then 11 years old – to play as a female, U.S. Soccer appointed a committee to study the broader issue of transgender soccer players.

were doing about trans issues. Most were silent. The United States Olympic Committee, for example, has no policy. The International Olympic Committee (IOC), meanwhile, has what Contiguglia calls "draconian" rules.

Contiguglia says, can be boiled down to a few simple words: "We don't discriminate. We accept who you say you are, so long as you follow the rules."

The policy lists a variety of ways for players to identify themselves. Those include government documents like passports (which the United States issues to trans-identified individuals), and notes from doctors.

If there is a challenge to a player's gender identity, it is heard immediately by a U.S. Soccer-appointed committee. There are no intermediate steps, involving club, state and regional levels.

"It's a self-determination policy," Contiguglia says. "The bottom line is we want all athletes to be able to play."

The policy does not apply to national team members. As a member of both the IOC and FIFA – soccer's international governing body – U.S. Soccer must abide by their rules.

IOC policy says that an athlete must have

To cook is to love: A foodie's journal; chocolate for spring

By: John Verlinden*/Special to TRT

iMUCHO GUSTO!



Last month we had a solid week of single digit temperatures followed by 30 inches of snow with hurricane force winds. Welcome to life here at the North Pole, I mean New

England. It was a little rough, but fortunately, winter is just about over. That famous weather predicting groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, said so. He didn't see his shadow this year, so spring is just around the corner. This St. Patty's Day, we'll probably be outside in our swimsuits and flip-flops barbecuing our corned beef on the grill, and enjoying our boiled dinner and green beer on the patio. So, don't wait, get your hot chocolate fix while you can.

I hope the computer models, TV meteorologists and the National Weather Service were listening when Phil made his prediction, but whether March is a lion or a lamb, a cup of steaming hot chocolate is always a crowd pleaser.

Hot Chocolate - Serves: 8

• 6 ounces dark bittersweet chocolate (splurge on a good one with high cacao content)

• 1 cup sugar
• 3 teaspoons cornstarch
• 2 quarts skim milk
• pinch salt



• 8 marshmallows (optional)

1. Break the chocolate bar into pieces, add the sugar and cornstarch and place in a large saucepan with 2 cups of the milk.

2. Cook slowly over low heat and bring the mixture to a boil stirring regularly with a whisk until chocolate is dissolved and mixture is smooth.

3. Add the remaining milk, stir to combine and continue cooking until thoroughly heated, about 3 more minutes.

4. Remove from heat and beat vigorously with the whisk until the chocolate is frothy.
5. Pour into mugs and serve immediately, garnishing tops with marshmallows as desired.

Just in case the groundhog's prediction doesn't quite work out, a cup of this hot yummy treat really will make the snow shoveling a little less troublesome. And, if he's right ... no problem, this chocolate is delicious iced.

**Share your thoughts, 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!



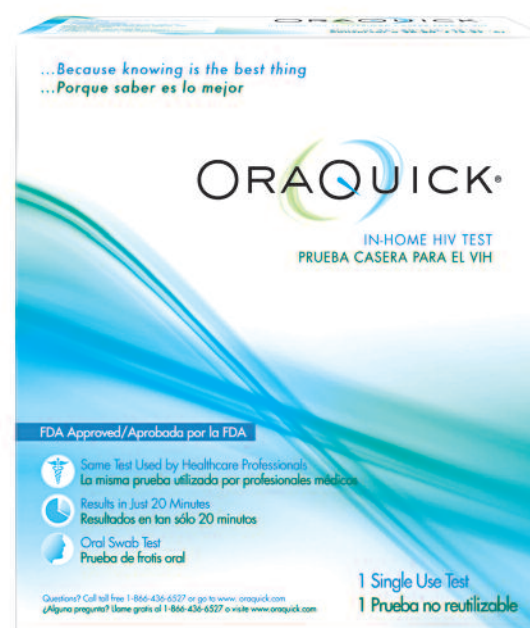
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