

# The Rainbow Times

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

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**FREE!**

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Opinions

# Clinton raises the bar

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

Sen. Hillary Clinton has recently challenged her opponent, Sen. Barack Obama to a debate, Lincoln-Douglas style. Essentially, this means that the candidates would be at liberty to ask each other questions with out having a moderator present. After the last debate before the Pennsylvania Primary, Obama's campaign complained about the moderators being too hard on him, thus stimulating Clinton's proposal. Perhaps Sen. Obama would agree to a debate without a moderator since that was a chief complaint from the Obama camp.

This challenge to me, speaks largely to Clintons convictions, her certainty, her ability, and quite honestly her intelligence, to use a debate forum to assist in propelling her numbers higher in the polls and in her popularity as we head into an increasingly important democratic primary on May 6th, Indiana. This should not be a threatening forum for Obama. If he truly is prepared to be Commander-in-Chief, as he claims that experience doesn't matter, he should be able to answer Clinton's

tough questions. After all, she has been through the ringer so to speak.

Throughout this primary season and throughout the course of the past 14 months, for those of you who have been following politics closely, Clinton has delivered speech after speech, offerings specific solutions to the problems that our country faces, contrary to Obama. I would like both candidates to debate again and I would like to hear precisely how Obama plans to solve the nations problems because all I've heard thus far are general terms used to define general problems. Doubtfully, the debate will happen since Obama refuses to debate during this critical moment. If Obama is the presumptive nominee, what in the world will happen in November against the Republican think tank? A McCain victory and a third Bush term ... I say let's debate!

Share your thoughts.

Send a letter to the Editor.  
editor@TheRainbowTimesNews.com

Read TRT's Own Trans Column on Page 4

# Love, Rights ... and the Rest of It!

By: JM Sorrell\*/TRT Columnist

May is here. In pre-Christian Europe, May 1 marked the first day of summer, and the June event was known as the mid-summer Solstice. With everything blooming after a long and fairly cold winter, it certainly feels as though life is being created all over again.

May 1 is also International Worker's Day to commemorate the Haymarket martyrs of 1886. Although the observance of this day began with a United States event, it was intentionally named "Loyalty Day" and downplayed in significance by Congress in 1958 because of its association with communism. Ironically, it is celebrated all over the world, and our Labor day was placed in September.

Isolationist policies seem to run deep in the United States; however, we can do things to counter this. Go to [www.thelovefoundation.com](http://www.thelovefoundation.com) to learn about Global Love Day—also on May 1. This is the 5th annual event with the following principles: "We are one humanity on this planet. All life is interconnected and interdependent. Love begins with self-acceptance and forgiveness. With tolerance and compassion, we embrace diversity."

Continue the love fest at the annual Northampton LGBT Pride March on May 3. It kicks off the Pride March season, which is most heavily concentrated in June throughout the U.S. and abroad. The world is with us here, too, as the Stonewall Riots (June 27-29, 1969) are most often quoted as the beginning of a lesbian/gay civil rights movement with global effect. Now, when will WE catch up with THEM (Canada and most of Europe) for full civil rights?!

Next comes Cinco de Mayo (the 5th of May). Besides being an excuse for good margaritas and Mexican food, the holiday is sig-

nificant for both Mexico and the United States. By 1862, Mexico had been liberated from Spanish rule for five decades, and yet the French arrived under the pretense of "visitor," with the intention of taking over.



J.M. the JP

Outnumbered (at least 2-1) and out armed, the Mexican army nonetheless used strategy to catch the French off-guard and to soundly defeat them near Mexico City. This in turn prevented the French from continuing to supply arms to the Confederate Army. Union forces rushed to the Texas/Mexican border to provide weapons and ammunition, and American soldiers were discharged complete with uniforms and rifles to fight alongside the Mexican army. It was just 14 months later that the Civil War ended. Thank you, Mexico.

Mother's Day was originally a gathering day to call for pacifism and disarmament by mothers whose sons fought on opposite sides of the Civil War.

Memorial Day was first observed in 1865 by liberated slaves at a site that had been a Confederate prison camp and mass grave for Union soldiers. Freed blacks and Union soldiers had a picnic and sang songs. It got its official name in 1967, having been expanded in definition to commemorate soldiers who served in all United States wars.

The fundamental roots of these holidays include principles of love, peace and justice. Is this why there's a spring in my step? Love is in the air and a new wedding season has arrived.

\* J.M. Sorrell is a Justice of the Peace in Northampton, Massachusetts. She loves the love season.

# The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something

By: Suzan Ambrose\*/TRT Columnist



"Feelings ... trying to forget my ... feelings of love ..." so the old song goes. And if certain individuals at the American Psychiatric Association (APA) have their way, it may be more than feelings they'd like gays and lesbians to forget. Like, just forget all about being gay and move on

send me back out onto the streets, with the promise that I am exactly the same, only better, than before. It's just that my left-hand turn signal doesn't work anymore. Only problem is, my car wants to turn left. And so do I.

So, get this. In a few days, the American Psychiatric Association's annual convention

**I see the downside here, and it is the existence of us. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans. And a panel of people that appear to be threatening, at the very least, to make sure we are categorized as a disease, a mental illness that needs to be "fixed" once again.**

... "I can almost hear it now: "Straight Land ... Up Ahead! Everybody get off at the Next Stop!"

"What?" you ask. "Didn't the APA remove homosexuality from its Manual of Mental Disorders over thirty years ago?" Well, we all thought this issue was put to rest then, but SURPRISE! It's back!

"Reparative therapy," they're calling it now; just another word for conversion therapy. Repair me, like a broken down car. And

will present a symposium titled "Homosexuality and Therapy: The Religious Dimension" (not to be confused with the Fifth Dimension of "Up, Up and Away!" fame). The panel will include New Hampshire Bishop Gene Robinson, Reverend Dr. Albert Mohler and a psychologist without state board certification, Dr. Warren Thockmorton, an advocate for "Sexual Identity Therapy," which, he says, he has successfully (?) applied in helping patients "alter homosexual feelings or behaviors" and live their lives "heterosexually" with "only very few weak instances of homosexual attraction."

Uh-huh. Ok, let's look a little closer at these panelists, sanctioned and approved by the APA. Gene Robinson is better known as the first out-of-the-closet, elected gay bishop in the Episcopal Church.

See Couch on Page 20

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,  
The Margaret Cho story was great. Awesome Rainbow Times!

Tamara S., Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,  
The Anyone & Everyone story was really touching. I wish there were more documentaries like this one.

Reed M., West Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,  
The Trans coverage in The Times is incredible. I've never seen such a presence in any other LGBT newspaper. Usually the T's are left out. Thank you.

Helen S., Northampton, MA

Dear Editor,  
The Suicide Mission article was very well written. I think the author didn't choose cowardice, he chose the real challenge, which is to live as a member of the gay community, as a gay man and all that this entails, as we well know.

—Joe W., Schenectady, NY

Dear Editor,  
Great coverage on the CT pages. I see that there's more to read from our area, though you always have tons to read that pertains to the Queer community.

—Sean T., Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,  
I am with the reader who thinks that if Northampton Pride is for the LGBT community, why is there a T Pride? Should we then just have an LGB or fight only for the LGB's from now on? I mean, come on!

—Doug M., Northampton, MA

Dear Editor,  
We loved Anyone & Everyone and went and bought a few copies of the film. The article that followed it was very informative and we use it to let others know about our desire to motivate others to join us in our PFLAG chapter.

—Jackie S., Hartford, CT

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# Pride FAQ'S: Northampton, Connecticut and Trans Pride

## Northampton Pride March and Rally

Northampton Pride is being held on May 3, 2008 from noon – 5p.m. The Pride March commences at Lampron Park and will end at the Rally site, the large Armory Street parking lot, behind Thornes Marketplace in downtown Northampton, Mass. This year's theme is "Vote with Pride."

This year's Pride will have tons of vendors, merchants, and displays that attendees will be certainly to get a kick out of. Special features include a photo shoot with Democratic Party's candidates (full-size) Hillary Clinton, and Barack Obama!

An excellent entertainment line-up is put into place and includes headliners Kirsten Price and Brian Kent and several other hot artists such as Carrie Ashton; The Jesse Molina band; Lenelle Moise; Lord Russ as "Queen Elvis;" the Wicked Queeah Band; Laura Wood, Mayra Casales, & Wendy Sobel and Off Beat Women's Drumming Ensemble. There will also be guest appearances by Lipstick & Dipstick, and Rachel Maddow.

It is still not too late to volunteer! To become a volunteer for the day of the event, e-mail Lisa Downing at blissfulsunshine@yahoo.com For all other information, please contact Northampton Pride at info@northamptonpride.org, call 413-586-5602 or visit Pride online at www.NorthamptonPride.org.



The Connecticut Pride Rally and Festival will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at Elizabeth Park in Hartford, Conn. The theme of this year's Rally and Festival is "What Have You Done Today to Make You Feel Proud?"

This year, you can expect a wide variety of family fun, great food and entertainment, vendors, speakers, and much more!

Hosted by Barbara Seville, you can count on fabulous entertainment that features mega hit recording artist, Abigail, Carrie Ashton, Arlene Wow, Jen Talyor and Sweet. Other artists include Shaded Soul, The Hartford Harlettes, Lady Tatiana, Least Complicated, and The King St. Boiz

Connecticut Pride is actively seeking volunteers. If you would like to help produce Connecticut's largest LGBTI event, email info@connecticutpride.org or call

860.225.5122 for more information.

Visit CT Pride online at [www.connecticut-pride.org/](http://www.connecticut-pride.org/) (no hyphen) to sign up to receive their e-newsletter or to join the Pride eGroup on Yahoo.

## New England Trans Pride

The first New England Transgender Pride March and Rally will be held on June 7, 2008 in Northampton, MA. The March begins at the Bridge Street School (Lampron Park) and will end at the Armory Street lot behind Thornes Marketplace.

According to the New England Transgender Pride website, [www.transpridemarch.org](http://www.transpridemarch.org), the event is organized by members of the Trans and gender variant community, and their allies, with the intent of taking a visible and positive stand for transgender rights.

A superb variety of rally speakers and entertainers at this grassroots March and Rally include; Rally MC, Louis Mitchell-Villon, Trans Pride Grand Marshal: Miss Major, Monica Roberts, Moonhawk River Stone, Alex Pangborn, Ethan St. Pierre, Leslie Feinberg, Imani Henry, Kate Bornstein, Jill Meredith, Berlin, Ph.D., Joe Stevens (of Coyote Grace), Gunner Scott, Dr. Enoch Page, Jacklyn Matts, Dru Levasseur, Bet Power, Marie Ali, Elliot Holloway, Donna Rose, Vickie Boisseau, Jerimarie Liesegang, Lee Elder, Ellen Wittlinger, Cathy Worthley, and All The Kings Men: Boston's Drag Troupe.

An array of vendors will also be present this inaugural Pride event and will offer merchandise and services directly related to the benefit and interest of the Trans community.

For more information about New England Trans Pride, to volunteer, or to become a vendor or sponsor at this historic event, visit their website at [www.transpridemarch.org](http://www.transpridemarch.org).

## Capital Pride '08

This year Capital Pride kicks off at 12 noon on June 8th, rain or shine, and if you'd like to march at the parade, or enter a float, please fill out the parade registration form (found at the [www.cdglcc.org](http://www.cdglcc.org)) and join the fun! The parade steps off at noon in Washington Park, at the intersection of Sprague and State Streets. From there we will march down State Street, over Lark Street, up Madison Avenue and back into the park at the intersection of Madison and New Scotland Avenues.

The festival will begin immediately following the parade so plan to stay for the entire afternoon. There will be fabulous entertainment on the festival stage and activities for the entire family! The entertainment line-up will be announced soon, please visit: [www.cdglcc.org](http://www.cdglcc.org)

Capital Pride is looking for volunteers. To volunteer, contact: Cathi Juliano at [capitalpride2008@cdglcc.org](mailto:capitalpride2008@cdglcc.org), or call the CDGLCC at: 518-462-6138.

## Connecticut Pride Rally and Festival

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## In 'The Name of God'

# Top church court reviews gay marriage case

By: Bruce Schreiner/AP Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—The volatile issue of gay marriage reached the highest realms of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Friday, when the top church court reviewed the case of a longtime minister found guilty of violating denominational law for officiating at the weddings of two lesbian couples.

During a two-hour hearing, an attorney for the Rev. Jane Spahr said the now-retired California minister committed no offense and followed her conscience when she married two lesbian couples in 2004 and 2005.

"This is a community of faith that knows well that all of its members are equal in God's eyes," attorney Sara Taylor said during the hearing at denominational headquarters in Louisville.

In arguing against Spahr's action, Stephen Taber, an attorney for the Presbytery of the

Redwoods, which oversees denominational churches from north of San Francisco to the Oregon border, said the case was a difficult one because Spahr is respected and church opinion is split on gay-rights matters.

But he said the church constitution defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

"No one in this church is above the law," he said.

Spahr, 65, was found guilty last year by a regional judicial committee and was given a rebuke—the lightest possible punishment. That ruling reversed a lower church court's decision.

Spahr appealed to the church's top court, and the gray-haired grandmother sat calmly during the hearing.

Afterward, Taylor said a ruling in their favor would represent a "turning point" for the nearly 2.3 million-member Protestant denomination, which like some other main-

line denominations has struggled to stay unified amid differences over sexuality issues.

"This can be the first time that the Presbyterian Church stands for the full inclusion of all of its members," Taylor said in an interview.

Spahr, who was ordained in 1974 and retired, last year, was upbeat after the hearing, saying, "This is about real people. This is about ... people's real love for one another."

Taber said he worried a ruling for Spahr would cause a deeper rift within the denomination, which has lost some conservative congregations amid tense debates over sexuality and interpretation of Scripture.

"There are substantial numbers of people who are disaffected," Taber said.

The top church court is expected to issue a ruling early next week.

The two lesbian couples married by Spahr attended the hearing Friday and were recog-

nized by Taylor.

"Nowhere will you find two couples more committed to each other," Taylor said.

Taylor told the church court there is no mention of same-gender ceremonies in the church constitution. She said Spahr presided over the weddings of the lesbian couples as a "right of conscience" and out of her efforts to minister to the "marginalized."

Taber said in an interview that the church allows "a great range of freedom of conscience," but added, "if there's a standard, you have to comply with it."

While the church constitution reserves marriage for a man and a woman, the top Presbyterian court ruled in 2000 ministers can bless same-sex unions as long as the ceremonies are not called a marriage and don't mimic traditional weddings.

## Paradise City Arts Festival: Back in Northampton, Mass.

There's no better way to spend Memorial Day Weekend than with a trip to Northampton's "Springtime in Paradise," just named the #1 art fair in America and surely the most exciting juried show and sale of museum-quality craft, art and sculpture in New England. Welcome the 250 artists traveling from thirty states, and enjoy this extraordinary opportunity to furnish your home, fill your closet and decorate your walls with artful delights in every media and price range.

Founded by artists, and produced from an artist's perspective, the outstanding selection of work and the creative swirl of activities all weekend make this spring's Paradise City Arts Festival in Northampton one-of-a-kind.

There's always something new, and this spring Paradise City brings performances for

the whole family into the mix! New Century Theatre and PaintBox Theatre share the stage in the red Morgan Building 20, alternating a series of one-act plays and collaborative children's theater. Plus, you'll see the works of 55 artists making their Northampton debuts in every media, from paintings and sculpture to glass, weaving and ceramics. Enjoy a wide selection of exciting activities, like "The Paradise City Collection", a Silent and Live Art Auction to benefit WGBY Public Television, or a host of artful projects hosted by the Fiber Art Center. Go "green" and help construct a huge globe made of recycled materials!

Cool Jazz and Fabulous Food Dine to the artful sounds of live music, from swinging vocals and solo sax to sizzling Latin Tango.

**What:**  
250 competitively juried artists from 30 states exhibiting original works.  
**Where:**  
All indoors and under tents, rain or shine Three County Fairgrounds • Rte 9 & Old Ferry Rd. Northampton, MA: I-91 at Exit 19 or 20.  
**When:**  
May 24, 25 & 26, Memorial Day Weekend; Saturday and Sunday, 10am-6pm; Monday, 10am-5pm  
**Admission:** Adults: \$12. Seniors/Students \$8. Weekend Pass: \$15. Under 12: free. Free Parking! Group discounts available.

The mouth-watering food, offered up by some of Northampton's finest chefs, includes

two exciting new restaurants this spring. The Outdoor Sculpture Garden & Courtyard From birdbaths, fountains and handmade outdoor seating to large-scale sculpture, Paradise City's lush Sculpture Garden is a wellspring of fantastic ideas for your home landscape. Cast your vote for the "People's Choice Awards for Outstanding Outdoor Art."

And there is more! After the Festival, be sure to visit Northampton itself, declared "The Best Small Art Town in America" and "New England's Restaurant Central". Come and enjoy all that Paradise City has to offer!

For more information, please contact Linda H. Post, Founding Director at [lpost@paradisecityarts.com](mailto:lpost@paradisecityarts.com) (no hyphen), or call 800.511.9725 x102.

## Sisterhood: Life is tough enough without having support systems

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw  
TRT Columnist

Sisterhood  
It's the fourth Thursday of the month and it's the second monthly meeting for UniTy, a Springfield Transgender group. I live right off 91 so some of the CT gals stop at my place to ride up together. Tonight I met Daisy from NYC. She was happy, pretty and full of fun. She had a star like presence about her. She was, indeed, a happy girl but she told me something that made me feel saddened/puzzled/scared. She told me of the days when girls did not really support one another. The girl who just started hormones was not to even talk to a girl who has had her surgery. I thought, how sad! Life is tough enough without some kind of a support system, Trannie life or not.

Five of us went to the UniTy meeting and met the other girls. There's no class differentiation here. There is actually a feeling of Sisterhood here. I remember of talking to 3 of my girlfriends and reminiscing about the "old" (3 years ago!) days when we were all partying Cross dressers with the Hartford/Springfield Girls' Night Out group. From Straight to Cross dresser to Full-Time, we all went at roughly the same time. I guess you might say we all "grew up" together.

Now, when you come out you tend to hang with people who also came out around the same time. You grow friendships from the sharing of learning about your new life together, going through the same stages at the same time. Talking to each other and asking for advice and sharing and laughing and emoting. It's kind of like a Trannie cohort

group. There is sharing and laughing and caring. There is definitely a feeling of Sisterhood emerging!

I have seen the Transgender Community grow into a real support system for each other. The seasoned girls will help the newbie's and actually talk to them! We know that it's tough enough out there and we shudder to think of what a lot of girls went through before us. For this I feel indebted to the Sisters who went before me in not so nice times. It was they who broke the barriers for

us and it will be us who break down the class system for the next group of Trannies.

Today, you see people coming out as Transgender. We are visible and into the mainstream now. It's all part of Transgender Culture and History unfolding right now in front of our eyes. It's fresh, it's exhilarating! It's confidence. Finally!

Spring is here and so is the Pride Season. Our hope has held out and was rewarded by a much welcomed blast of summer. It feels good to be alive; and LGBT and Sisterhood have reached the Transgender Community! Yay! I hear that the boys (female to male Transgenders) are doing better too!

"No one can make you feel inferior without your permission."—Eleanor Roosevelt

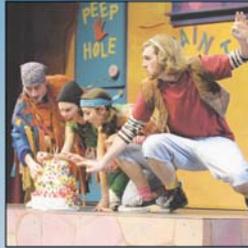


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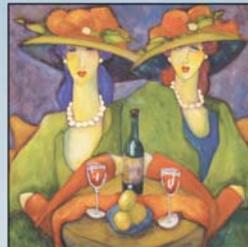
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## LGBT News

# Massachusetts transgender activists lobby Congress for inclusive ENDA

By: Tynan Power  
TRT Reporter & Columnist

On April 15th, the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) conducted its Lobby Day 2008. At the lobby day, activists gathered from around the country to talk to Congress members about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and to urge support for a version of ENDA that includes gender identity. I joined several other Massachusetts transgender activists in DC for the event.

During the lobby training, we learned why the House of Representatives passed a version of ENDA that doesn't include gender identity, instead of the inclusive ENDA most LGBT advocacy group's support. Congressional leaders said it was not clear the inclusive bill would pass. Mara Keisling, the executive director of NCTE, believes that was an oversimplification.

"There was never any question that [gender-inclusive] ENDA would pass," Keisling said at the training. According to Keisling, the bill's sponsors feared opponents would try a complicated maneuver to block it by targeting the gender identity language. She likened the preemptive removal of gender identity to "gnawing off your leg—in case you go into the woods and get stuck in a bear trap."

The limited version of ENDA places members of Congress in a no-win position: oppose it and appear to condone discrimination, or



Diego Sanchez (first transgender person on the DNC) of Boston, Tynan Power, Holly Ryan (Chair of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, MTPC), Gunner Scott (Director of MTPC), and Ethan St. Pierre of Haverhill.

Photo by: Tynan Power

support it and come under fire from both conservatives and transgender allies within—and

beyond—the LGBT community.

During the lobby event, I spoke with staff members in the offices of Senator Kennedy (D-MA) and Representative Richard Neal (D-MA, 2nd District). They were well-acquainted with the need to enact ENDA and receptive to gender-inclusion. Senator Kennedy's counsel promised to take our concerns back to him—and Representative Neal's chief of staff assured me of the same.

Senator Kennedy is expected to submit a version of the limited ENDA to the Senate, which has raised concerns. Yet after hearing speakers from NCTE and other organizations, as well as talking with Senator Kennedy's staff, it seems clear that no one believes any version of ENDA will be signed into law by the current president. Whatever happens this year, all eyes will be on next year's Congress—and our next president.

## Senate backs anti-discrimination bill for gays and lesbians

By: Colleen Slevin/AP Writer

DENVER—The Senate gave initial backing to expanding anti-discrimination protections for gays and lesbians on Friday.

The measure (Senate Bill 200) takes the state's current anti-discrimination laws and adds sexual orientation to the list of things, such as race or national origin, that can't be considered. It would be illegal to deny gays and lesbians everything from apartment rentals and a seat in a restaurant to burial plots.

The debate in the Senate was tense at times. To make his argument that there isn't a record of discrimination against gay people, Sen. Greg Brophy, R-Wy, jokingly offered

an amendment to change the bill into one protecting short people. Brophy, who stands 5-foot-6, then withdrew it.

Bill sponsor Sen. Jennifer Veiga, who is a lesbian, took offense.

"It must be nice to sit back as a white male and mock the discrimination many Americans feel based on sexual orientation," Veiga said.

Brophy then went to the microphone to apologize, saying he didn't mean to be offensive.

Sen. Shawn Mitchell, R-Broomfield, said civil rights legislation was passed to protect black Americans because they historically had fewer educational and economic opportunities. He said gays and lesbians generally en-

See Senate on Page 7

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# Democrats eye bill to protect gays, end war

By: Anne Flaherty/AP Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—A senior Senate Democrat said last week that he wants to use a major defense policy bill to expand federal hate crimes laws to protect gays, bring troops home from Iraq and force Baghdad to pay more toward reconstruction costs.

The effort would raise the flag on major issues favored by the party's base. But only the reconstruction provision is considered to have a chance at passing—and even that proposal's prospects would depend heavily on Republican cooperation.

Slim margins in Congress, particularly in the Senate where 60 votes are needed to overcome procedural hurdles, have kept Democrats from enacting much of their legislative agenda since taking control last year.

Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, suggested Democrats will try anyway, starting with a measure that would prohibit U.S. money from being spent on reconstruction and possibly other war-related costs. Levin, D-Mich., who plans to meet this week with Defense Secretary Robert Gates on the issue, says Iraq should use its massive oil profits to cover rebuilding efforts.



GOP lawmakers have signaled a willingness to back such a measure, depending on how it is written. Republican Sens. Susan Collins, Bob Corker of Tennessee and Judd

Gregg of New Hampshire have proposed separate proposals that call for Iraq or its neighbors to pay more for reconstruction.

Levin's measure would be proposed as part of the 2009 defense authorization bill, policy legislation that guides defense spending and the acquisition and management of all military programs.

The Democratic chairman also said he hopes a broader hate-crimes law becomes part of the debate. Last year, Democrats tried to attach a similar measure to the defense authorization bill but backed down after Republican protests threatened to sink the bill.

"Diversity and tolerance and hate crimes runs smack against what the men and women of the American armed forces fight for," Levin told reporters Tuesday.

In addition, Democrats are expected to revive legislation that would force President Bush to withdraw troops from Iraq by a certain date. Levin said this proposal could be offered on the defense authorization bill, or earlier when the Senate considers a separate war spending bill.

Democrats have repeatedly failed to pass such legislation in the past, falling short of the

60 votes needed in the Senate.

The committee plans to complete the defense authorization bill by the end of next week, with a floor vote expected by the end of May.

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FMI: [www.connecticutpride.org/](http://www.connecticutpride.org/)

**New England Trans Pride;** June 7  
FMI: [www.transpridemarch.org/](http://www.transpridemarch.org/)

**Capital Pride;** May 29th - June 8  
FMI: [www.cdglcc.org](http://www.cdglcc.org)

**Toronto Pride;** June 20-29  
FMI: [www.pridetoronto.com/](http://www.pridetoronto.com/)

**NYC Pride;** June 22-29  
FMI: [www.hopinyc.org/](http://www.hopinyc.org/)

**Pride Vermont;** July 7 -13  
FMI: [www.pridevt.com/blog/tag/parade/](http://www.pridevt.com/blog/tag/parade/)

Senate from p. 6

oy a higher level of income and education. Veiga said someone can still be discriminated against even if they are well-off. Mitchell said he thought the real aim of the measure was to have the government weigh in on the side of gays and lesbians.

"This is symbolic politics elevated above real need," he said.

The bill originally would have also prohibited discrimination on the basis of religion but that was removed. Veiga said existing law already outlaws discrimination based on creed, which she said is syn-

onymous with religion.

Last year, the Legislature passed a bill protecting gays and lesbians from being fired from their jobs because of their sexual orientation.

# The Rainbow Times

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## Queer Organization News

### Groups Advocating for LGBT Rights urge D.A. to charge alleged Lawrence King murderer as a minor, not an adult

"We call on prosecutors not to compound this tragedy with another wrong."

Los Angeles, CA—A coalition of 27 groups fighting for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights today is urging Ventura County prosecutors to try 14-year-old Brandon McInerney in juvenile court, and not as an adult. McInerney has been charged as an adult in the February 12 murder of his E.O. Green Middle School classmate, 15-year-old Lawrence King. Students say McInerney targeted King because the victim was openly gay and because he wore women's jewelry and makeup.

LGBT civil rights organizations, including Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Transgender Law Center, have delivered a short statement to Ventura County District Attorney Gregory D. Totten, calling on him to try McInerney as a juvenile.

"We are saddened and outraged by the murder of junior high school student Lawrence King," the statement reads. "At the same time, we call on prosecutors not to compound this tragedy with another wrong—we call on them to treat the suspect as a juvenile, not as an adult."

"The facts in this matter seem clear: one boy killed another in a climate of intolerance

and fear about sexual orientation and gender expression. The alleged perpetrator, who turned 14 years old less than three weeks before the shooting, should be held accountable for his actions. But we support the principles underlying our juvenile justice system that treat children differently than adults and provide greater hope and opportunity for rehabilitation. In addition, public safety is not served by treating children as adults. According to research released by the Centers for Disease Control in 2006, children transferred to adult court are more likely to re-offend than those committing similar offenses who remain in the juvenile justice system. California law does not require District Attorneys to prosecute 14-year-olds as adults, even in circumstances such as these, and we oppose them doing so. We are issuing this joint statement because we believe so strongly in principles of justice that protect all our young people and know that, even in the face of strong emotions, we should not abandon them. We refuse to let our sense of outrage blind us to the fact that the suspect is only 14 years old.

"Prosecuting the alleged perpetrator as an adult will not bring Lawrence King back nor will it make schools safer for LGBT youth. We must respond to this tragedy by strengthening our resolve to change the climate in schools, eliminate bigotry based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and hold schools responsible for protecting students against discrimination and physical harm."



### Casting Calls for gay and lesbian contestants at Bravo for Top Chef show

Bravo is now casting for the fifth season of the culinary reality series Top Chef. The program has regularly featured gay and lesbian contestants, including Lisa, who is still battling it out for the top spot this season. Casting calls for the next round of chefs will be held in Las Vegas (May 4), upstate New York (May 10), Manhattan (May 11), and Los Angeles (May 26). Visit [www.bravotv.com/Casting/index.php](http://www.bravotv.com/Casting/index.php) for more details!

Want to get in on the excitement of Disney's High School Musical phenomenon? Open casting calls will be held on April 27 in Long

Beach, CA, and on May 7 in Orlando, FL, for the new reality series High School Musical: Summer Session. The producers are looking for anyone ages 16-22 who has dreamed of being center stage – "the high school quarterback who's never tried out for a play but has a song in his heart, the drama club extrovert looking to break into the big time, someone looking to trade the chess club routine for a dance routine."

Application form and song lists are available at <http://abc.go.com/primetime/highschoolmusical/index?pn=indexFirefoxHTML\Shell\OpenCommand>

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### LGBT Guide to serve as a resource to campus journalists, others

New York, NY—The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) released today the inaugural College Media Reference Guide, a resource for college journalists covering stories about the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. The national media advocacy organization will be shipping the Guide, a 24" x 36" poster, to 250 colleges and universities.

"The stories of gay and transgender students are already happening on campuses around the country and with a greater diversity of voice than ever before," said Rashad

Robinson, GLAAD's senior director of media programs. "Journalists want to cover these stories, and the College Media Reference Guide provides them with a resource to tell the stories of their gay and transgender classmates in the most fair, accurate and inclusive way. The Guide is particularly helpful because it includes terminology used more often in young adult communities and because it distills the content of GLAAD's 7th Annual Media Reference Guide into an easy to reference resource ideal for campus newsrooms."

The College Media Reference Guide is split into two sections to cover reporting of sexual orientation and gender identity. Both sections provide a glossary of terminology frequently used to describe gay and transgender communities. The Guide also addresses problematic language that should be avoided in responsible journalism and identifies defamatory language that dehumanizes and marginalizes the subject of a story when it is used.

The Guide is a product of GLAAD's Young Adult Media program, which was launched in 2007. Working on campuses across the country to promote equality and visibility, GLAAD serves as a resource to college journalists, and trains students and campus leaders to be more effective in changing hearts and minds through media advocacy and fighting defamation.

The College Media Reference Guide is available at: [www.glaad.org/publications/CollegeMediaGuide\\_Medium.pdf](http://www.glaad.org/publications/CollegeMediaGuide_Medium.pdf)

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

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## Gay Fashion

# Boy, oh, boyRio: Swimwear line for the gay community

By: Michael A. Knipp/TRT Special

**B**arry Manilow summed it up best with his 1978 smash hit "Copacabana": "Music and passion were always the fashion."

Though the classic crooner was referring to New York City's famous nightclub of the same name, his timeless lyrics easily apply to Brazil's Copacabana, a borough located in the southern zone of Rio de Janeiro, famous for its four-kilometer beach that attracts millions of tourists each year.

Guarded by Christ the Redeemer, the iconic 130-foot-tall statue located at the peak of Corcovado mountain and named one of the *New Seven Wonders of the World* by Switzerland's New Open World Corporation, Rio has long been a source of inspiration for artists worldwide: the sprawling city of 11 million has popped up in such films as the James Bond series' *Moonraker* and Paramount Studios' upcoming, big-budget relaunch of *The Incredible Hulk* franchise; an episode of *The Simpsons*; and video games like *Forza Motorsport* and *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 3*.

Considering Rio's widespread influence, then, it's easy to understand why American businessman David Laing turned to the once-capital city of the Portuguese Empire to find his muse.

And while sipping a caipirinha on the Copacabana's soft sands, he spotted it: the Cariocas, splashing around in their swimsuits.

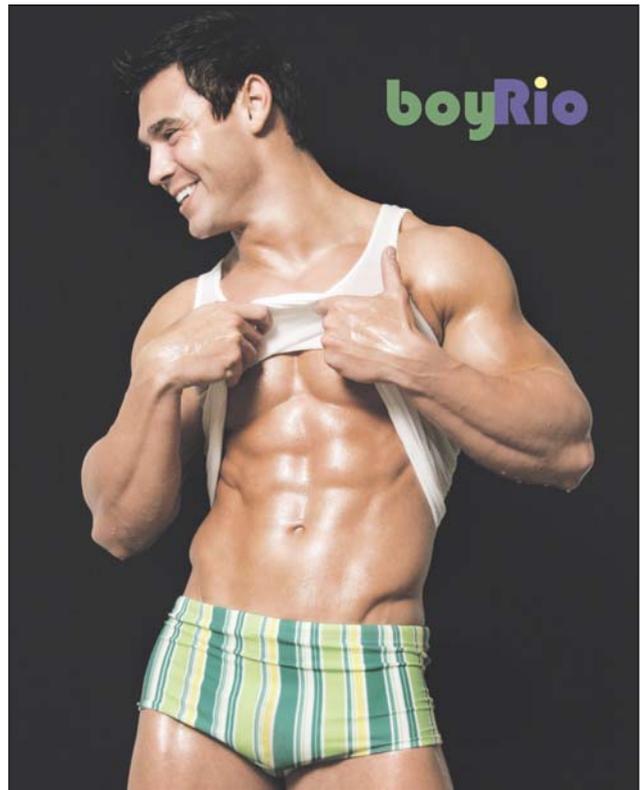
Carioca, the demonym given to Rio's native inhabitants, is not just a derivative of the indigenous Amerindian language of the Tupi

people, meaning "White Man's House." It's also a way of life. According to Laing—whose new *boyRio* swimwear line, which launched in piecemeal last year, is based on the concept—"it embodies the joie de vivre that expresses a genuine love for the good things in life, whether it's food, samba, sunshine or beaches."

Like the Cariocas themselves, *boyRio*—which, though conceived in South America, calls Scottsdale, Ariz., home— isn't typical. Its cue comes from the sunga-style—or trunk-cut—suits originated in Rio, opposed to the baggy board shorts that have become America's summertime staple. With his new line of sophisticated swimwear, however, Laing hopes to change Americans' aversion to form-fitting beach attire.

"In Rio, beauty is displayed externally and internally, but it's done tastefully," says Laing, fresh from one of his frequent fly-aways to the Brazilian metropolis. "boyRio aims to encourage customers to be proud of their bodies, and our suits help to complement that goal. Because our suits are free of pouch 'gadgets,' thongs and strings, our customers can count on a swimsuit that embraces their personal identity without compromising their individual style."

But style, relative to what we witness on our own beaches, isn't this nation's strongest asset. Sure, the Crayola-colored practicality of a sunga-style suit—cut to maintain coverage for an overall flattering look—sounds great in theory, but will Americans embrace *boyRio* as their go-to brand as they have other underwater outfitters like Billabong, Hurley



and Quiksilver?

Laing thinks so.

"There is a market segment out there that is comfortable without trying a change," says the 40-something entrepreneur, "but it never fails that when someone who is hesitant tries on one of our suits, they can feel the difference in the cut and their confidence."

For Laing, though, his own confidence comes from an entirely different place—more specifically, his aptitude in appealing to consumers. A quick summary of the workhorse's

resume lends credit to that self-assessment while revealing a career as diverse as soap actor Shemar Moore's nightclub make-out sessions.

A graduate of the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington, the Northwest native has made his living as an attendant at the Zygofolis aquatic amusement park in Nice, France; as an ad man in Seattle; as a game play counselor for Nintendo of America; and traveling

See *boyRio* on Page 12

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Kathryn and Jen Good-Schiff celebrate their marriage in Look Memorial Park on June 16, 2007. Kathryn is wearing her grandmother's 1940s wedding dress. Photo by: Ben Bruss

**Congratulations Kathryn and Jen!**



Corinne Shaw and Jess Bouchard won the second & third prizes for their original and beautifully chosen photo of their hands together, depicting their rings and honoring their union. And, the sensual kiss, takes the third prize. **Congrats Corinne & Jess!**

## TRT announces Anniversary Edition winners, congrats!

With the end of the Anniversary Edition give away, commemorating *The Rainbow Times* first-year Anniversary, the winners have shown great creativity and effort in putting together pictures that speak about their commitments, their love and what it truly meant to them. We applaud Kathryn and Jen Good-Schiff for a great picture and sentiment, as well as a well-chosen background.

We also applaud Corinne Shaw and girlfriend Jess Bouchard for their beautiful photographs that won them the 2nd and 3rd prize awards.

According to Shaw, the photos were taken when "we were first falling in love, so they [the photos] were inspired by the beauty of the love we were discovering."

To the rest of the readers who submitted photos and videos, we thank you for your submissions and hope that you continue to send your commitment, anniversary, love, etc., pictures and/or videos to *The Rainbow Times*. We would like to showcase your lives, just as you live them. Send them to: [editor@therainbowtimesnews.com](mailto:editor@therainbowtimesnews.com) (no hyphen).

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**Intersex** (from the College Media Reference of the Transgender Glossary of Terms):

Describing a person whose biological sex is ambiguous. There are many genetic, hormonal or anatomical variations which make a person's sex ambiguous (i.e., Klinefelter Syndrome, Adrenal Hyperphasia). Parents and medical professionals usually assign intersex infants a sex and perform surgical operations to conform the infant's body to that assignment, a practice that has become increasingly controversial. FMI: [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org)



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## Health News

### HIV patients may not need regular lab tests while taking antiretroviral drugs, study says

By: *Maria Cheng/AP Medical Writer*

LONDON (AP)—Patients with HIV who aren't monitored with the expensive laboratory tests commonly used in rich countries may survive just as long as those who do get the tests, a new study says.

In a paper published in The Lancet medical journal Friday, experts found only a slight difference between the survival rates of HIV patients on antiretrovirals who were monitored with laboratory tests and those who weren't. Lab tests can be an early indication of problems in HIV patients that aren't yet obvious.

The research was based on computer modeling and while the results must be verified, they could influence how HIV patients across Africa and Asia are treated.

As drugs to combat AIDS have been distributed across developing countries, some doctors worry that without lab monitoring, patients will either die earlier or develop drug resistance faster. But based on the evidence to date, that has not happened.

"We often get stuck in letting the perfect be the enemy of the good," said Jennifer Kates, an HIV expert at the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington. She was not connected to the study.

"Waiting for the perfect lab infrastructure to be ready before rolling out antiretroviral therapy means that millions of people will die," Kates said. "This study says we shouldn't wait."

Andrew Phillips and colleagues from the Royal Free and University College Medical School in London used a computer model that simulated patient details based on HIV progression in real patients. They then projected the patients' survival for up to 20 years. Data from real patients are not yet available.

Phillips and his colleagues essentially found that 83 percent of patients who were monitored with lab tests survived five years, compared with 82 percent for those who went without the tests. Over two decades, 67 percent of those who got lab tests survived versus 64 percent for those who didn't.

The difference is negligible—and contradicts long-held beliefs that antiretrovirals must be accompanied by regular laboratory monitoring to benefit patients.

Only half of those the estimated 33 million

people with AIDS globally are receiving the drugs, experts said.

"Laboratory monitoring shouldn't be the priority while we've got less than half of people who need treatment still waiting for it," Phillips said.

Phillips developed the original computer model with funding from Pfizer Inc., makers of many antiretrovirals, the drugs used to fight HIV and AIDS.

In the West, people with HIV undergo routine lab tests about every six months to check the amount of virus in their body and the status of their immune systems. The tests cost about US\$60 (euro38) and US\$20 (euro13) each time. If a patient has too much virus or their immune system is weak, doctors usually switch drugs.

But in poor countries, most patients are simply monitored by a doctor or nurse. Only a few countries in Africa run regular lab tests, and results often take too long to benefit patients.

Consequently, patients are only switched to other drugs if they start developing bacterial infections, skin diseases or other suggestions of an AIDS complication.

"It's counterintuitive that people who do not get laboratory monitoring seem to do just as well as those who do," said Charlie Gilks, an AIDS treatment expert at WHO and one of the paper's authors.

Some experts worry that because people who are not monitored with lab tests stay longer on drugs that don't work, they could be spreading drug-resistant HIV.

Nathan Ford, head of Medecins Sans Frontieres' medical unit in South Africa, said there are no signs that drug resistance is developing more quickly in Africa than elsewhere. Ford was not involved in the study.

He and others said developing countries should still work on making lab services a standard part of HIV care.

"We shouldn't accept that this is too complicated and expensive and we need to do without it," Ford said.

"In an ideal world, you would want lab support everywhere," said AIDS expert Gilks. "But right now we need to continue to roll out the medicines because that is what's going to save lives."

### boyRio from Page 10

the world sourcing photographers for the digital stock-photo company PhotoDisc.

After a short-lived online business, which he started as a service to help people without computers or digital cameras list items on eBay, Laing says he sickened of the oft-dreary Washington-state weather round about 1999 and moved to Phoenix where he worked in an art gallery, sold scooters, and served coffee in an Internet café.

Despite Laing's contention that boyRio can and will work in the states, and notwithstanding his product-shilling pedigree however, there are two sides to every argument. In this case, it's not one we generally care to see. Because while Americans' attire remains conservative on the beaches of, say, California or Cape Cod, there's a segment of our traditionalist population that loves to let

ground fads into the mainstream.

Which is exactly why Laing is looking to this sect of society to help boyRio become as synonymous to fun in the sun as fake-and-bake tanning is to Dinah Lohan.

"We aim to market our product line namely to stylish men who are self-confident—not just physically, but in other aspects of their lives, regardless sexual orientation," he says. "It comes to no surprise that a large part of that demographic is comprised of gay men and, frankly, we're flattered. Men in the gay community are always on the forefront of change and always willing to express themselves confidently. Thankfully, we are beginning to see a change where regardless of one's sexuality, a well-fit boyRio swimsuit complements any man."

But will 'any man' see things the way Laing does? Probably not. Despite the help from homosexuals' fashionable influence,

### ... Men in the gay community are always on the forefront of change and always willing to express themselves confidently.

loose once they bid farewell to our country's borders.

Usually in the skimpiest, illest-fitting ensemble they can find.

Seemingly a man with all the answers, Laing chimes in on overcoming that challenge as well.

"American inhibitions definitely take a leave when traveling, especially outside the United States," he says about U.S. citizens' affinity for public near-nudity in foreign countries. "It's easy to spot the Americans on the beaches of Rio—either clad in the frumpy swimsuits I mentioned before or, worse, overly revealing suits."

"But boyRio is the alternate to that. We allow that 'show-off' segment to be stylish and free while still maintaining their dignity."

Still, with so many hurdles to clear—introducing the stuffy set to alternative swimwear options and reeling in the too-revealing—Laing knows that he can't rely solely on his own marketing skills to set his brand apart.

Enter the gays.

Though the queer community in its entirety isn't off the hook for showing up poolside looking like a dejected David Beckham, it is, as history reveals, well-versed in keeping track of trends and helping usher under-

the bottom line is that a boyRio swimsuit threatens to make more of splash than many men prefer. Americans are puritanical by nature, and American males—gay and straight alike—are especially hesitant to draw extra attention to their, um, assets.

That's not news to the man behind the marketing plan. All components of this casual conundrum considered, Laing knows that his biggest barrier is persuading people to embrace their bodies and enhancing it with body-hugging boyRio swimsuits. Sure, his work is cut out if he's to keep his swimwear line from sinking, but he's confident that his own cleverness and comprehension of the American psyche will position his Carioca-inspired concept to help change and improve a man's perception of self.

"Above all else, boyRio is about promoting self-confidence," says Laing. "When we say 'feel good inside and out of your boyRio swimsuit,' that's exactly how our customers feel."

"It's that kind of confidence in one's self that cannot be bought but rather wonderfully expressed."

\* Michael A. Knipp is a New York City-based freelance writer and the founder of Line/Byline Communications. He can be reached at michael.knipp@gmail.com.

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## Gay Traveling

# Out of Town: Where to eat and stay in New Orleans



By: Andrew Collins\*

If you haven't been to Baltimore in a while, you owe yourself a visit. This friendly, unassuming city has experienced a virtual rebirth over the past 15 years, rehabilitating its handsome Inner Harbor by converting dilapidated piers and wharves into museums, shops, restaurants, hotels, and condominiums. Often featured in the movies of camp filmmaker and native son John Waters, Baltimore has also developed increased cachet as a welcoming gay and lesbian destination, with its many GLBT-friendly businesses.

Fortunately, the city's success hasn't gone to its head. It's hard to find a more genuine and down-to-earth breed of urbanites than the residents of Baltimore, who retain a special affection for their hometown. You may be lured to Baltimore by the many highly publicized attractions set around downtown's Inner Harbor, and indeed most of these museums and entertainment centers live up to their billing. But be sure to save time to explore the many quirky residential neighborhoods, a few of which - Mount Vernon, Federal Hill, Fells Point - are within easy walking distance of downtown.

The Inner Harbor thrived for years as a shipping crossroads before falling into a state of blight. Its conversion into an entertainment and museum district has made it one of the most engaging and picturesque harbors in America. Popular attractions include the glass-enclosed Harborplace pavilions, where you can browse through dozens of shops. Also check out the Baltimore Maritime Museum, National Aquarium, and World Trade Center (which offers fine views from its 27th-floor observation deck).

A regal grassy knoll south of the harbor, Federal Hill Park rises majestically above downtown and the Inner Harbor. It's an ideal spot to laze under the sun on warm afternoons. The surrounding eponymous neighborhood has loads of inviting cafes and bars, and the neighborhood's American Visionary Art Museum ingeniously blends two historic warehouses within a striking contemporary structure. East of the Inner Harbor, Fells Point may be America's best-preserved Colonial



Baltimore's most popular lesbian bar, Sapphos, is part of the bustling Grand Central club in the heart of the Mount Vernon neighborhood. Photo by Andrew Collins

waterfront, with its perfectly maintained Federal-style town houses.

Baltimore's gay epicenter lies north of downtown in historic Mount Vernon, which you reach by strolling north from the Inner Harbor up the city's backbone, Charles Street. The neighborhood is anchored by Mount Vernon Square and its 178-foot-high Washington Monument. Nearby are the outstanding Walters Art Museum and the Peabody Conservatory of Music, the oldest and one of the most prestigious classical music schools in the country.

You'll need to drive or take a bus up Charles Street to reach the leafy 140-acre campus of Johns Hopkins University, which is ideal for strolling and is next to the state's largest museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art. West of Johns Hopkins, Hampden is a good old-fashioned "Bawl'mer" neighborhood, a former mill-workers' community that has more recently developed a bounty of hip boutiques, galleries, and cafes. (John Waters, who lives nearby, occasionally strolls these parts and set his movie *Pecker* here.)

When you're craving a memorable meal, remember that Baltimore's cooking is full of

flavor - the city even has its own spice, Old Bay Seasoning, a feisty concoction of 16 seasonings sprinkled mostly on shellfish but required by some locals on seemingly everything but ice cream. If you're on the run, just wander through the copious food stalls in the Harborplace pavilions. It may look like a zoo of tourists, but you'd be surprised how many locals graze here. Many of these places offer top-notch local seafood - particularly oysters, clams, and Chesapeake Bay blue crabs. Walk a bit south to Federal Hill, along South Charles or Light streets, and you'll find dozens of appealing eateries, including one of the best little restaurants in the city, the Bicycle Bistro, where you might dine on grilled rack of lamb with a pineapple-poblano-pepper chutney, or porcini-crust sea scallops.

East of the harbor, there's superb dining in the city's Little Italy (Boccaccio, with such seasonal delights as local clams and mussels in a pernod-tomato broth, is a particular standout), and in nearby Fells Point, talented chef Nancy Longo helms the kitchen at Pierpoint, which is known for such inventive contemporary regional fare as smoked crab

cakes, and fried Maryland chicken breast with parmesan grits.

Mount Vernon has dozens of excellent, gay-popular restaurants. At the high end, opulently decorated Ixia scores high marks for its well-chosen wine list and superbly rendered cuisine, including grilled baby octopus with lemon-fennel confit, and lobster-crab mac-and-cheese with a creamy Fontina sauce. Across the street, Sacha's is a great spot for toothsome grazing - the many "small plates" include crisp french fries in a cone with Old Bay-seasoned creme fraiche, and fried green tomatoes topped with lump crab meat. Continue up Charles Street and you'll come to trendy Donna's, a cheerful and modern space where an artsy crowd mingles over light salads, roasted veggie sandwiches, fresh coffee, and fantastic tiramisu. The Helmand has become renowned for its spicy, well-prepared Afghan food (it's owned by the brother of Afghanistan's president, Hamid Kharzai), and Mount Vernon Stable and Saloon is a perfect late-night venue for chicken wings, sandwiches, burgers, ribs, and similarly comforting pub standards. Finally, don't miss City Cafe, an airy and inviting java joint that also serves food and wine.

Make the trip a bit north toward Johns Hopkins to reach Ixia's sister restaurant, the lovely kitschy Paper Moon Diner, which is open 24 hours many nights, making it a perfect post-clubbing choice. Near here in the Hampden neighborhood is the famous Cafe Hon, notable for the massive pink flamingo dangling from the front of the building (not to mention tasty comfort fare like Belgian waffles topped with fresh berries, and famously good meatloaf). There's also great coffee to be sipped nearby at Common Ground coffee-house, and delicious Mexican food served within the funky confines of Holy Frijoles.

Baltimore gay-bar-goers congregate mostly at a handful of mainstays. Yuppies and stand-and-model types flock almost religiously to Grand Central, a large, multi-level complex that consists of a video lounge, dance bar, billiards room, and outdoor deck. Also on-site is the swanky lesbian bar, Sapphos, with its comfy living-room-esque decor and soft lighting.

See Baltimore on Page 32

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## Featured Business

# Jackson & Connor: Classically modern apparel for men ... and women

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

After years of working in the retail business, dynamic duo Tara "Jackson" Tetreault and Candice Connors put their experience, hard work and complimentary fortes together to launch the opening of *Jackson & Connor*, a contemporary men's apparel store, in Thornes Marketplace in downtown Northampton, Mass.

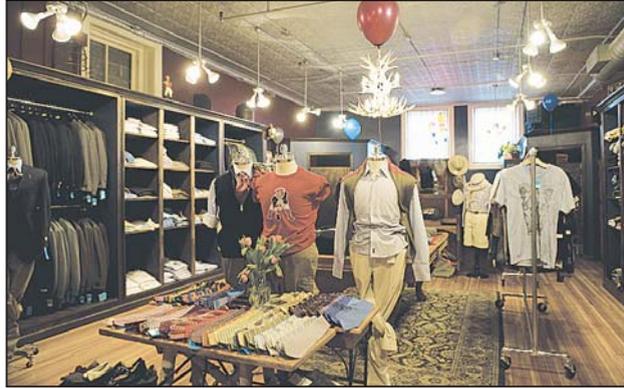
Although Tetreault and Connors began their careers by working the floor at Taylor Men, both moved on to other companies, Tetreault as a seller and Connors as a merchandiser/buyer. The two crossed career paths once again as they worked together for different companies, each in their respective position.

Since their initial retail career, Taylor Men has since gone out of business and Tetreault took full advantage of such a business opportunity.

"I couldn't believe that no one had filled the gap that Taylor Men had left. So, I decided to make a move but I did not want to do it alone. I called Candice. It took a little wine and a little convincing over dinner, but when we parted that night, we were on our way to creating Jackson & Connor," said Tara "Jackson" Tetreault, Co-owner, *Jackson & Connor*, Northampton, Mass.

*Jackson & Connor*, tagged as "classically modern apparel for men" has something for everyone, according to Tetreault.

"We have everything from casual to dress; Red Sox tees with hats and jeans and sandals



Step in to Jackson & Connor at 150 Main Street, Thornes Marketplace, 2nd Floor, Northampton, Mass.

to the Jhane Barnes suit with a dress shirt, tie and Italian leather shoes," she said. "Whatever kind of man/woman you are, modern or classic, young or old, casual or dress, *Jackson & Connor* has you covered."

According to Tetreault, Jackson & Connor is representative of the entire community at large and in the broad sense of their customer base.

"It is interesting for us coming from Taylor Men which was heavily male [oriented] that we hardly ever had any of the wives or girl-

friends in to buy for the men, which is strange because as a statistic, women shop for men 46% of the time," said Tetreault. "On top of this, the LGBT community was also not apparent in the customer base of Taylor. Candice and I really wanted this [Jackson & Connor] to be different. We wanted an open store, a warm store, a place where everyone was welcome no matter who, what, how, why, whatever [they are]. I feel that we have done that."

Since the opening of *Jackson & Connor*,

Tetreault said that there was a clear void and need for a men's apparel store, which also includes footwear, accessories, and personal care products.

"People have been thanking us up and down for opening up," said Tetreault. "It feels good to be needed!"

Born and raised in Northampton and a graduate of Smith College, Tetreault is not a stranger to the large Northampton based LGBT community and notices it in her business.

"The LGBT community has supported us greatly and given us much feedback which we need," she said. "[For example,] one thing we need to do is get smaller sizes in as soon as possible. We have already altered our buy for the fall 2008 to include smaller sizes for those of you that have mentioned it. Thanks!"

Experience and hard work some of the assets that Tetreault attributes to Jackson & Connors success.

"*Jackson & Connor* is really special, not only to us, but to the wider community at large because it is different," she said. "[It] showcases our 20+ years of combined experience in the industry which is apparent in everything from the decor to the apparel to the level of customer service that we provide. Our lines are exclusive and not available everywhere. We took care to bring back some of the old Taylor favorites while brining in new elements to the area that were previously not available."

See Jackson & Connor on Page 27

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## Q-lebrities

# True Colors Tour: Cyndi on politics and love for the LGBT community

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

The *True Colors Tour*, a celebration of the basic values and freedoms that should be shared by all Americans, pioneered by Cyndi Lauper, will kick off again this summer after a successful 2007 debut.

The tour, fueled by Lauper's desire to give back the love and support that the LGBT community has given to her throughout her successful career, has even a greater mission this time around. This year, the tour will focus on the need for the LGBT community and its straight allies to make their voices heard by

voting in this upcoming 2008 Presidential election.

The performance line-up is more than impressive with legendary and hot rising artists waiting to blow you away. True Colors' headliners include Cyndi Lauper, The B-52s, Rosie

O'Donnell, host Carson Kressley and many more.

The tour will officially kick off Pride Month on May 31st at Boston's Bank of America



Pavilion. *The Rainbow Times* will cover the Boston opening-tour.

In an exclusive interview with *The Rainbow Times*, Cyndi speaks candidly about her personal views regarding the significance of the upcoming Presidential election, what she sees and looks for in her candidate of choice, while she discusses the direction that the country is heading in regarding LGBT rights and protections. This, and much, much more, she will reveal here.

**TRT:** Why is this upcoming election so important, or more so than others before?

**CL:** The current administration has done so much damage on all fronts, including LGBT progress. The challenges are immense and it is critical that we have an administration in office that gets us back on track on all fronts

and one that isn't going to push the LGBT community aside as a marginal fraction w/out the same rights.

**TRT:** Does this mean that True Colors wants to ensure that people "get it" that the LGBT community needs all of the fundamental rights that the rest of the U.S. citizens have?

**CL:** Yes, all people need to know that the community deserves the same rights. So, the messaging of the tour continues to reinforce and galvanize the GBLT community and hopefully the message of the tour goes out beyond to the wider gay engaged population. PFLAG actually has an initiative running through the tour called the "Straight Pledge for Equality," where they ask straight people to get involved in support of GLBT people getting the same rights.

**TRT:** We read that you want to give back to the community that has supported you and



The Cliks: L-R, Morgan Doctor, Lucas Silveira, Nina Martinez & Jen Benton.

Photo by: Kelly Davidson

that that is one of the reasons why you created True Colors because you wanted to give back to "the community," but is there a more personal reason (perhaps knowing someone, losing someone, or having someone be bashed) that led you to its creation? If so, can you share it with us?

**CL:** I have everyone from transgendered people in my inner circle, friends that want to get married and can't—all the way to standing strong for my friends that were casualties of AIDS. I do it for them and I do it for me and the next generation coming up. I don't want my kid growing up in a country that is not equal and does not treat everyone fairly.

**TRT:** Why should everyone support True Colors?

**CL:** I think it's an entertaining way to become informed on some serious issues and I think it's a slamming show. It's genuine in what it's trying to achieve. I really have gotten a lot from the community over the years and I felt this was the best way for me to give back.

**TRT:** Do you feel that your music is more supported by the Lesbian or Gay community?

**CL:** I'm lucky in that regards. I think my music has equally resonated with the ladies and the men. I can be a folk rock mama one minute and be dragging a disco ball around the next. I think that the different genres that I've attacked have always kept everyone interested. At least I hope so [laughs]!

**TRT:** What do you consider to be the most important factor in determining or selecting the next presidential candidate? Why?

**CL:** Truth and integrity ... the world is sick of



Bush's lies upon lies.

**TRT:** Who do you support for a presidential candidate (I know this is a stretch, but we had to try, as you know)? If you'd rather not say, what should people, especially LGBT and allies, be looking for this November when they cast their vote?

**CL:** I have chosen what candidate I will vote for, but I don't think it's smart to try and influence people's choices. I just think people should do a little homework find out where these politicians stand on issues important to you, look at their track records and make an informed decision but most importantly get involved. You can't complain about the state of things if you aren't actively participating. Get involved. Vote. Let's come together and make America a place where we are all equal and all count.

**TRT:** Any message for the readers of *The Rainbow Times* regarding True Colors, etc.?

**CL:** Get up, get out, and say or do something that helps to turn around what is going on in this country whether that's via politics or one's own personal actions. Also, have a great summer while you're at it!

The *True Colors Tour* is presented by LOGO and produced by *True Colors Concerts, LLC* in partnership with the *Human Rights Campaign*. This year, the tour has expanded to a 24-city North American tour and is presented by *LOGO* in support of the newly created True Colors Fund of Stonewall Community Foundation.

The *True Colors Fund of Stonewall Community Foundation* was created this year to generate financial support to directly benefit the tour's non-profit partners. Funds will be raised through sales of official benefit t-shirts, an eBay auction of tour and music memorabilia, the *True Colors Jewelry Collection by Love & Pride*, the tour's Official Jeweler, as well as individual donations to the fund by visitors to the tour's website. *The True Colors Jewelry Collection*, selected by Cyndi Lauper from creations made by renowned designer Udi Behr, is currently in production and will launch this June. In addition, through the *True Colors Fund*, \$1 of every ticket sold will once again be donated to HRC.

For more information about the True Colors Tour, visit [www.truecolorstour.com](http://www.truecolorstour.com). Tickets are on sale now at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).





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# Burn, Baby, Burn: When Laser Makes Sense

By: Joy Ladin\*

It's depressing but true: hair removal is often the single greatest expense in terms of money and time for male-to-female transsexuals. For many years, the best option for permanent hair removal was electrolysis—a painful, time-consuming process of follicle-by-follicle electrocution that costs between \$50 and \$100 per hour and can cause permanent scarring. But in the past decade, the FDA has approved another procedure that is faster, less painful and less expensive: laser hair removal.

Laser treatment has been controversial in the trans community, with some users claiming fabulous results and others dissatisfied. Understanding how laser works, who it works for, and how to find a good treatment center can help you get the benefits of this technology. Laser treatment works because dark colors absorb light, and light colors reflect it. As

each portion of skin is exposed to a burst of intense laser light, dark hair follicles absorb the energy and are burned, while light skin reflects the energy and is unharmed. This makes laser treatment much faster than electrolysis, because each patch of skin only takes a second or two of exposure. In addition—and this is a real plus for those who are already living as women—laser works best on shaved skin, while electrolysis can only be done on unshaven hairs that are long enough to see.

However, laser is not a panacea. Unlike electrolysis, which destroys all kinds of follicles, laser can only destroy follicles for dark hairs. Moreover, laser can only affect follicles that are active—and only one out of four follicles are active at any given time. That means the treatments need to be repeated every four to six weeks, generally for six to ten sessions. Finally, while electrolysis works equally for



JOY LADIN

all skin and hair types, laser works best for those with the darkest hair and lightest skin, and doesn't work at all on light hairs or for people with dark skin.

Even those light skin and dark hair, like me; will probably need some electrolysis to remove blond and grey hairs. However, if laser works for you, it can save you both money and pain.

What should you look for in a laser treatment center? Amherst Laser and Skin Care in Amherst, MA, where I go, offer an excellent model. First, it is run by a physician who is bound by medical standards of confidentiality, honesty and concern for patients' well-being. The initial consultation was free, and,

more importantly, was not a sales pitch. The focus was on making sure that I understood the procedure, including the potential risks and limitations. The consultation also made clear that I would be welcome and respected as a transsexual—and that my transsexuality would be treated as a patient confidence. Transsexuals buy hair removal in bulk, and a good laser center should offer flexible, affordable pricing and payment options. This place, for example, offers a discount for a certain number of pre-paid sessions, and also makes discount coupons available through a local radio station. Best of all, after six paid sessions, follow-ups and touch-ups are free for two years—a very important feature, because, as I've learned, hormone fluctuations can cause new hair growth. Since my six paid sessions, I've enjoyed well over a year of free treatments.

Laser isn't the pain-free cure-all that some ads promise. I'm doing electrolysis to get rid of my blond and grey hairs, and the treatments themselves feel like highly localized sunburn. But they are quick, and only happen every four to six weeks—and best of all, they leave my face smoother, my skin softer, and my self-image that much stronger.

\* Joy Ladin is a transitioning M-to-F transsexual. A widely published poet and essayist, she is currently working on a book about transition called *INSIDE OUT: CONFESSIONS OF A WOMAN CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF BECOMING*.

## New England Trans Pride March announces Rally Lineup, seeks support

(Northampton, MA)—The organizers of the are.”

first New England Transgender Pride March and Rally have announced the following lineup of speakers and performers for the event, scheduled for June 7, 2008 in Northampton, MA.

“Presenting our foremost transgender authors, along with 1969 Stonewall Rebellion veteran Miss Major, and several prominent trans activists and musicians on one stage may be unprecedented,” said Bet Power, a Trans Pride steering committee member. “It will certainly be an historic event, a pivotal day that the national, regional, and local transgender community is very much looking forward to. Trans people and our allies will be traveling from both coasts and locations in-between to march for our civil rights and celebrate our pride in who we

11:00 a.m.: Assemble at Lampron Park Noon/March steps off  
 12:30–12:45 p.m.: Marchers arrive at Armory Street Lot (behind Thomes Marketplace)  
 12:45–12:50 p.m.: Welcome by MC Louis Mitchell and Proclamation by Mayor Clare Higgins  
 12:50–1:00 p.m.: Political official TBD  
 1:00–1:10 p.m.: Miss Major (Grand Marshal; Transgender, Gender Variant, Intersex Justice Project)  
 1:10–1:20 p.m.: Gunner Scott (Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition)  
 1:20–1:30 p.m.: Jerimarie Liesegang (CT TransAdvocacy Coalition)  
 1:30–1:40 p.m.: Jill Berlin (TransForming Families)  
 1:40–1:45 p.m.: Elliot Holloway (Trans youth)  
 1:45–2:00 p.m.: Ellen Wittlinger (Author reading from Parrotfish)  
 2:00–2:05 p.m.: Alex Pangborn (Generation Q)  
 2:05–2:15 p.m.: Lee Elder (FTM folksinger)  
 2:15–2:30 p.m.: Joe Stevens (singer/songwriter of Coyote Grace)  
 2:30–2:40 p.m.: Announcements/Intermission  
 2:40–2:50 p.m.: Monica Roberts (Trans Griot blog, founding member of National Transgender Advocacy Coalition)  
 2:50–3:10 p.m.: New England Transgender Pride Steering Committee members: Bet Power, Marie Ali, Dru Levasseur, and Jacklyn Matts  
 3:10–3:25 p.m.: Statement from Leslie Feinberg (Trans author and activist)  
 3:25–3:35 p.m.: Moonhawk River Stone (Trans psychotherapist and activist)  
 3:35–3:40 p.m.: Vickie Boisseau (Intersex activist)  
 3:40–3:50 p.m.: Imani Henry (Trans activist and performance artist)  
 3:50–4:00 p.m.: Dr. Enoch Page (Associate Professor of Anthropology, UMass Amherst)  
 4:00–4:10 p.m.: Cathy Worthley (MTF folksinger)  
 4:10–4:20 p.m.: Ethan St. Pierre (TransFM Radio)  
 4:20–4:30 p.m.: Donna Rose (TransEducate, resigned from HRC board over ENDA)  
 4:30–4:45 p.m.: Kate Bornstein (Trans author, playwright, and performance artist)  
 4:45–5:00 p.m.: All The Kings Men: Boston's Drag Troupe

Trans ally and steering committee member Alicia Jay stated, “It has been a powerful experience organizing with the trans community, and I feel very honored to be part of this event. It is crucial for trans allies to get involved in the growing trans civil rights movement, and support the right of all communities to stand up and be heard.”

New England Transgender Pride is seeking sponsors, donations from organizations and individuals, and volunteers to help on the day of the march. For more information or to participate, visit [www.transpridemarch.org](http://www.transpridemarch.org).

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## LGBT Announcements

## TRT PRIDE Calendar from MA, NY, CT &amp; VT!

(MA) **UNITY** is a Transgender support group which meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Baystate Hospital 3300 Main Street in Springfield, MA. FMI: Deja 860-604-6343 or Keri 413-364-1749.

(MA) **SOCIAL GROUP FOR LESBIANS**; We always meet on the first and third Friday's of the month. For information call 413-687-2065

(MA) **EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC)** is NOW available without a prescription at all Tapestry Health Services sites. (413) 586-2539.

(MA) **MATURE LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP**; Group for women 55+ meets monthly at the Northampton Council on Aging at 240 Main St., at 6 p.m.; second Monday of each month.

(MA) **DISCUSSION GROUP FOR LESBIANS 40+** meets every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Stonewall Center at UMass. This is a warm and welcoming group of intelligent women. Information email to: [JBGreenize@aol.com](mailto:JBGreenize@aol.com)

(MA) **OLDER LESBIAN DISCUSSION GROUPS**; Amherst/NoHo Area. New members accepted on space-available basis. If enough interest, new groups may form. FMI: 413-247-3257 or 413-253-3049.

(VT) **MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP**; Any male 18 or older; Support group not a therapy group. Free. Every Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brattleboro, VT. FMI: 802-258-3914.

(MA) **JOIN EMAIL GROUP FOR LGBT PARENTS** in the Pioneer Valley area at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lgbt\\_parents\\_pioneer\\_valley/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lgbt_parents_pioneer_valley/) for exchanging information, chatting about our families, and organizing get-togethers and play-dates.

(MA, NY, CT & VT) **DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE YOU ARE QUEER?** Call The Rainbow Times, 413-204-8959; 518-391-2617.

(NY) **Bisexual Brunch**; First and third Sundays of the month, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(NY) **Bagel Bunch**; Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m.; Older gay men's social and discussion group. Bruegger's, Hannaford Plaza, Central Ave., Albany.

(NY) **Capital Pride Singers**; Mondays @ 7 p.m.; LGBT/LGBTaffirming; mixed chorus; St. Andrew's, Episcopal Church, 10 No. Main St., Albany, 12203; FMI: 435-4636.

(NY) **Capital District Prime Timers**; Provides social, cultural, and recreational opportunities for mature gay and bisexual men. 21+. FMI: [jallison2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jallison2@nycap.rr.com) or CDPPT 595 New Loudon Rd #202 Latham NY 12110

(NY) **Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Men Support Group**; Mondays; 7 p.m.; Support group for GBT men; CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138 or [qdiamond@cdglcc.org](mailto:qdiamond@cdglcc.org).

(NY) **Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Support Group**; every other Tuesday; 7 p.m.; Meet at CDGLCC at 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Youth Group**; Friday nights; 7 p.m.; 332 Hudson Ave. in Albany; Group offers peer support to LGBT& questioning individuals ages 13-19. A supportive environment for LGBTQ youth and their straight allies. FMI: Q Diamond (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Confidential HIV Testing**; first Wednesday of each month; 6-8:30 p.m.; Provided by Project H.O.P.E., a program of the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York. Testing offered at the

CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: 518-462-6138.

**LGBTQ TEADANCE AT DANCE NORTHAMPTON.** Second Sunday of every month; 3-6 PM; \$8 (includes lesson at 3:00) FMI: [www.dancenorthampton.com](http://www.dancenorthampton.com).

(NY) **OUT DANCING** (for the LGBTQ community); every Wednesday evening; 7 to 8 p.m.; Saratoga SAVOY, 7 Wells St, Saratoga Springs, NY. FMI: 518-587-5132. <http://saratogasavoy.homestead.com/files/outdancing.html>

(CT) Every Sunday; **ALL LGBT YOUTH to the Rainbow Room**; at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective; from 3-6 p.m.; 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT; for LGBT youth and allies. 21 & younger.

(MA) **Transforming Families** - Transgender Support Group; Parents, partners, children and their transgender loved ones. Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m. in Hadley. FMI: [www.transformingfamilies.org](http://www.transformingfamilies.org) or 413-522-0522

(MA) **Free Breast Cancer Services**; Cooley Dickinson; Women can select therapy services such as acupuncture, aromatherapy, therapeutic touch, healing music, healing touch, Reiki, Reiki, Peggy Huddleston's Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster™, self-hypnosis/guided imagery and therapeutic massage by CD employees that hold certifications in these therapy techniques. FMI 413-582-2424.

(MA) **EAST COAST FEMALE-TO-MALE GROUP (ECFTMG)**; 2nd Sunday of every month from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. FMI: 413.584.7616 or email: [betpower@yahoo.com](mailto:betpower@yahoo.com). FTMs or SOFFAs who have never come to one of the meetings should call and introduce themselves to Bet before attending. Meetings are open to ALL masculine-identified, female-born persons, our significant others, family, and allies.

(VT) Third Sunday of Every Month; in Brattleboro. **Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary**, including transpeople of all genders and sexual orientations. FMI: Benjamin Robin: [robin@benjaminrobin.net](mailto:robin@benjaminrobin.net)

(NY) **Ask-A-Lawyer Legal Clinic**: Serving the LGBT community Geri Pomerantz, Esq. and Anne Reynolds Capps, Esq.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.; FREE legal consultations to the LGBT community. Appointment only. FMI: 518.432.4188.

(NY) **ONGOING**: First and third Sundays of the month, 11 - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(CT) **Living Soulfully: A Monthly Men's Gathering**; Meets on 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:30-9:00pm at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective. FMI: HGLHC at 860-2787-4163.

(NY) **Capital Pride Singers** LGBT and affirming mixed chorus. Rehearsals on Monday's, 7pm, Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State St; Albany. FMI: 518-435-4636.

(CT) **RainbowRoom** is open every Sunday from 3:00pm-6:00pm and is located at 1841 Broad St., Hartford. RainbowRoom is an affirming and safe place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning teens and young adults 13 to 21. RainbowRoom is a drop-in center located in an intimate, informal space with room for a variety of activities.

(MA) May 1; **The Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project (GMDVP)** will offer a 3-hour orientation for individuals interested in learning more about volunteering with the organization. A survivor will share his personal story and GMDVP will provide a wide ranging presentation on the dynamics of

domestic violence in GBT relationships. There will also be plenty of opportunity for audience participation through discussions and role plays. Family Justice Center at 989 Commonwealth Avenue in Allston, MA. FMI or to reserve your spot: [education@gmdvp.org](mailto:education@gmdvp.org) if you are interested in attending.

(MA) May 2-3; at 7:30 p.m.; **Documentary "Born Again"**, about a woman growing up in an Evangelical Christian family comes to terms with being a lesbian. Pothole Pictures Theater is in Shelburne Falls (51 Bridge St.). On the Saturday show on May 3, its director Markie Hancock will be present to answer questions. Both nights Carrie Ferguson & the Cherry Street Band, from Northampton, will play on stage before the film from 7 to 7:30. Admission is \$6 at the door.

(NY) May 2; **Romaine Brooks Art Gallery Opening** - First Friday featuring: John Frederick 5-9pm; @ Romaine Brooks Art Gallery @ CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Ave., Albany; FMI: Michael at [RBG@cdglcc.org](mailto:RBG@cdglcc.org) and check out [www.romainebrooksgallery.com](http://www.romainebrooksgallery.com) or [www.1stfridayalbany.org](http://www.1stfridayalbany.org).

(MA) May 3; Pianist, Composer, Vocalist Lenore Troia performs **KEY WEST CABARET**; At The Northampton Center for the Arts; 7:30pm; She will be joined by co-producer and LP percussionist, guitarist and singer, Laura Wood. A Benefit for the Northampton Center for the Arts and Northampton Pride 2008.

(MA) May 3; **Northampton Pride 2008**; 12-5p.m., Parade starts at Lampron Park on Bridge Rd. and goes thru Main St., Hampton Ave., Northampton. FMI: 413-586-5602; [www.northamptonpride.org](http://www.northamptonpride.org)

(NY) May 3; **LGBT Party** Sponsored by The Northeast Gender Alliance and Schenectady Gender Alliance; Yours Jazz Club @ 145 Barret St, Schenectady, NY. 8 p.m. - 1 a.m., \$5 Cover (bring your ID)

(MA) May 3; **Stoppard Nights: Travesties**; 7:30 p.m., CenterStage, '62 Center, Williams College. FMI: (413) 597-4279/4277.

(NY) May 3rd & May 4th; **Nocturna spring show**, workshops and Milonga (Tango Party); Saratoga Music Hall, 3rd Floor City Hall, 474 Broadway, Saratoga Springs NY; May 3rd: workshops- 3:00-5:15pm, Nocturna show 7:30pm; Milonga 9:00pm; and May 4th: workshops-1:00-2:10pm; Nocturna show 3:00pm. Tango guest artists from New York City, Oliver Kolker and Sylvana Vais, are showcased. The show is designed to be fun, sexy, surprising and suitable for all ages. FMI: (518) 691-0423

(MA) May 4; **Bread and Tulips (2000 | PG-13 | Italian with English Subtitles)**. At The Agawam Cultural Council; \$6; includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres before the show; Free drawing for door prizes; Agawam Family Cinemas at 866 Suffield Street, Agawam, and begin at 1:15 pm. Doors open at 12:30 pm. An unappreciated housewife finds good fortune when she hitchhikes to Venice to begin a new life, and with newfound confidence, begins a tentative relationship with a lonely waiter.

(MA) May 4; Gina Daggett and Kathy Belge, better known as Curve Magazine's relationship advice columnists "**Lipstick and Dipstick**", will be signing copies of their first book **Lipstick & Dipstick's Essential Guide to Lesbian Relationships**; at Pride & Joy, 20 Crafts Avenue, Northampton, from 1-3pm. FMI: Pride & Joy at 413-585-0683.

(MA) May 4; **Temple Beth El** of Springfield Massachusetts will host a musical tribute celebrating Israel's 60th birthday. Director: Cantor Steve Berke of Beth El Temple, who has created

a special program that highlights, through music, the diversity of regions within Israel and the history and pageantry of these last 60 years. Held at Temple Beth El in Springfield, MA, begins at 4 p.m. Following the concert, a light dinner will be served in the "Israeli Cafe" within the halls of the synagogue. \$36; FMI: 413-733-4149.

(NY) Tuesday, May 6, 13, 20, and 27; **Pride Planning Committee Meeting**; 6pm at CDGLCC (332 Hudson Ave, Albany) If you are interested in becoming involved with the Capital Pride 2008, this is your official invitation to jump in! FMI: [capitalpride@cdglcc.org](mailto:capitalpride@cdglcc.org) Note: This year's parade and festival will be June 8.

(MA) May 9, and May 10; **Dance Company Spring Concert**; 7:30 p.m., MainStage, '62 Center, Williams College. FMI: (413) 597-4279/4277.

(CT) May 10; **Special Litchfield County Premiere of Marriage Makes a Word of Difference!** 4-6pm

Cornwall Town Hall, 26 Pine Street. The film portrays the personal struggles and political challenges of Connecticut's same-sex couples and their families who are fighting for the freedom to marry. Reception after the film! Meet Anne Stanback, Exec. Dir. of Love Makes a Family, & mingle with your neighbors in Northwest Connecticut. RSVP to Nancy Dart at 860-672-0041 or e-mail at [ndart@aoal.com](mailto:ndart@aoal.com).

(MA) May 10-18th; **2001 Annual Latino Pride of New England**; FMI: see page 24 of The Rainbow Times.

(MA) May 11; **LGBTQ tea dance** (with optional lesson) at Dance Northampton; Second Sunday of every month; 3-6 p.m.; \$8, includes lesson @3; 492 Pleasant St.; FMI: 413-586-2422.

(NY) May 16; **FREEHELD** followed by Q&A with director Cynthia Wade; The Linda, 339 Central Ave., Albany, NY; 7:00 p.m., \$6. FMI: 518-465-5233, x.4

(VT) May 17; **NH Gay Men's Chorus** will be in Keene NH; 7:30pm at the Redfern Arts Center. This is the closest performance to us, so let's show our appreciation for them coming over this way and get them a big turnout!

(CT) May 17; **Queer Prom**; HGLHC will hold its 13th Queer Prom on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at the Greater Hartford Jaycees Community Boathouse in Hartford from 8:00PM - Midnight. Come dance the night away with more than 200 hundred LGBT and allied youth. The HGLHC "Queer Prom" is one of the most highly anticipated youth events of the year. Dress to impress. FMI: HGLHC at 860-2787-4163.

(NY) May 17; **Progressions Concert Series: Namoli Brennet with Liz Stahler**; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave, Albany, NY; 8 p.m.; 7:30 Doors. FMI: 518.462.6138.

(NY) May 17; **Capital Pride Singers presents "Keeping It Gay!"**; Emmanuel Friedens Church, 218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady; 7:30 p.m., \$10; A very special Spring Concert of serious and silly music from your favorite GLBT chorus.

(CT) May 18; **INTEGRITY/Greater Hartford Meeting**: Changing Vision of Marriage; 3:00pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Sigmour Street, Hartford. All are welcome! Speaker: Fr. Christopher L. Webber, author and priest in the Connecticut Diocese. Webber will give a talk titled; "Changing Vision of Marriage" based on his new book, soon to be released, Re-Thinking Marriage.

More Calendar of Events on page 39

Submit your non-profit calendar event/s\* to [calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com](mailto:calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com) or [calendar@therainbowtimesnews.com](mailto:calendar@therainbowtimesnews.com)

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

# PFLAG releases new audio recording of meeting with Oklahoma Rep. Kern

*40-minute un-edited recording clearly contradicts Kern's version of the event*

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK—Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has released the full 40-minute audio of a recent meeting between Oklahoma PFLAG supporters and State Representative Sally Kern. The un-edited audio, released exclusively at [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org), was made public after Kern insisted the organization had misrepresented her statements to reporters following the sit-down. Kern, who referred to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans as a “cancer” that “is just destroying this nation,” and said gays were “the biggest threat our nation has, even more so than terrorism,” met with PFLAG supporters at the state capitol on March 27. She subsequently denied that, during the meeting, she spoke out against job discrimination against gays or that she agreed to consider an ongoing dialogue with PFLAG families.

On the recording released today, Kern twice agrees with PFLAG supporters that gay Americans should not be fired from their jobs simply because of their sexual orientation. She goes on to say that “maybe” she would consider a follow-up meeting with PFLAG families in her district and agrees to a dinner invitation from a PFLAG supporter in the meeting. Near the end of the conversation, Kern is asked, in recapping the conversation, if she does indeed oppose anti-gay job discrimination; she responds affirmatively that she does.

“Representative Kern’s words speak for themselves,” said Rev. Loyce Newton-

Edwards, president of PFLAG’s Oklahoma City chapter. “The recording, which we made with her staff’s consent, is irrefutable evi-

they have been “deceived” by the “homosexual agenda,” but also expresses gratitude for the opportunity to talk with them.

recording attests, we approached her with a willingness to talk and a commitment to work together for our families. In response, she has denied that she said what she did and walked away from her duty to hear from her constituents. Kern’s return to shrill rhetoric is a disservice to everyone. She clearly does not intend to represent all of the families in her district.”

The full audio recording of PFLAG’s meeting with Kern is available online at [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org).

*PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. For more information, visit [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org).*

**The un-edited audio, released exclusively at [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org), was made public after Kern insisted the organization had misrepresented her statements to reporters following the sit-down. Kern, who referred to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans as a “cancer” that “is just destroying this nation,” and said gays were “the biggest threat our nation has, even more so than terrorism,” met with PFLAG supporters at the state capitol on March 27.**

dence that she did agree with us on employment non-discrimination; that she did agree to consider an ongoing dialogue with us; and that she did agree on some basic principles of fairness and equality. It is beyond disappointing that she has now stepped away from those comments, and it is disheartening that she, as an elected leader, has attempted to disavow her own words.”

Loyce-Edwards, along with PFLAG supporters Rev. Dr. Kathy McCallie and Rev. Jim Shields, are heard in the recording engaging Kern on issues ranging from GLBT demographics in Kern’s district to issues of faith and family. Kern later tells the group that

“Sally Kern has, to our disappointment, now slammed the door shut on our families, allies and loved ones in Oklahoma and across the country,” said Jody M. Huckaby, executive director of PFLAG. “As the PFLAG



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# Deep Inside Hollywood: Cosby kid goes to jail?



By: Romeo San Vicente\*  
**Demi Moore and Parker Posey Cry Happy Tears**

Demi Moore knows how hard it is for an actor who takes a break from the business to find her way back in, so lately she's

been taking some cues from ex-husband Bruce Willis. Want a low-risk comeback? Get on the indie-film bus. And that's exactly what she's been doing, recently starring in the heist drama *Flawless* with Michael Caine, and now set to shoot gay writer-director Mitchell Lichtenstein's (*Teeth*) latest film, *Happy Tears*. She's in good company, too, as indie-film veteran Parker Posey has signed on to play Moore's younger sibling. The drama focuses on the two estranged sisters (one self-aggrandizing, the other bitter and resentful) as they re-establish their relationship and deal with their elderly father's progressive dementia. Shooting now in Philadelphia, look for the happiness sometime in 2009.

**Gay Cast Populates *Canvas***

*Shifting the Canvas*, an indie drama due to tackle the complicated lives of a group of Brooklyn friends after 9/11, has cast several faces familiar to queer audiences, notably up-and-coming gay actor Chyenne Jackson. Last seen on film as rugby player Mark Bingham in *United 93*, and currently on

Broadway in the hit musical *Xanadu*, Jackson will star as a heterosexual Wall Street executive involved with a group of gay friends. Rounding out the cast is *Kids in the Hall* alum Scott Thompson, as well as John Paul Pitoc (best remembered as the horny go-go boy in *Trick*) and Gedde Watanabe (last seen regularly as a gay nurse on *ER*, but forever known as "Long Duk Dong" from *Sixteen Candles*). The film rolls in June and promises cameos by several as-yet-unnamed New York nightlife personalities.

**Raul Esparza Slays 'Em in 25/8**

Eventually, all the Broadway stars try their luck in Hollywood. And it was just a matter of time before Raul Esparza, the handsome Tony Award nominee and Drama Desk Award winner (both for *Company* and *Tambo*), wandered west. The bisexual actor has already found success on the small screen, cast in a recurring role on ABC's hit *Pushing Daisies*. But now he may be stepping way outside the feel-good box he's been in - he's in talks to play a serial killer in Wes Craven's latest teen-horror film, *25/8*. Concerning a group of kids being stalked by a killer believed to have died on the birthday they share in common, the film will co-star teenage colleagues Max Thieriot (*Juniper*) and Shareeka Epps (*Half-Nelson*). No production or release dates yet, but the scary stuff is due to shoot soon.

**Cosby Kid Goes to Jail**

Adorable little Rudy Huxtable is all grown up



DEMI MOORE

and looking to introduce her adult self to audi-

**Couch from Page 2**

Dr. Mohler is the president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a syndicated radio talk show host and on the board of Focus on the Family, James Dobson's anti-gay organization. Mohler is on the outs with his religious constituents by acknowledging homosexuality may not be a choice, so I guess he's the open minded right-wing bigot of the bunch.

This is supposed to be a fair and balanced panel, discussing an issue that is of great consequence for all of us. What is not mentioned is what Mohler wrote in his Christian advice column, in regards to genetic testing for homosexuality. He wrote: "If a biological basis [for homosexuality] is found, and if a prenatal test is then developed, and if a successful treatment to reverse the sexual orientation to heterosexual is ever developed, *we would support its use as we should unapologetically support the use of any appropriate means to avoid sexual temptation and the inevitable effects of sin.*" Mohler concludes, "If such knowledge should ever be discovered, we should embrace it in use it for the greater good humanity and for the greater glory of God."

Oh yeah, this guy is the one I want weighing in on whether people like us could be put in a mental hospital in the future. And what's with the "appropriate means to avoid sexual temptation?" Does that then give the green light to castrate those born with a penis, because it may be too much of a "sexual temptation" to reach out and touch ... someone? Or, yourself perhaps? I know *that* makes the A-list of sin. Think of the temptations Dr. Mohler could stop! All for the greater good of humanity! And don't forget: God's beaming praise will be yours.

But, I'm guessing if the whole reparative "ex-gay" thingy doesn't work. We can always move on to the elimination of fetuses with the gay gene. Oh, wait, that's not allowed in religious circles either. Not yet, anyways. But if and when such testing becomes available, it seems inevitable that many people will have to re-evaluate their

ences. Already, Keshia Knight Pulliam, who played Bill Cosby's youngest child throughout the '80s on his groundbreaking sitcom, has been featured in *Beauty Shop* opposite Queen Latifah. And now she's about to become more visible in Tyler Perry's latest drag extravaganza, *Madea Goes to Jail*. Starring Perry as the clownish and outsized old woman who's always ready to beat on people who misbehave, Pulliam co-stars as a prostitute who finds herself protected from a predatory lesbian inmate by Madea. Audiences expecting to find subtlety, good taste, and positive queer role models are advised to look elsewhere when this one comes down the pipeline. The rest of you will know where to find it when it hits multiplexes in 2010.

\* Romeo San Vicente's favorite "Cosby Show" kid was always Denise. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

beliefs.

Tyler Gray in a recent Radar article argues that pro-lifers will have to decide if the "public shame of having a gay child outweighs the private sin of terminating a pregnancy." And pro-choice advocates would have the dilemma of accepting the decisions of "thousands of potential parents choosing to filter homosexuality right out of the gene pool."

I see the downside here, and it is the existence of us. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans. And a panel of people that appear to be threatening, at the very least, to make sure we are categorized as a disease, a mental illness that needs to be "fixed" once again.

Can't anyone see the irony here? That if it was possible to isolate the gay gene, and it were to be eradicated, wouldn't those who did the deed be playing God? Going against the will of the very One they say they believe in and are doing this for? And that this deity apparently made gays this way to begin with perhaps with the greater good of humanity in mind? *Would we be fully human without the contributions to society* of all the writers, film makers, fashion designers, musicians, poets, artists, clergy, athletes, entertainers and all the rest of the GLBT community? I know we wouldn't dress as well, that's for damn sure.

I'm a little tired of other people suggesting there's something wrong with being gay, something that needs a little tinkering to make it all better. And I don't want GMG's (Genetically Modified Gays) to be an acronym of the future. This ethical dilemma must be addressed now by our community, before it is done for us by others.

\* Suzan Ambrose can be heard on her call-in talk radio program, *The Naked Truth*, Monday evenings at 8 p.m., and 2 a.m. Tuesdays, on 103.3FM, Northampton. Or streaming on the web at [www.valleyfreeradio.org](http://www.valleyfreeradio.org). For more of Suz's thoughts, check out her website at: [www.nakedtruthshow.com](http://www.nakedtruthshow.com)

Got some feedback for Suz? Topics you'd like to hear about? Email [suz@nakedtruthshow.com](mailto:suz@nakedtruthshow.com).

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Sitar, takes a perfect score.

Photo by: Julius Child

**Sitar: The best Indian food, takes 5 flags**

By: Julius Child  
TRT Restaurant Reviewer

Rating: 5/5 Flags

choose a very spicy version.

SITAR! It is simply the best Indian food since my last delightful meal in East London! As some of you know, it is challenging to find a restaurant serving authentic Indian food in most parts of the US. Well, Western Mass you have one right here in downtown Springfield.

This menu is huge, so my partner and I decided to share all of our choices, a smart way to go.

Vegans and vegetarians will find a good assortment of meals to choose from. We opted for the Baigan Bharta, a light, fresh eggplant that is baked on an open flame and had aromatic herbs and spices which gave it a heavenly flavor.

Our bread, Alu Paratha, layered butter fried, stuffed with shredded potatoes, peas and spices. My personal favorite was Muglai Biryani, aromatic Indian Basmati rice, cooked with fresh herbs nuts and spices. We chose chicken, but lamb, shrimp or a vegetarian version is also available. It was served with Raita, a whipped yogurt with cucumbers, spices and mint, a pleasant addition to the main meal as it cooled the palate since we

ordering food here, you choose the preferred taste from mild to very hot.

As if this wasn't enough to fill a 425 pound person, we also ordered a very spicy Lamb

Vindaloo, lamb pieces cooked in sharp spiced gravy, which includes potatoes, the best!

Of course we tried one dessert, Shahi Sabz Biryani. They refer to it as a royal treat, and indeed it was! Basmati rice cooked with fresh vegetables and saffron, and then sprinkled with just the right amount of raisins and nuts.

A cup of hot tea hit the spot. Our waiter was very helpful in making decisions and his suggestion of dessert was truly a gift.

Prices are very reasonable, portions generous, quality excellent, wait staff knowledgeable. We award Sitar our highest Rainbow Stars: 5.

Why did it take us this long to find this charming store front restaurant in downtown Springfield?

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9. The L Word: Season 4
10. Love My Life

\* By wolfevideo.com

**Gay Best Sellers\***

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## Inglaiñol Latin Beat ... the Latinazo

# Unite for equality for all, not the few and mean it!

By: Wilfred Labiosa\*

*"Race is an issue that I believe this nation cannot afford to ignore right now," Sen. Barack Obama.*

It would be a great world if racism, bigotry, and homophobia wouldn't exist. It would be impressive if people would stop expressing and acting their racism, separatism, and homophobia. It is incredible that in the year 2008 we are still seeking equal rights for GLBT folks, and for immigrants. We should be all equal by now but we are not. People wake up!

I find myself writing another column about the same issue. I wrote a similar column two years ago and we are still trying to bring equality for all and work with the racism that exists in our country. After January 20, 2009, when a new president is sworn might be a better time for all of us specially immigrants and people of color.

I'm lucky. Thanks to a 1920's act signed into law by the US and my home country, Puerto Rico, I was born being a citizen of the US. If these two governments in 2008 had negotiated this, most probably it wouldn't have occurred because recently the US government instead of progressing has regressed. I have noticed a higher prevalence of racism, sexism, bigotry, and homophobia; not only within the government and its institutions but also among individuals, organizations, and

community groups in this state (and others states).

As a gay man, I'm astonished about the indifference, hatred, and "uneducation" of GLBT individuals. I have noticed how GLBT individuals have stopped caring for other

pride flags waved side by side with other flags.

Let's make our fight one of advocacy for justice and equality for all not for the few. As a marginalized community, GLBT folks of all colors and races and immigrant status should

embrace and learn the validity of this illegal residents/immigrant community' currently living in the US. Let's embrace immigration. The immigrants in question are our neighbors, our work force, our friends, our lovers, and possibly our spouses. Let's learn about this subject, let's unite, and let's have an "agenda" for equal rights for all, not the few, and let's mean it! Take time to vote in November as your vote will affect all of our futures, not just yours!

The GLBT community and the immigrant community are not mutually exclusive. So to the GLBT community and all of the community at large, wake up, stand up and unite so that our spirits and our voices rise and are heard all the way to the top and around the globe! Start bringing this change to your home, family, church, group, organization and community. You can make a difference, it is time to talk, get educated, vote, and to wake up! Visualize, Struggle, and Change!

You can attend the seminar been planned for Latino Pride 08 on this subject to be held May 15. For details on this community conversation and on Latino Pride 08 please visit [www.somoslatinoslgbt.org](http://www.somoslatinoslgbt.org) or read this newspaper.

\* Written by Wilfred W. Labiosa—community mobilizer, and founding member of Somos Latin@ LGBT Coalition of Mass and Latino Pride of New England. This article was edited in English by John Barter.

## What ever happened to transgender rights, or GLBT immigrant rights? Can these be added to the GLBT community "agenda"?

issues after we gain the right to marriage. What ever happened to transgender rights, or GLBT immigrant rights? Can these be added to the GLBT community "agenda"? I have not seen the enthusiasm and energy for these issues as that noted during the intense struggle of marriage equality. These two issues should have the same intensity and we should continue the dialogue on the racism, and homophobia existent in our community.

As a Latino gay man, I'm astonished how much more welcoming my Latino straight counterparts are about GLBT rights. Yes, you might not have expected this but it's the truth. Survey results and other research conducted in the last four years have confirmed this fact. During the marches for immigrant rights, you can notice Latinos walking side by side with GLBT individuals and families; in some marches across the US, you could have seen

work together towards the advancement of rights for all. Aren't we all victims of oppression? Aren't we children of the "isms" like racism, sexism, and homophobia? The moment for GLBT individuals to unite is now! No matter your political affiliation, color, or race you should unite to fight for immigrant rights, fighting for these rights don't diminish our cause and ongoing struggle for equal GLBT rights, instead it makes it stronger. When you don't see some other person as unequal is when you will be able to make a change.

Let's not spend money in stronger border control. Let's not spend money convicting hard working immigrants as felons. Let's not stop immigration reform but lets do it in a proper way that will allow families to stay together, that it will allow working immigrants gain work permits, and in a way that

# ¡Únase por la igualdad para todo/as y no por los pocos!

Por: Wilfred Labiosa\*

*"El tema de raza es uno que esta nacion no puede ignorar en estos momentos", Senador Barack Obama.*

Sería un gran mundo si no existiría el racismo, el fanatismo, y la homofobia.

Sería impresionante si las personas dejaran de expresar su racismo, fanatismo, transfobia y homofobia. Es increíble que en el año 2008 todavía estemos abogando por igualdad para la comunidad GLBT y la comunidad de inmigrantes. Debemos ser todos iguales pero no lo

somos. ¡Despierta!

Me encuentro escribiendo otra columna con la temática de igualdad. Escribi una columna similar hace dos años y todavía estamos intentando alcanzar la igualdad para todo/as y lidiar con el racismo que existe en este país. Después de enero 20 del 2009, cuando se juramente un nuevo(a) presidente quizás pueda ser un mejor momento para todo/as nosotros/as en especial para lo/as inmigrantes y personas de color.

Soy afortunado ya que a la gracia de un acto de ley en los 1920's entre los Estados Unidos y mi país de origen, Puerto Rico, nací siendo ciudadano de los Estados Unidos. Si estos dos gobiernos en 2008 hubieran negociado esto, quizás no hubiera sucedido ya que recientemente el gobierno de los EE.UU. en vez de progresar ha retrocedido. He notado un incremento en racismo, sexismo, fanatismo y homofobia no solamente dentro del gobierno y de sus instituciones pero también entre individuos, organizaciones y grupos en la comunidad en este estado (y otros estados).

Como hombre gay, estoy asombrado sobre la indiferencia, el odio, y la mala información (poca educación) que existe entre individuos GLBT. He notado cómo individuos GLBT han parado de actuar políticamente después de haber ganado el derecho al matrimonio gay. ¿Qué sucedió con los derechos de los transgeneros o derechos para los inmigrantes

GLBT? ¿Estos temas se pueden agregar a nuestra "agenda" GLBT? No he visto el entusiasmo y la energía para estos temas que pude notar durante la lucha intensa por la igualdad al matrimonio gay. Estos dos temas deben tener la misma intensidad además de abrir dialogo en relación al racismo y homofobia.

Como hombre gay Latino, estoy asombrado de la aceptación de mucho/as de mis contrapartes "straights" Latinos sobre los derechos GLBT. Si, usted quizás no lo pueda creer pero es la verdad. Resultados de encuestas y otras investigaciones en los pasados cuatro años han confirmado el hecho de que hay una gran mayoría en la comunidad Latina que apoya los derechos para la comunidad GLBT. Durante las marchas para los derechos de inmigrantes, usted podía notar Latinos caminando de lado a lado con individuos y familias GLBT; en algunas marchas a través de los EE.UU., usted pudo ver banderas de Orgullo de lado a lado con otras banderas.

Hagamos nuestra lucha GLBT una de justicia y de igualdad para todo/as y no una lucha por los poco/as. Como comunidad marginada, gente GLBT de todos los colores, razas y estamentos inmigrantes debemos trabajar juntos hacia el adelante por los derechos de todo/as. ¿No somos todo/as lo/as víctimas de la opresión?

## Queer Cinema You Can't Miss!

### Kiss the Bride (Gay & Bi)

Genre: Comedy, Romance; Rating: R

Director: C. Jay Cox

Distributor: Regent Releasing

Starring: Tori Spelling, Philipp Karner, James O'Shea; Release Date: 04/18/08

Synopsis: When Matt (Karner) receives an invitation to high school best friend Ryan's (O'Shea) wedding he's surprised-especially that Ryan is marrying a woman! Matt plans to rescue his former love from whatever "she-devil" has trapped him into this huge mistake.

### Love Songs (French title: Les Chansons d'amour/ Lesbian, Gay & Bi)

Genre: Musical, Romance; Rating: Not rated

Distribution: Limited Release; Director: Christophe Honore; Status: Opens in NY;

Release Date: 03/21/08

Synopsis: A French musical featuring a woman sharing her bed and affections with a man and another woman. After an unexpected event, the man involved finds himself seduced by another man.

### XXY(TRANS)

Genre: Drama; Rating: Not yet rated

Distribution: Limited Release

Director: Lucia Puenzo; Starring: Ricardo Darin, Valeria Bertuccelli, Germán Palacios, Carolina Peletriti, Martin Pirovansky, Inés Efron

Release Date: 05/02/08; Synopsis: 15-year-old Alex (Ines Efron) was brought up as a girl but was born both with male and female genitalia, and is starting to believe she might be a boy. Alvaro (Pirovansky) — suffering gender identity angst of his own — forces the issue of Alex's sexuality.

### Shelter (Gay)

Genre: Drama, Romance; Rating: Not rated

Distribution: Limited Release; Director: Jonah Markowitz; Starring: Trevor Wright, Brad Rowe,

Tina Holmes, Jackson Wurth, Ross Thomas

Release Date: 03/21/08; Notes: Premiered at

2008 Palm Springs International Film Festival

Synopsis: An unexpected attraction to his best friend's older brother forces Zach, a handsome

artist and surfer, to reconcile his own desires with the needs of his family in first-time director Jonah

## Queer Justice: Will vs. Power of Attorney?

By Atty. Jennifer Dexter\*  
TRT Law Columnist

### Dear Queer Justice:

What is the difference between a Living Will and a Power of Attorney? Which one do you recommend and for what reason?

—Tom, Southampton

### Dear Tom:

A Living Will is quite different from a Power of Attorney. The term Living Will is defined by *Black's Law Dictionary* as an instrument which is executed with the same formalities as a will (must be signed before two disinterested witnesses as well as notarized), in which a person directs that his or her life not be artificially prolonged by extraordinary measures when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery from extreme physical or mental disability.

There are four types of Powers of Attorney; (1) durable power of attorney; (2) general power of attorney; (3) irrevocable power of attorney; and (4) special power of attorney. The most common being the durable power of attorney.

A durable power of attorney is a document which grants a specific person the authority to act as an agent or attorney-in-fact for the grantor (the person executing the instrument) during the grantor's incompetence. This type of POA is only valid should the grantor become incompetent or incapacity. The instrument typically specifies that the agent or attorney-in-fact has the authority to do anything the grantor could do. For example, the agent could buy and sell stock or property or



ATTY. JENNIFER DEXTER

pay bills on behalf of the grantor.

A general power of attorney is an instrument which authorizes an agent to transact business on behalf of the grantor. An irrevocable power of attorney is a POA which cannot be revoked and a special power of attorney is a POA which limits the authority of the agent to only specific matters.

Basically, a living will tells people what you want medically in the event you can't and a power of attorney gives someone the authority to act on your behalf and take care of your affairs.

These two documents serve two very distinct situations. I would recommend executing both documents so you are sure your wishes and desires are respected.

\*Attorney Jennifer L. Dexter earned a B.A. in Psychology from The University of Central Florida. She moved to Massachusetts to attend law school at The Western New England College of Law in Springfield, Mass. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and has a Solo General Practice in the Pioneer Valley Area. The information contained herein is intended for educational purposes only and does not represent legal advice. Should you need legal advice, please contact an attorney. If you have legal questions that are unanswered, send your questions to: [queerjustice@comcast.net](mailto:queerjustice@comcast.net)

Legal questions? Don't wait, contact TRT's Queer Justice:  
[queerjustice@comcast.net](mailto:queerjustice@comcast.net)

### Unite from Page 22

¿No somos niños de los "ismos" como racismo, sexismo, y homofobia? ¿El momento para que nos unamos es ahora! No importa tu afiliación política, color, o raza, debes de unirte a la lucha por los derechos de inmigrantes. Esta lucha por los derechos de todo/as los inmigrantes no disminuye nuestra causa y lucha por nuestros derechos, en vez la hace más fuerte. Cuando usted no ve a otra persona como desigual es cuando usted podrá realizar un cambio.

No gastemos dinero en más fronteras y grandes fronteras. No gastemos dinero en criminalizar a inmigrantes trabajadores. No paremos de trabajar en una reforma de inmigración pero envés trabajemos en una que permita que familias permanezcan juntas, que permita trabajar con permisos apropiados, y que abraze y enseñe la validez de esta comunidad que vive actualmente en los EE.UU. Vamos abrazar la inmigración. Estos inmigrantes de los que hablamos son nuestros vecino/as, nuestra fuerza de trabajo, nuestra comunidad GLBT, nuestro/as amistades, nuestro/as amantes, y posiblemente nuestro/as esposos/as. ¡Aprendamos sobre este tema, vamos a unirnos, y vamos

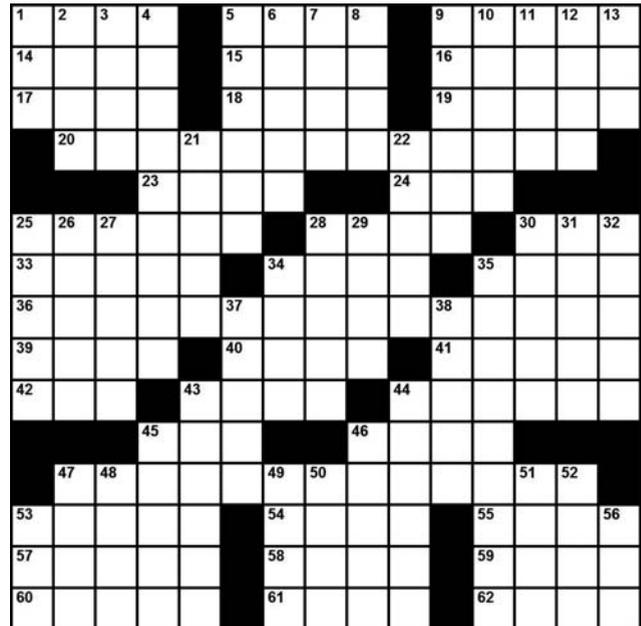
a tener una "agenda" para los derechos iguales para todo/as, no los pocos, y deja el miedo atrás! ¡Toma tiempo para votar en noviembre ya que tu voto afectara nuestro futuro como comunidad Latina y GLBT!

La comunidad GLBT y la comunidad inmigrante no son mutuamente exclusivas. ¡A la comunidad GLBT y todo/as en general, despierten, luchen y únense para que todo/as nuestros espíritus y voces se oigan en todo lo alto y alrededor del mundo! Comienza en traer este cambio a tu hogar, familia, iglesia, grupo, organización y comunidad. ¡Usted puede hacer la diferencia, así que es tiempo de educarte, votar y despertar! ¡Visualiza, Lucha y Cambia!

Puedes ir a la charla comunitaria que se está planificando durante Orgullo Latino 08 de este tema Mayo 15. Para detalles de esta charla comunitaria o de Orgullo Latino 08 visita [www.somoslatinoslgbt.org](http://www.somoslatinoslgbt.org) o lee este periódico.

\* Escrito en ambos idiomas por Wilfred W. Labiosa – Miembro de nuestra comunidad Latina, fundador de la Coalición de Somos Latin@s LGBT de Massachusetts y de Orgullo Latino de Nueva Inglaterra.

## Q Puzzle: "You've grown a foot!"



### Across

- 1 Nick Malgieri, for one
- 5 Make-or-break date
- 9 Mystery writer Claire
- 14 Friend of Dorothy
- 15 Prefix with gravure, in "Easter Parade"
- 16 Spartacus venue
- 17 Fly like an eagle
- 18 Linda Hunt's *The \_\_\_ of Living Dangerously*
- 19 Yellow Brick and others
- 20 Best of Anglo-French elevators, to Renee Vivien?
- 23 Oddly shaped teletext?
- 24 Queen of the hill
- 25 Variety
- 28 Actress lone
- 30 NCAA jock org.
- 33 Go down on a hill
- 34 Party after a Hawaiian wedding, perhaps
- 35 Star quality
- 36 Fat cat, to Shirley McLaine?
- 39 Art Deco design name
- 40 "Uh-oh!" to Lord Byron
- 41 "Ring My Bell" singer Ward
- 42 G. O'Malley and J. Kildare
- 43 Direction from The Naked Chef
- 44 Straights, to humanity, for example
- 45 To \_\_\_ For (1994 gay British flick)
- 46 Elton John Broadway musical
- 47 Flour mill imperative, to Frida Kahlo?
- 53 Rosie's partner
- 54 Silence for Saint-Saens
- 55 Home st. of Maupin
- 57 Freudian slip follower
- 58 Contemporary of Max Jacob
- 59 Cry of Dorothy
- 60 Hands of a manhandler
- 61 It comes before 69
- 62 Terse oral refusal

### Down

- 1 Coins w. Abe images
- 2 One foot, to a stallion
- 3 It comes at the bottom of a list
- 4 Flavor of a skin?
- 5 Impossible practice for Greg Louganis?
- 6 Auxiliary with "protest," to the bard
- 7 Opposite of loads
- 8 Time of *Spamalot*
- 9 Leatherneck
- 10 Jolie's tomb-raiding role
- 11 Like Felix of *The Odd Couple*
- 12 Added stipulations
- 13 Some women's studies degrees
- 21 Type of wedding candle
- 22 Rim job?
- 25 Part of an IRS return
- 26 Saw opening about being human
- 27 Boats you can blow up
- 28 Type of daddy
- 29 Artist Deborah
- 30 Subjects of autoerotic fantasy?
- 31 Greek island
- 32 Stone size
- 34 Taylor of *Six Feet Under*
- 35 *Odd Girl Out* author
- 37 Kathy of *Primary Colors*
- 38 \_\_\_ Cologne
- 43 Passive ACT UP protests
- 44 Amy, to David Sedaris
- 45 Self-contradictory bra size?
- 46 Cruising, maybe
- 47 Sweet opening?
- 48 "Why should \_\_\_ you?"
- 49 Puts out
- 50 Copped a tactile experience?
- 51 Lorca's eight
- 52 Drivers get off on it
- 53 Object of Britney's lesbian fantasies
- 56 Seed spilled by some farmers

# 5th ANNUAL LATINO PRIDE OF NEW ENGLAND

Visi<sup>👁️</sup>n. Luc<sup>👉</sup>a. Cambi<sup>☀️</sup>. *May 10 - 18, 2008*

saturday, may 10th

2:15 PM - THROUGH THICK AND THIN, DIR: SEBASTIAN CORDOBA, US, 2007, ENGLISH 75 MIN.

Movie about how GLBT couples are affected by current immigration laws. Director Sebastian Cordoba present for Q & A. Museum of Fine Arts, part of the Boston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. [www.mfa.org/film](http://www.mfa.org/film) for details and tickets.



**FEATURE FILM:  
MANUELA Y MANUEL  
Directed by Raul Marchand.**

7:45 PM - FEATURE FILM "MANUELA Y MANUEL," DIR: RAUL MARCHAND, PUERTORICO, 2007. SPANISH WITH SUBTITLES, 94 MIN.

Raul Marchand, Puerto Rico, 2007. Spanish with English Subtitles. Deep inside, Manuel has always been Manuela. Hidden identities and misunderstandings abound in this hilarious high-camp farce with tremendous heart. Q & A immediately following film. Museum of Fine Arts, part of the Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Visit [www.mfa.org/film](http://www.mfa.org/film) for details and tickets.

sunday, may 11th

8 PM, A NIGHT OF CROWNS!

Opening Night of Latino Pride 08 at Frans Place in Lynn (776 Washington Street). Learn how to dance the hottest Latino Rhythms, enjoy the Latino Rhythms, and shows from title holders. \$10, advance; \$12, at the door. 18+, proper ID required. Dance lessons from 8 to 9 p.m. Shows throughout the night!

thursday, may 15th - 6 PM LATINO PRIDE POLITICAL COMMUNITY DISCUSSION "The Rise and Importance of the Latino GLBT Community in Election 2008" At Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Avenue, Student Center, Room 201, Roxbury Crossing.

friday, may 16th - 9 PM A SPECIAL 'VIERNES SOCIAL' FOR WOMEN AND THEIR AMIGAS at Frans Place in Lynn (776 Washington Street). Music, Pool Tables & Great Company! 18+ Proper ID Required. Special Surprises and Giveaways.

saturday, may 17th

All of these events will take place at the Back Bay Events Center, Dorothy Quincy Suite, 180 Berkeley Street (corner with Stuart Street). Validated Parking in the Clarendon St Lot.

6 PM COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR  
Free and Open to all attendees of the reception or the pageant.

6 PM TO 8:00 PM OUR 5TH PRIDE OF LATI@S GLBT RECEPTION. Tapas & Beverages Included. 21+, Proper ID Required. \$50 p/ticket. We will honor members of the Latino/a GLBT Community and Allies.

## 8:00 PM 10th ANNUAL MISS MASS. GAY LATINA PAGEANT

Who will be our new Latino Queen? Who will Miss. Vanessa Love Crown? 18+, Proper ID Required. \$12, in advance; \$15, at the door. Cash bar.



**MISS VANESSA LOVE  
MISS MASS GAY LATINA**

sunday, may 18th

2 PM SOCIALIZING FOR JUSTICE ON THE BOSTON COMMON. This annual event is becoming a popular one even if it rains or shines. Event organized and hosted in cooperation with the Socializing for Justice Organization, putting the Social back in Social Justice. For details visit: [www.sojust.org](http://www.sojust.org) Free and Open to all!

6 PM FILM: SPINNIN' EUSEBIO PASTRANA, SPAIN, 2007 SPANISH WITH SUBTITLES, 110 MIN. A young gay couple find an unusual way to start a family in Spinnin' and a total of 101 queer kisses. As part of the Boston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival at the Museum of Fine Arts. [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

8 PM THE VISION PARTY at Frans Place in Lynn (776 Washington Street). Official Closing Party of Latino Pride 08. Come and see the first show of our new title holder! Fiesta begins early. \$10. Proper ID Required.

*Sponsors:*



Anheuser-Busch Company, Boston Gay Rights Fund, Human Rights Campaign (HRC), AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, The Network/La Red, 5 Star Travel Services, MassEquality, Mass Department of Public Health, Boston Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth (BAGLY), Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, Somos Latin@s LGBT Coalition of Mass, Latidia Productions, M.A.P.S. Ambiente Latino Program, Orgullo Program of the Hispanic Health Council, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, private donors, and many others.



NewEnglandBlade



*Ticket Outlets:*

5 Star Travel Services, 495 Columbus Avenue, Boston's South End  
Xposure by Noel, 606 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, Boston  
Frans Place, 776 Washington Street, Lynn

[www.somoslatinoslgbt.org](http://www.somoslatinoslgbt.org)

**Saturday, June 7, 2008**  
**Northampton, MA**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Assemble at Lampron Park**  
**Noon: March steps off**

**12:30 – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Rally at Armory St. Lot**  
**(behind Thornes Marketplace)**

**Speakers:**

Miss Major  
Imani Henry  
Gunner Scott  
Dr. Enoch Page  
Moonhawk River Stone  
Jerimarie Liesegang  
Ethan St. Pierre  
Donna Rose  
Monica Roberts

Statement by Leslie Feinberg, and more...



**Marsha P. Johnson**  
**fought back at the**  
**Stonewall Rebellion.**

**Performances by:**

Joe Stevens (of Coyote Grace)  
Lee Elder  
Ellen Wittlinger  
All The Kings Men: Boston's Drag Troupe  
Kate Bornstein, and more ...



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Queer Voices from NY & Reviews

# Lesbian Notions: Reclaiming Christ in our lives



By: Libby Post\*

Edward R. Murrow, the pioneering journalist, was right about television—if it is used to educate people, it could have an amazing impact. In the case of one gay teen in Iowa in 1998, TV not only educated him, it saved his life.

After seeing a segment about Harvard theologian Rev. Irene Monroe on PBS' *In the Life*, the youth in question wrote an e-mail to the segment's producer, Daniel Karlslake. The e-mail read, "Last week I bought the gun. Yesterday I wrote the note. But last night I happened to turn on your show, and just knowing that someday I might be able to go back into my church, I threw the gun in the river. My mom never has to know."

Reading that e-mail was the beginning of a journey for Karlslake.

"I couldn't fathom that this kid was going to kill himself because of what he thought the story of Jesus was," Karlslake told me in a recent interview. "Gay kids are pushed to suicide because of Christianity. It's what should save them, but it's been twisted so much for so long. This kid changed his mind because here was one person of faith [Monroe] who was also openly lesbian and proud of being both. There were so many stories we needed to start telling. We could save more lives."

Karlslake told his *In the Life* boss that he wanted the LGBT religion beat. His focus eventually turned into a feature-length film that is taking the country's pulpits, classrooms, and movie theaters by storm: *For the Bible Tells Me So*.

The spiritual violence of the radical Christian right became palpable to me as I watched the film. Even though I'm a Jew, I truly felt the pain of Christian families with LGBT members. Before, it was just another political issue for me to rally around and write about. During the 99 minutes of the film, I heard and felt the stories of five very American, very Christian families who have struggled with reconciling their religion with the very real fact that they have lesbian or gay children.

The Reitans from Minnesota are one of those families.

These were people I knew—literally. I had interviewed Phil and Randi a few years back about their son, Jake, whose coming-out had taken their family on an amazing journey. Their unconditional love for Jake outweighed their Lutheran church's teachings, and they soon found themselves sharing his passion for bringing Christ's real message of love and inclusion to LGBT-excluding college campuses and organizations through Soulforce's Equality Rides.

Go see the film, and you'll experience their family. (You can check out the film's trailer or

find out about screenings at the movie's website, [www.forthebibletellsmeso.org](http://www.forthebibletellsmeso.org).)

Together, they travel to Colorado Springs, Colo., to challenge the homophobia of James Dobson and Focus on the Family. Together, they are arrested. Together, they make the point that Christianity is not what the radical Christian right says it is.

"Churches should be the place that welcomes the outcast," Randi told me during my interview with Karlslake, who was sitting with the Reitans in their home, eating Chinese takeout after a day of lobbying together for OutFront Minnesota. "Instead, churches are making people into outcasts. The film helps us share with pastors how many people have been hurt, how they long to come back and feel welcome. It's time for pastors to lead their congregations and no longer be silent about LGBT rights."

The Reitans have been touring with the film, so to speak. Whenever it is shown within a few hours of their home, they go and participate in the question-and-answer period that inevitably follows a screening. They have also been taking it to churches. In fact, after showing it in one small Methodist church in Minnesota, the congregation wanted to know what they could do "help the situation." Phil and Randi told them it would be great if they could make the *For the Bible Tells Me So* DVD available to the folks at the Methodist national convention happening soon in Ft. Worth, Texas.

A group of Lutheran ministers asked Randi and Phil to be part of a Q&A session after watching the film. The Reitans said all the ministers were visibly moved.

"As they discussed it afterwards, they made each other braver," said Phil. "They started to see they wouldn't be out there all by themselves if they took a stand. It helped them along on their journey."

That journey is also being taken by what Karlslake calls "straight people who are conflicted."

He explains how people come up to him after seeing the film and tell him they've been sitting in their church pews for decades, feeling really conflicted about what their pastors have to say about the LGBT issue. They tell him, "Jesus embraced outcasts... it makes no sense that LGBT people are put outside the Kingdom of God. I'm going to talk with my preacher. I want him to explain how we're not all God's children." Others have told him that they left the church because the way the LGBT issue was handled didn't jive with their understanding of who Christ was. "But I'm a Christian," one viewer told Karlslake. "The film makes me feel like I can go back to church."

Changing hearts and minds in the red states is what Karlslake had in mind when he made the film. It seems to be working.

"Much of our country is really part of that movable middle. *For the Bible Tells Me So* helps educate," explained Phil. "Those who see it start to understand what the discrimination is, so it becomes their issue."

\*Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached care of this publication or at [LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com](mailto:LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com).

## Authors on Authors Book Review: When It's All Relative, Higgins is back!

By: Frankie J. Jones

What do you get when you stir up a mixture of lap dances, a strap-on, nipple clamps, a Smith and Wesson .357, a family that exceeds the term dysfunctional, a serial killer, a kidnapping and strippers? No, it's not another political scandal. It's Therese Szymanski's latest Brett Higgins novel, *When It's All Relative*.

Brett Higgins has survived the horrors of her abusive family and a long line of misadventures. When it seems her life might be settling down, her girlfriend, Allie, discovers that Brett has cheated on her. Brett tries to explain that she can't help it if women throw themselves at her, but Allie isn't listening. She's moving out.

And if that's not enough for Brett to deal with, her sister-in-law, Laura, suddenly appears and informs her that several members of the Higgins family have died recently

under mysterious circumstances. Brett reluctantly agrees to investigate the deaths and quickly concludes that they aren't accidents. In order to solve this case, she will have to face her demons, both human and emotional.

With the tough, gun-toting, head bashing Brett Higgins, Szymanski pulls no punches. She doesn't hesitate to yank her readers into a sordid underworld that is quite frankly sometimes uncomfortable and disturbing. Then, she'll hit you with sex scenes that will have you squirming in your seat. It's Szymanski's carefully blended wry sense of humor that keeps the story from becoming morose.

In addition to being an author, Therese Szymanski is an editor and an award-winning playwright. She was the recipient of the 2008 *Alice B. Readers' Appreciation Award*.

[Editor's Note: This review is considered as an advertorial for the authors on authors program.]

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She's rough. She's tough. And she's more fucked-up than you can imagine. But she gets the job done. When she wants to.

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Now available at LGBT bookstores, [BellaBooks.com](http://BellaBooks.com), [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) & other fine stores

## Lance Bass speaks out against discrimination, discusses why he stayed silent about sexuality

By: Erin Carlson/AP Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Lance Bass doesn't want others to stay silent as he did.

So he's made a public service announcement for the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN). The spot, which will be distributed over the Internet Friday, debuts in advance of the 11th annual National Day of Silence on April 25, when students take a vow of silence to protest bullying, harassment and discrimination in schools.

"I think it's time for me to stand up ... and help educate, because I'm lucky enough to have been given a voice to be able to talk and grab the attention of people," said the 28-year-old singer, who is gay.

"Everyday, thousands of students are silenced. They're silenced by fear; they're

silenced for being who they are. ... They're brothers, they're sisters, they're gay, they're straight, they're you, they're me."

Bass, who recently completed a stint in the Broadway musical "Hairspray" and released a

memoir, said the advertisement is meant to honor Lawrence King, a 15-year-old boy killed by another student in February because he arrived at school in feminine attire.

**And I think it would have been great to be able to come out (at) the height of like the 'N Sync heyday—I think it could have helped a lot of people."**

"I heard about Lawrence on the news, and it was just incredible to me that kids that age

lings or family members or other fellow students."

Bass—who joined 'N Sync in 1995 with Justin Timberlake, JC Chasez, Joey Fatone and Chris Kirkpatrick—announced in July 2006 that he's gay. It took him a while to come

out. ('N Sync went on hiatus in 2002 and has virtually disbanded now that Justin Timberlake's career has taken off.)

"I was very scared of ruining my four best friends' careers," he said. "The ignorance in me thought that if I did reveal that, that our whole life would crash and the group would end because everyone would hate us. But now I see how stupid that was, and I wish I could go back and be able to tell the world who I really was.

"And I think it would have been fine. My fans have always still stood by me, and they haven't changed. And I think it would have been great to be able to come out (at) the height of like the 'N Sync heyday—I think it could have helped a lot of people."

### Jackson & Connor from Page 15

Since the March opening, Tetreault said that they have received many positive remarks about the store, including the wide variety of apparel not limited to price. She said that customers will find an inviting space with warm walls, a pool table, animal skin rugs, huge dressing rooms of which people have asked to live in, a lounge area with a leather sofa for those shopping with

the shoppers, a flat screen T.V. an antler chandelier, amongst other things.

"Come and see for yourself, the difference is extremely apparent!" said Tetreault.

Jackson & Connor is located at 150 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Thornes Marketplace, Northampton, Mass. For more information about Jackson & Connor, call Tara or Candice at (413) 586-4MEN.

# Happy Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers on this important day.

The Publisher & Editor especially want to say "Feliz Dia de las Madres" to Enguila, Mima & Cuca, as well as Aida & Bibi in PR. They also want to say to Kathy, in Ogdensburg, Happy Mother's Day! You are so much appreciated and loved!

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## As Pentagon Confirms Alarming Increase in 'Moral Waiver' Enlistees, Retired Air Force Colonel Calls For Dismantling 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

### Colonel Daniel Tepfer Calls Military's Gay Ban 'Affront to American Principles'

Washington, DC—Following a new report from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, confirming a sharp increase in the number of 'moral waivers' being issued for new enlistees who would otherwise be disqualified from service, a retired Air Force Colonel is calling on elected leaders and military officials to abandon the controversial "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel. Colonel Daniel Tepfer, USAF (Ret.), who also serves on the national board of directors of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) called the law an affront to American principles of fairness and equality.

"I swore, as an Air Force officer, to 'support and defend the Constitution of the United States,'" Colonel Tepfer, who served for more than 23 years in the Air Force, said today. "My unwavering belief is that the privileges and responsibilities of the Constitution, including military service, are for all citizens, including my gay child and other gay and lesbian citizens. I am proud of my military

career, as are my wife and children. I know many stellar lesbian and gay troops who also served proudly, but who could not serve openly about their lives and their loved ones. Our national priority should be on the qualification of potential service members, not on discriminating against them because of who they are."

According to the Associated Press, the Army issued 511 so-called 'moral waivers' in 2007, up from 249 the year before. Marine Corps waivers rose from 208 in 2006 to 350 in fiscal year 2007. "The bulk of the crimes involved were burglaries, other thefts, and drug offenses, but nine involved sex crimes and six involved manslaughter or vehicular homicide convictions," AP reported. "Several dozen Army and Marine recruits had aggravated assault or robbery convictions, including incidents involving weapons."

"While second chances are, in many cases, a noble thing to offer, lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans aren't given even a first chance



to serve," said Tepfer. "As a retired officer, I am appalled that our country continues to turn away or dismiss talented, qualified Americans

who want to serve. It is indefensible that the only reason for denial is their sexual orientation."

The House of Representatives is currently considering legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1246) is sponsored by Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) and supported by 142 lawmakers, both Democratic and Republican, in Congress.

*PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. For more information, visit [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org).*

## New Human Rights Campaign Foundation Guide Helps Employers Create Fair Policies for Transgender Workers

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the nation's largest gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization, has released a guide that aims to provide human resource and other employment professionals with best practices for transgender workplace inclusion—from discrimination and benefits policies to internal practices that reflect how gender is expressed and integrated in the workplace—as well as the state of legal issues encompassing gender identity in employment situations. "Transgender Inclusion in the Workplace" covers topics such as appropriate terminology with which to discuss gender identity and expression, the creation of policies that protect transgender workers from discrimination, and the expansion of diversity programs to include gender identity and expression.

"In the absence of a federal law that prohibits workplace discrimination based on gender identity, it is up to employers to take the lead and implement policies that ensure all their employees are protected," said HRC Foundation President Joe Solmonese. "With this guide, the HRC Foundation hopes to help managers educate themselves and their workers on these sensitive and increasingly visible issues—as well as the consequences of failing to do so."

The new guide recommends steps that employers can take to facilitate peaceful, safe, and healthy gender transitions for employees. Among these are the adoption of inclusive non-discrimination policies, removal of discriminatory health insurance exclusions, development of dress codes that avoid gender stereotypes and can be enforced consistently, the protection of employee privacy, and the incorporation of gender identity and gender expression into diversity training programs. "Transgender Inclusion in the Workplace" is available on the Human Rights Campaign website at [www.hrc.org/issues/1561.htm](http://www.hrc.org/issues/1561.htm). It will be continuously updated and can be print-

ed at any time.

"Transgender Inclusion in the Workplace" is a publication of the HRC Foundation Workplace Project, which promotes basic fairness in employment.

"Employers can use 'Transgender Inclusion in the Workplace' to create work environments where all employees are able to dedicate their skills and energy to the work at hand, rather than worrying about being harassed or fired because of who they are," said HRC Foundation Workplace Project Director Daryl Herrschaft.

"So many of the obstacles that workers face when they transition in the workplace can be mitigated if executives, managers, and staff—including human resource professionals—are educated about transgender issues," said HRC Business Council member Diego Sanchez. "This guide goes a long way toward making workplaces safe for all employees, and the fact that it is continually updated fortifies its relevance."

"Until we have a fair-minded Congress and president who will make a fully-inclusive ENDA the law of the land to treat the GLBT community as equal Americans in society, there will be an urgent need for employers to use resources like 'Transgender Inclusion in the Workplace,'" said HRC Business Council member Meghan Stabler. "Even after an inclusive ENDA is enacted, we'll need this resource to eradicate the ignorance and fear that make it so difficult for workers to transition in the workplace."

*The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve GLBT equality. For more information about this article, please visit HRC's website at: [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org).*



## Virginia SC hears arguments in custody case involving lesbian mother

"It is both unfair and against the law to involve this child in a tug of war between two states."

Richmond, Virginia—At oral arguments today at the Supreme Court of Virginia, Arent Fox LLP, Lambda Legal, and ACLU-VA, will defend a lesbian mother and her relationship with her daughter against her ex-partner who claims that she is the sole parent after the dissolution of the couple's civil union.

"It is both unfair and against the law to involve this child in a tug of war between two states," said Greg Nevins, Senior Staff Attorney at Lambda Legal. "The court of Vermont, which has jurisdiction over this matter, has granted visitation rights for Janet Jenkins, finding a continued relationship between Janet and her daughter to be in the child's best interest."

Janet Jenkins (formerly Miller-Jenkins) and Lisa Miller (formerly Miller-Jenkins) were joined in a civil union in Vermont and shortly thereafter had a child. After the women ended their relationship, Miller moved to Virginia with the women's daughter, and asked a Vermont court to dissolve the couple's civil union and sort out custody of the child. When the Vermont court ordered visitation for Jenkins, Miller filed a new lawsuit in a Virginia court, using that state's antigay marriage law to have herself declared the child's sole legal parent. The conflicting court orders—one from Vermont ordering regular visitation for Jenkins, and the other from a lower court in Virginia naming Miller as the sole parent—led to a decision by the Virginia Court of Appeals to uphold the Vermont court order granting Janet Jenkins visitation rights. Lisa Miller is appealing the decision to the

Virginia Supreme Court.

"This litigation has been on going for over four years now. The Vermont Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals of Virginia both agree that my daughter has the right to be raised by the two parents she was born to regardless of what state she lives in," said Janet Jenkins. "I love and adore my daughter and I am going to honor my commitment to be a parent. That is what I have been trying to do all these years and I hope very much that the Virginia Supreme Court will allow me to continue to do that."

The arguments on behalf of Jenkins are based on the federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act, which makes it clear that court orders regarding custody and visitation enacted in one state must be enforced in other states as well.

Greg Nevins, Senior Staff Attorney in Lambda Legal's Southern Regional Office in Atlanta is handling the case for Lambda Legal along with co-counsel Rebecca Glendberg of the ACLU of Virginia. Joseph Price of the law firm Arent Fox LLP argued the case on behalf of Jenkins.

*The case is Miller-Jenkins v. Miller-Jenkins.*





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## Queer Musical Reviews

# Hot Blooded: X Factor Leona Lewis spills Spirit from her soul

By: B. Voss/Special for TRT

She won the third series of Simon Cowell's *The X Factor*, and her album *Spirit* became Britain's all-time fastest-selling debut and an international sensation, spawning two record-shattering singles. Now, with her emotional lead U.S. single "Bleeding Love" (the U.K.'s best-selling single of 2007) making her the first British female vocalist to top the Billboard Hot 100 in more than 20 years, the 23-year-old diva is winning gay America's heart.

**B.V.:** Congrats on your U.S. chart-topper, but especially on your recent Oprah performance—that's major!

**Leona Lewis:** I know! Oprah's so popular and world-famous; everyone knows her back in Britain as well, so yeah, it was a pretty big deal. I was really nervous, but at the same time she's such a lovely lady, so it was great to go on there and meet her.

**B.V.:** Has conquering the U.S. always been a goal for you?

**LL:** Well, I've always had the dream to be a singer and hopefully be a recording artist. When I actually got the chance to do it, I knew I was going to release in the U.K. But when I was introduced to Clive Davis, that's when the U.S. doors were opened to me. It's been an incredible chance for me, really.

**B.V.:** How has America been treating you?

**LL:** People are just getting to know me over here, whereas in the U.K. people will recognize me when I'm walking down the street. I'll get the odd few people here. But it's all great. I spent so much time here when I was creating the album, so it's great to come back and share my music with the people here.

**B.V.:** Dance remixes of "Bleeding Love" have been popular stateside for months, particularly in gay clubs.

**LL:** Yeah, the remixes are cool. I'm glad that they can reach people in different ways. As

Photo by: Randall Slavin



LEONA LEWIS

long as it's reaching people and people are enjoying it, that's the main thing.

**B.V.:** Do you have a *gay* best friend?

**LL:** In school I did—a really sweet guy called Paul, who was really into music and acting. And my hairdresser is just amazing, so lovely and relatable. It's good to have a team around you that you're friends with because you

spend so much time together. You need people you can talk to as well.

**B.V.:** How is your longtime boyfriend handling all the traveling that comes with your U.S. promotion?

**LL:** Well, he comes out to see me sometimes, and I'm never away from home really for a long stretch of time. I'm always back and forth, so that helps. And there are so many ways to communicate with people now, so it's not like you never talk to someone.

**B.V.:** Have you had awful things printed about you?

**LL:** Everything's been quite positive so far. I don't really do much negative to put in the

papers.

**B.V.:** Do you enjoy being fussed over by stylists?

**LL:** It can be quite relaxing, actually. I've got some people who regularly do my hair and my makeup, so we've found a good balance of what to do. They know what I like and I don't like, so we get on really good.

**B.V.:** Women with soulful voices like yours have usually dealt with great heartache and sorrow, but you seem so well-adjusted. What struggles have helped color your sound?

**LL:** Growing up, I think at one point or another everyone's had their heart broken, and I have definitely. So I draw on those experiences. Like with "Bleeding Love"—it is a love song, but it's not a love song about a perfect romance; it's actually quite heart wrenching and raw. With love sometimes comes a lot of pain. It's not all sweetness and roses.

**B.V.:** What was the harshest comment you received from Judge Simon Cowell on *The X Factor*?

**LL:** I actually got quite good comments. I never got anything really mean said. I feel very, very lucky.

**B.V.:** I understand you got some criticism for a lack of self-confidence.

**LL:** Yeah, that's probably the worst thing, which isn't that bad. But I take awhile to come out of myself. I have a quiet self-confidence. I guess against other people on the show who were really loud and out there, I may have seemed quite quiet. As people get to know me, they'll know the real me.

**B.V.:** What advice would you give the current American Idol contestants?

**LL:** Enjoy it, and remember the moments because it goes by quick. For me, the show literally went by in such a flash, so just enjoy what you're doing and have fun.

**B.V.:** And what advice would you give a drag queen who wanted to emulate you?

**LL:** Have big hair and a sparkly microphone! And just sing from the heart and with lots of soul.

Leona Lewis' *Spirit* (J Records/Syco) is out now. For more information, please visit: [www.leonalewismusic.com](http://www.leonalewismusic.com)

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## Schedule of Events

- 12:00 P.M. – 12:45 P.M. PRIDE MARCH
- 12:30 P.M. – 12:45 P.M. OFFBEAT WOMEN'S DRUMMING EN.
- 12:45 P.M. – 12:50 P.M. WELCOME BY M.C., SUZAN AMBROSE, RADIO SHOW HOST, THE NAKED TRUTH & PROCLAMATION BY MAYOR CLARE HIGGINS
- 12:50 P.M. – 12:55 P.M. POLITICAL SPEAKER
- 12:55 P.M. – 1:15 P.M. LAURA WOOD, MAYRA CASALES & WENDY SOBEL
- 1:15 P.M. – 1:25 P.M. GUEST TRANS POLITICAL SPEAKER
- 1:25 P.M. – 1:45 P.M. THE WICKED QUEEAH BAND
- 1:45 P.M. – 1:55 P.M. LIPSTICK & DIPSTICK
- 1:55 P.M. – 2:05 P.M. RACHEL MADDOW
- 2:05 P.M. – 2:25 P.M. JESSE MOLINA
- 2:25 P.M. – 2:45 P.M. LORD RUSS AS "QUEEN ELVIS"
- 2:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. LENELLE MOISE
- 3:00 P.M. – 3:20 P.M. CARRIE ASHTON
- 3:20 P.M. – 3:50 P.M. OUT NOW
- 3:50 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. KIRSTEN PRICE
- 4:30 P.M. – 5:10 P.M. BRIAN KENT

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## Queer Reviews

### Baltimore from Page 14

The other major club in the neighborhood is Club Hippo, whose reputation for great music draws a wide mix of revelers, gay, straight, old, and young. It's a great place to cut loose, especially on Thursday and Saturday nights. When it gets late, the party moves to Club 1722, an 18-and-over after-hours club open on Fridays and Saturdays into the wee hours.

The tiki-themed Coconut Cafe is another Mt. Vernon hangout that's popular with lesbians, while Club Bunns caters heavily to Baltimore's sizable African-American gay community and has a legendary happy hour. Leather aficionados head a few blocks up Charles to the Eagle, which, though lacking any serious back-room action, nevertheless cultivates as racy an atmosphere as any bar in town. A classic dive that's been serving the gay community for more than 60 years (longer, say some, than any bar in America), Leon's is especially popular late on weekend evenings. Nearby Jay's on Read is a classy piano bar, and Club Phoenix is a laid-back neighborhood hangout with a small dance area and some highly entertaining drag shows. In Federal Hill, the Rowan Tree is a friendly neighborhood spot with an eclectic crowd, and over in the up-and-coming Canton section of Baltimore, The Quest caters to fans of go-go dancers.

Baltimore hotels have become slightly more expensive over the years, as the city has become a serious tourist and convention destination, but rates are still much lower than in nearby Washington, D.C. Most visi-

tors choose properties near the Inner Harbor, close to great restaurants and attractions. An excellent option here is the Pier 5 Hotel, a hip and lively boutique property with whimsically decorated, spacious rooms, many directly facing the Inner Harbor. The same owners run the elegant, historic (and allegedly haunted) Admiral Fells Inn in nearby Fells Harbor—this charming old-world property earns kudos for its helpful service, romantically decorated rooms, and afternoon tea and refreshments. In Mount Vernon, the historic 1924 Clarion Peabody Court, with its 104 hand-somely outfitted rooms, enthusiastically welcomes gay and lesbian travelers.

You'll also find some impressive smaller properties around town. The quirky Abacombie Badger B&B is set inside an 1880s town house and lies just a short walk from several gay bars. Other esteemed gay-friendly inns include the six-room Scarborough Fair B&B, in historic Federal Hill just steps from the Inner Harbor, and the gay-owned Inn at 2920, near the waterfront in Canton. This stunner with exposed brick walls and high ceilings has posh rooms with tasteful, sleek furnishings and contemporary bathrooms. These cozy properties offer visitors a great chance to get to know Baltimore's distinctive, close-knit neighborhoods and appreciate one of the city's best assets: its people.

\* Andrew Collins is the author of *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA* and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutofTown@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutofTown@qsyndicate.com).

# Queertations: Say what?!

By: Rex Wockner

"I don't know what will happen professionally ... that is the fear, but I guess I can't really be concerned about what will happen, because it's my truth. There is this desire in L.A. to wonder who you are and what's been blaring for me for the last three years is how can I be most authentic to myself—so this is the first time I am speaking about it [being gay] in this way."

—Actor **Luke MacFarlane**, who plays Scotty Wandell, character Kevin Walker's boyfriend on ABC-TV's *Brothers & Sisters*, to *Toronto's Globe and Mail*, April 15. The newspaper said the couple will marry in the May 11 season finale.

"I strongly respect the right of same-sex couples to insist that even if we got complete equality in benefits, it still wouldn't be equal because there's a stigma associated with not having the same word, marriage, assigned to it. I understand that, but my perspective is also shaped by the broader political and historical context in which I'm operating."

—Sen. **Barack Obama** to *Advocate.com*, April 10.

"We will push on and bring full marriage equality to New York state. And when we have done that, we're going to do more. We're going to protect young people from bullies. We're going to protect against the discrimination of people in the transgender community, and we're going to fight for decent and affordable health care for all citizens in this state. If you will join with me, and if we work hard enough, we can change the face of New York, which will be the catalyst to changing national policy."

—New York Gov. **David Patterson** addressing the *National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Leadership Awards* dinner April 7 in New York City.

"I'm such a big ol' bull dyke, it would have been impossible for me to hide it. I mean, when I was doing stand-up, was I going to go out onstage and talk about my boyfriend? Everyone would go, 'Hey big dyke -- why are you talking about your boyfriend?' So being out was basically being who I am."

—Comic/singer/actress **Lea DeLaria** to the *Kansas gay magazine Liberty Press*, April issue.

"There's A's and there's B's. The A's are guys like me, the B's are homosexual faggots with dirt on their fingernails that transmit diseases."

—Canadian federal Tory MP **Tom Lukiwski** caught on a 17-year-old amateur videotape unearthed April 3 by an opposition political party. Lukiwski said of the recording: "I am sorry. I am ashamed."

### Q Puzzle Solution from P. 23

C	H	E	F	D	D	A	Y	M	C	N	A	B	
T	O	T	O	R	O	T	O	A	R	E	N	A	
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## Taking Cover: An interview with 'Shelter' director Jonah Markowitz

By: Mikey Rox\*

Blink and you'll miss it, but every so often a gay-themed saga comes along that doesn't suck.

That may seem harsh, but the truth is that for every *Brokeback Mountain* there are a dozen *Say Uncles*—films produced because no one had the guts to tell the projects' masterminds that they should quit their day jobs.

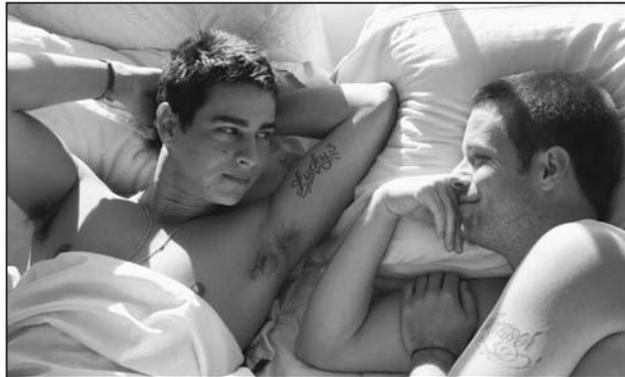
Luckily for writer/director Jonah Markowitz, no one needed to.

Because with *Shelter*, his feature debut (on DVD May 27), Markowitz has turned out a poignant piece of cinema that's less about being homosexual than it is finding happiness—regardless of sexuality or circumstances. The story of Zach (Trevor Wright), who gives up his dreams of attending art school to take care of his family while falling in love with an older family friend (Brad Rowe), *Shelter* grittily captures on film what's at the core of every romantic human heart—a longing to belong and the barriers that must be broken to achieve it.

In a recent interview, the award-winning Markowitz discusses his new film, which has premiered on three different platforms (theaters, TV and DVD) in as many months; casting the easy-on-the-eyes male leads; why he doesn't consider *Shelter* a 'gay' film; and how, hetero or homo, at the end of the day it's up to us to find our own way.

**MIKEY ROX:** You cut your teeth in the film industry as an assistant art director on films such as *The House of Sand and Fog* and *Meet the Fockers* and as art director on *We Are Marshall*. How did those positions prepare you to direct?

**JONAH MARKOWITZ:** I learned a lot about how to tell a story in a visual way. I also got the opportunity to watch many talented directors and their crews work on set.



**MR:** While working on the latter film, you were writing and directing two acclaimed short films, *I Left Me and Hung Up*. What was the impetus for your transition from art direction to full-on directing?

**JM:** I had always studied directing and wanted to be a director. It just took a while to get there.

**MR:** Your first feature film, *Shelter*, is releasing on DVD May 27, but in the past two months the film was released theatrically followed by a television premiere on here! TV. That's quite a whirlwind release schedule using an unprecedented platform. Did it pay off?

**JM:** I think it did—especially as it's hard with this size budget to really get a bang for your buck with marketing. This way you can really capitalize on it.

**MR:** Though both male leads, Trevor Wright and Brad Rowe, play gay in *Shelter*, they're

straight in real life. Was this a conscious decision on your part to cast straight men in the gay roles?

**JM:** Absolutely not; not only would that be illegal, but I wanted the best actors for the best roles, regardless of their age. I would never ask someone I was casting or hiring about their sexuality, nor would I appreciate anyone doing the same to me.

**MR:** Let's talk about the chemistry between Trevor and Brad for a minute. As straight guys, it was probably somewhat difficult for them to create an on-screen man-on-man relationship since they're both straight and likely out of their comfort zone. But was the chemistry naturally there, or did you have to step in as director and sort of guide them to more authentic realizations of their characters?

**JM:** We talked about what it was like to be so in love with someone that you wanted to spend all day in bed with them. That's all the

direction they needed. They're actors; they did the rest.

**MR:** In your director's statement, you say that, "*Shelter* is a story about people—not gay people—just people," and, in fact, mention several times that the story is more about desire, love and identity than sexuality. Do you think you accomplished that, especially when the media considers this a 'gay' film?

**JM:** Not all the media considers this a gay film, and, judging by the response I've gotten at screenings and festivals, I do think that we accomplished this.

**MR:** There's a pivotal moment in the film when Trevor Wright's character, Zach, is confronted with homophobia from within his own family. The nature of the conflict is so severe that it threatens to take away everything that Zach loves, including his nephew, for whom he's been caregiver. Why is this moment crucial to the plot, and why do you think audiences will relate?

**JM:** I think that it's something that everyone goes through, straight or gay—the moment when you realize that you cannot live your life for other people, that joy only comes from being yourself.

**MR:** *Shelter*'s soundtrack includes many here! Tunes artists, including Shane Mack and the band Dance Yourself to Death. How do these track selections assist the story?

**JM:** Music always drove the story, and when [executive in charge of production] Matt Freeman introduced me to Shane's music, I was sold.

**MR:** At the end of the day, how do you want people to view this film?

**JM:** With someone they love! And, then again with a bunch of friends.

*Who is Mikey Rox? Who gives a f@&S! But you can find him at [www.mikeyrox.com](http://www.mikeyrox.com).*

## The Candidate: A good lesbian novel that resembles HRC's run to the White House

By: J.M. Sorrell/TrT Reviewer

*The Candidate* (Bella Books 2008; paperback \$13.95) by Tracey Richardson is a great read during this volatile and history-making election year.

The fictional protagonists are a presidential candidate, Jane Kincaid, and her secret service agent,

Alex Warner. It is a love story first, and it also contains a sub-plot of the world of politics—

how decisions are made, what the media does, and how the strategists work to create images.

Since the book was written prior to 2008, I

found it striking that the author describes Pennsylvania as a key state to win for the feminist, left-of-center candidate; in fact, I read this book on April 22, which happened to be Pennsylvania's primary election day. The divergence from reality is that the other (Democrat) candidate is conservative enough

to be indistinguishable from Republican candidates.

Wait, there are many differences between this book and what is happening now.

For starters, HRC has not come out as far as I know (although her initials are curious). She is still in a heterosexual marriage (the "candidate" of the book is a widow but clearly lean-

ing towards our team; thus, this is a lesbian novel).

Also, in the book we are treated to some very hot sex scenes. All I have seen of HRC is a bumper sticker that reads, "You know you want to have sex with Hillary."



Some of the writing here is over the top but it is more erotic than much of the erotica I have read. The author is adept since the characters are passionate in their work, their intellect, and their desire for each other.

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## Queer Cine & TV

### Documentaries: LGBT reality check

The following are a list of documentaries by the *LOGO* channel that are truly touching and worth seeing. FMI: [www.logoonline.com](http://www.logoonline.com)

#### Freddie Mercury

Take a close and intimate look at the life and career of Freddie Mercury, the lead singer of Queen and one of the most famous and distinctive voices in rock music.

#### Southern Comfort

A transgender man is dying of ovarian cancer. Witness his heart-rending struggle against the disease and against the medical system itself.

#### The Two Cubas

Take an intimate look at the lives of two gay men, close friends who have grown up under Fidel Castro's 40-plus year regime.

#### No Dumb Questions

Three young children, ages 6, 9, and 11, struggle to understand their uncle's transition to becoming their aunt.

#### Love Lessons

In this touching and insightful documentary, three gay men and women seek advice and potential partners with the help of professional matchmakers.

#### When Ocean Meets Sky

A look into the origins and evolution of Fire Island Pines, one of the world's most prominent gay resorts.

#### Real Momentum Profile

Logo's Real Momentum Profile Series brings you portraits of amazing people living memorable lives.

#### For the Love of Dolly

Go inside the worlds of some of Dolly Parton's biggest fans and find out what draws them to her music and stage shows.

#### 100% Woman

100% Woman takes a look at the controversy surrounding Canadian downhill mountain bike champion Michelle Dumaresq. Now in her thirties, Michelle lived the first 20 years of her life as Michael and has completed the process of transitioning into a woman.

#### Latino Beginnings

Find out what it's like to be a minority within a minority. This documentary takes an in-depth look into the lives of gay Hispanics, a culture engrained in religion and machismo. Part of Logo's Real Momentum documentary series.

#### The Aggressives

The lives of six New York City women who assume the category of "aggressive" through masculine roles, behavior, and dress. Each woman defines their gender roles in unique and profound ways through footage that includes intimate interviews and clips from talk shows and drag balls.

### Repeat shows: LGBT characters

(times vary, check local listings)

#### Dante's Cove, here! (1 hr)

A gothic horror soap that takes place in Hotel Dante, where a dark, supernatural force is accidentally released from the basement, causing all hell to break loose.

#### Degrassi: The Next Generation, The N (30 min)

Marco is a gay high school student at Degrassi Community School. His on-again/off-again boyfriend Dylan is always nearby. Alex and Paige hooked up, leading Alex to come out. Ashley, another Degrassi student, is learning to deal with her father coming out as a gay man.

#### Desperate Housewives, Lifetime (1 hr)

Andrew is Bree's gay son. Bob and Lee are the gay couple that move into the neighborhood in season four.

#### ER, NBC (1 hr)

Keep your eyes open for recurring lesbian character Kerry Weaver as the chief of staff. She left in 2007, but can still be found in repeats of episodes from Seasons 2-13.

#### Family Guy, FOX (30 min)

Says creator Seth MacFarlane, "Stewie is almost certainly gay, and he's in the process of figuring it out for himself." See MacFarlane's interview with *The Advocate*: [www.advocate.com/issue\\_story.asp?id=51793&page=1](http://www.advocate.com/issue_story.asp?id=51793&page=1)

#### Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency, Oxygen (1 hr)

Janice has a handful of gay models in her agency, including JP Calderon.

#### Noah's Arc, Logo (30 min)

Noah, Alex, Ricky, and Chance are four gay black men living in Los Angeles. Journey with them as they navigate complex romantic and professional relationships.

#### NYPD Blue, CourtTV/TNT (1 hr)

Tough detective Andy Sipowicz has a gay assistant, John Irvin.

#### Party Line with the Hearty Boys, Food Network (30 min)

Winners of the first season of The Next Food Network Star, this Chicago-based couple teaches us how to throw a party on any budget and for any occasion.

#### Queer As Folk, Logo (1 hr)

Bawdy and brash, this Showtime original series follows the lives and loves of a group of gay and lesbian people living in Pittsburgh.

#### Queer Eye, Bravo (1 hr)

A make-over show where five gay men, all experts in style and culture, take a straight guy from frumpy to fabulous.

#### Six Feet Under, Bravo (1 hr)

Though the series has officially ended, Bravo is running HBO's Golden Globe-winning drama that frequently dealt with LGBT issues. One of the main characters, David, started out as a closeted gay man at the beginning of the series, but ended up adopting children with his partner Keith by the end.

#### South of Nowhere, The N (1 hr)

Watch 16-year old Spencer Carlin go from quiet Ohio girl to out Angelino over the course of this teen drama.

#### The L Word, Showtime (1 hr)

This candid, groundbreaking drama follows the lives of lesbian and bisexual women living in Los Angeles.

#### The Simpsons, FOX (30 min)

Though many have assumed Smithers, assistant to Mr. Burns, to be gay, only Marge's sister Patty has officially come out.

#### The Wire, BET (1 hr)

Set in Baltimore, this gritty HBO drama features two gay series regular characters: lesbian police detective Kima Greggs and gay criminal Omar Little.

#### Top Chef, Season Three, Bravo (1 hr)

Watch 12 chefs compete in Miami for the chance at culinary stardom and the title of "Top Chef." The series features gay contestant Dale and lesbian contestant Sandee.

#### Will & Grace, syndicated (30 min)

Will, Grace, Jack, and Karen: All gay, all day.

#### TransAmerican Love Story, LOGO, (1 hr)

Our transgender bachelorette, Calpernia Addams, is she's being wooed by eight dashing men. With the help of her trans best friend Andrea and a parade of challenges and dates, Calpernia whittles down

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# The OutField: Paul Tontz Searches for Subjects



By: Dan Woog\*

One of the joys of college sports is feeling part of a team. Sharing practice sessions, meals, and road trips draws athletes from different backgrounds together. The locker room becomes a home away from home.

For males, it's a place where daily banter about teammates' races, ethnicities, physical features, and girlfriends is a welcome diversion from the political correctness that rules the rest of society.

Unless you're gay and closeted.

Those athletes never really feel a part of their team. Even in the locker room, college athletes are isolated. The incessant topic of conversation—"banging" girls—bears no relevance to reality.

That scenario is as true in 2008 as it ever was. While the rest of America changes, much of college sports remains locked in mid-20th-century mode.

That's not just conjecture. It's what former college athlete Paul Tontz has discovered as he struggles to complete his Ph.D. project at the University of Denver.

The topic is factors that contribute to invisibility or visibility for Division I gay male athletes. Yet finding appropriate subjects has been nearly impossible.

They do exist. However, at the elite collegiate level, they're about as hard to find as same-sex married couples in the Bush White House.

Tontz, 31, understands. Growing up in San Diego as the third of nine siblings in a tight-knit, staunchly Catholic family, he was so sheltered he "didn't realize what gay was" until after high school.

Sports provided one way to feel "normal." Tontz played tennis and volleyball, ran cross country and track, and swam. At the University of San Diego, he rowed.

"Sports saved me," he says. "It gave me confidence, and a place to feel at home."

In 2000, he moved to Tampa, earned a master's degree in education, and worked as an athletic advisor and academic coach. Returning to San Diego, he worked with college athletes at two universities. Looking back, he says, "I could have supported the athletes who had sexual identity issues much better. But I was still pretty closeted. I really regret that."

In 2004, he entered the University of Denver's doctoral program in higher education administration. Inspired by the work of Pat Griffin and Eric Anderson - noted researchers specializing in gay sports - he began studying why Division I male athletes choose to conceal or reveal their sexual orientation to teammates and coaches. That choice affects the rest of each gay athlete's college sports experience, Tontz says.

"Before I started, I didn't realize how difficult it would be to find them," he admits. "I thought I'd move to L.A. and start interviewing. But I couldn't find any out athletes at UCLA or USC. I'm not sure why - maybe because they're such high-profile schools."

The search was equally difficult in the rest of the country.

His several face-to-face interviews with out



PAUL TONTZ

athletes replicate Anderson's findings. "Those who are openly gay have high levels of self-confidence and ability," Tontz says. "Gay athletes with strong performance levels have plenty of social capital. If you're an excellent swimmer who happens to be gay, your teammates and coaches look the other way."

Out athletes are happy, he says, because they don't lead dual lives. Freed from worrying about being found out, they function well athletically.

Tontz is frustrated at his inability to find gay D-I football, basketball, and baseball players. (He has heard from bisexuals in those sports, but his study is limited to gay men.) What he has found so far "reinforces the stereotypical look of gay sports - that it's all swimmers, divers, and runners," he says. "I think because there is already gay visibility in those sports,

it's easier for those athletes to come out."

Tontz has found that sports like swimming, which attracts both male and female athletes, help facilitate the coming-out process. The close interaction between genders creates a feeling of comfort. One male swimmer said that he talked about "guy issues" with a female coach - something that could not happen in, say, football.

Though the NCAA has supported Tontz with a travel grant, he finds there is little understanding of gay issues at individual colleges. "Most gay athletes say not enough is being done at their schools, and what goes on is reactive rather than proactive. There's still the mentality that 'we don't have gay athletes here besides our one swimmer, so why spend money on education?'"

Nevertheless, Tontz's research has affected him profoundly. "The athletes I've talked to have been amazing," he says. "I'm a completely different person now - socially, emotionally, and professionally." Meeting gay athletes inspired him to return to competition. He is training for triathlons, using a subtle yet clever motto: "Out to Tri."

And Paul Tontz will keep trying, too, to find out gay college athletes to interview.

*Out or closeted Division I male athletes interested in participating in Tontz's research can e-mail him at ptontz@du.edu.*

*\* Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at [www.danwoog.com](http://www.danwoog.com). He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutField@gsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@gsyndicate.com).*

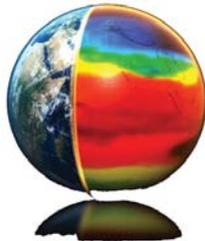
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ing the waters. Great sense of humor and kind heart. College educated and intelligent. Contact Ashley at [honour\\_huston@hotmail.com](mailto:honour_huston@hotmail.com) or call 413.883.0396.

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Looking for other women for outdoor activities; biking, hiking, and cross country skiing. I like to cook, especially coming up with healthy tasty recipes. Walks in the woods, sitting by a cozy fire, enjoying all life has to offer. Contact: [Treesyster@aol.com](mailto:Treesyster@aol.com).

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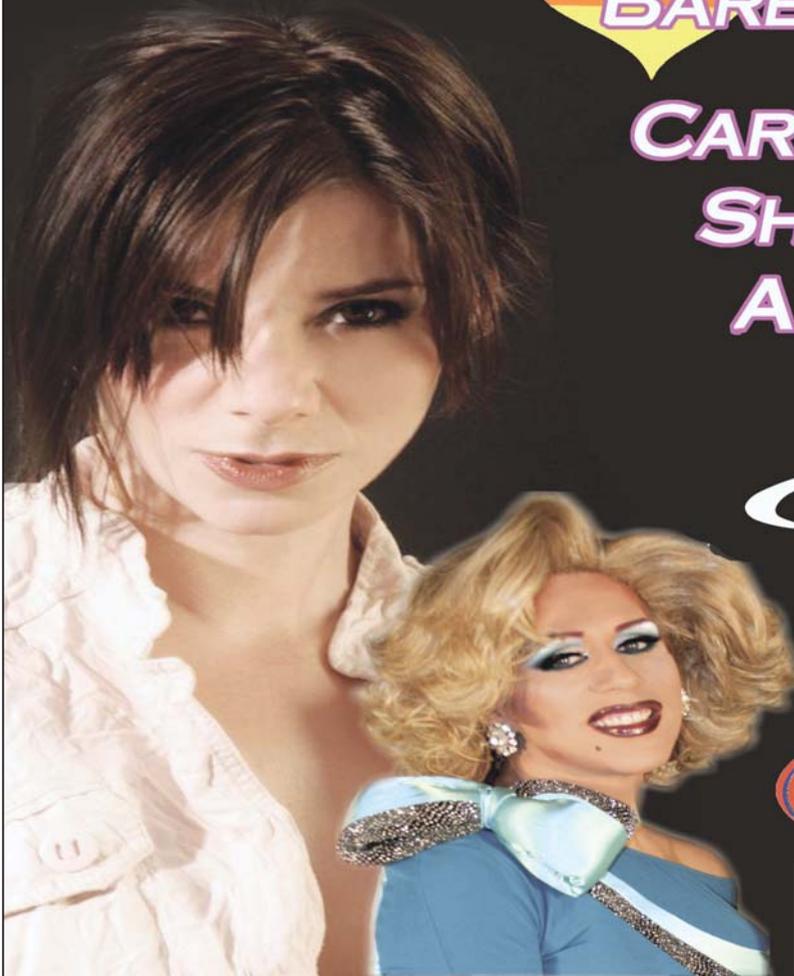
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## Out Film CT Receives 2007 Connecticut Culture & Tourism Award

Out Film CT, producer of the Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival is pleased to announce that the Festival has been selected to receive the 2007 "Outstanding Project Award" by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism. This award is in recognition for bringing twenty years of outstanding LGBT Films to Connecticut audiences.

The Connecticut Culture & Tourism Awards recognize outstanding achievement and lasting contributions to the Arts, History, Film and Tourism Fields in our state. The award will be presented as part of the 2007 Governor's Conference on Culture & Tourism, by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, in partnership with the Arts Council of Greater New Haven and the Greater New Haven Convention and Visitors Bureau. Held on May 1st and 2nd, this year's

conference theme, "Turn It On ... The Power of Connecticut," illuminates the strong alliance among the state's arts, history, film and tourism industries.

"This conference brings together the great minds of professionals in the culture and tourism fields and provides them the opportunity to further collaborate in promoting all Connecticut has to offer," said Governor M. Jodi Rell. "Gaining knowledge and inspiration from one another is critical to continuing the great work that sustains the state's economic vitality."

"These awards recognize the individuals who work tirelessly to improve and enhance the arts, history, film and tourism in Connecticut," said Karen Senich, acting executive director of the Commission on Culture & Tourism. "Their work and passion speak to

everyone in the tourism and culture industries."

Festival Director Dan Millett stated, "This award recognizes the Film Festival's reputation as Connecticut's longest running and one of the most respected cultural organizations in the state. At the same time, the award is an acknowledgement of the important role that GLBT organizations play in Connecticut's cultural landscape." He went on to say, "It is particularly meaningful that we have received this award in 2007 as the festival celebrates its 20th year. It has truly been a labor of love for the many volunteers involved in the organization of the festival."

In addition, on May 2nd, Shane Engstrom, Secretary of Out Film CT will be given a Culture & Tourism Distinguished Advocate

Award. Recipients of the Distinguished Advocate Awards are Connecticut residents who, without monetary compensation, have worked to strengthen, preserve or promote the arts, history, film and tourism in the state and made a significant impact on one or more organizations, or have made important contributions to their communities, regions or the state.

The 20th Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival will be held June 1-9, 2007 at Cinesudio, on the campus of Trinity College in Hartford. It will feature nine days of LGBT feature films, documentaries and short films, with Opening and Closing Night parties, a silent auction and other special events to be announced.

## Civil Unions are inadequate substitute for marriage anywhere

By: Anne Stanback, Executive Director  
*Love Makes a Family*

Nearly three years ago, the Connecticut legislature approved the creation of civil unions, a legal designation that would confer all the state rights, benefits and obligations of marriage to same-sex couples. While historic in many ways, the legislature stopped short of giving same-sex couples the legal designation they had hoped for and still seek: marriage. Today the legislature's Judiciary Committee will hold a public hearing on "An Act Concerning Civil Unions." The individuals testifying today will highlight the inadequacy, the confusion, and the unintended consequences that have resulted from creating a separate and unequal marital status as a substitute for marriage.

As hundreds of same-sex couples in Connecticut have reported to *Love Makes a Family* since the law went into effect on October 1, 2005, civil unions are not the same as marriage. Same-sex couples have been denied services (or had services delayed) in hospitals, funeral homes, state agencies and courts because the concept of civil union is

confusing and unclear. Additionally, many couples have incurred significant financial disadvantages because of these issues.

Civil unions are misunderstood by the general public, as well as by those individuals and institutions who are in the positions of authority to enforce the law. It is unfair that loving, committed couples should face additional burdens and hardships because they are denied access to the word "marriage" and its universally-understood legal status.

More importantly, there is no good reason to continue to exclude thousands of same-sex couples from the dignity and respect, as well as the clarity and legal and financial security, that marriage provides.

Some have argued that the state of Connecticut needs more time to make civil unions work.

Others have said that without a change in federal law, marriage would be no improvement over civil unions. Below is an excerpt from the Introduction of the First Interim Report from the New Jersey Civil Union Review Commission (February 19, 2008) that points out the errors of both these arguments:

Additionally, the Commission heard testimony that New Jersey's Civil Union Act is likely not to provide equality with the passage of time. An expert from Vermont, which in 2000 became the first jurisdiction in the United States to enact a civil union law, testified that civil union couples there still face problems with the law today. In fact, as a result of the inequities, Vermont has established a new commission to study whether to amend its state law to now provide full marriage equality to its same-sex committed couples.

This Commission also heard testimony that the term "marriage," were it applied to the relationships of same-sex couples, could remedy the shortcomings of the Civil Union Act and make a significant difference in providing equality to same-sex couples in New Jersey, even with the challenges of federal law not

recognizing same-sex relationships. An expert from Massachusetts, which in 2004 became the first U.S. state to allow same-sex couples to marry, testified that same-sex married couples there do not face many of the problems that New Jersey and Vermont civil union couples face today, even in the context of federal law.

For more information on the Vermont and New Jersey civil union experiences:

VERMONT: Attorney Beth Robinson, Chair of Vermont Freedom to Marry, 802-363-7565

NEW JERSEY: Steven Goldstein, Executive Director, Garden State Equality, 917-449-8918

*Love Makes a Family* is a statewide grassroots organization working for marriage equality in Connecticut. This article can be found at [www.lmfct.org/](http://www.lmfct.org/).

### HELP WANTED IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Looking for LOVE? Turn to the PERSONALS on page 35

### CT Neighborhood Organizations

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**Gay Father's Group:** (203) 938-2881  
**Hartford Community Center:** (860) 724-5542  
**Freedom to Marry Coalition:** (203) 791-9553  
**Love Makes a Family:** [www.lmfct.org/](http://www.lmfct.org/) (860) 525-7777  
**Married Lesbian Support Group:** [truicolor@aol.com](mailto:truicolor@aol.com) (203) 430-9227  
**Married Men's Bisexual Support Group of Hartford:** (860) 264-5605  
**Metropolitan Community Church of New Haven:** (203) 397-2312  
**New Haven Gay & Lesbian Center:** [www.nhglcc.org/](http://www.nhglcc.org/) (203) 387-2252  
**PFLAG Danbury:** [www.pflag.org/](http://www.pflag.org/) (203) 797-4743  
**Connecticut's Kids:** (203) 256-8414  
**Senior Lesbians Happily at Play (SLAPHAPS):** Kathy (203) 929-8113  
**True Colors CT:** [www.ourtruecolors.org/](http://www.ourtruecolors.org/) (888) 565-5551  
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**Runaway Switchboard:** (773) 880-9860  
**Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF):** 135 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 - 860.247.6090  
**Info. and Referral program:** (800) 479-2949 or Greater Hartford 524-0601 - Statewide women's rights organization working to end discrimination and hate crimes; provides free legal information and referral to the LGBT community.  
**XX Club (Twenty Club):** Rev. Cannon Jones - 45 Church Street Hartford, CT 06141-0387 - (860) 646-8651 - Provides knowledgeable info., and ongoing peer support to transsexuals. 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, 2-5 p.m.  
**Connecticut View (cTV):** A Transgender social and support club, for the TV, TG, TS, CD, both male and female. Monthly meeting in New Haven as well as e-membership, and more. A no dues club, with all the frills; [www.transgender.org/ctv/](http://www.transgender.org/ctv/)



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More CT News and Club Events on pages 36 & 40

# 21<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival



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## Vt. commission stops short of recommending gay marriage

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—A special commission appointed by legislative leaders to study same-sex marriage stopped just short in its final report Monday of recommending that the state become the second in the country—after Massachusetts—to allow gay and lesbian couples to marry.

The Vermont Commission on Family Recognition and Protection was appointed last summer to study whether Vermont, which became the first jurisdiction in the United States to offer legal recognition to same-sex couples with its civil union law in 2000, should take the next step.

The 11-member panel, chaired by the former legislator Thomas Little, who chaired the House Judiciary Committee when it wrote the 2000 law, said it decided not to make a final recommendation, because to do so “would undercut the purpose and usefulness of its work and this report.”

“It is the role of Vermont’s policy-makers and elected officials to read and reflect on this

report and in their best judgment determine what steps to take in their role as public servants of the people of Vermont,” it said.

But in its findings the commission said “such a change in the law would give access [to same-sex couples] to less tangible incidents of marriage, including its terminology (e.g. marriage, wedding, married, celebration, divorce), and its social cultural and historical significance.”

It added that full same-sex marriage “would likely enhance the portability of the underlying legal consequences of the status. ... The tangible same-sex marriage benefits ... raise serious questions about the operation of the civil union law and warrant additional research and serious attention.”

And it said, “There is credible social science research supporting the conclusion that raising children in a gay or lesbian coupled family, per se, has no negative impacts on the well-being of children,” but added that the topic needs further study.

The commission’s work included eight public hearings around the state, boycotted by same-sex marriage opponents, who charged that the panel was stacked in favor — a seminar on the legal issues at Vermont Law School and extensive staff research.

Supporters of same-sex marriage, including Beth Robinson of the Vermont Freedom To



Marry Task Force, welcomed the report.

“They reported what they saw and heard, which is exactly what I was hoping they’d do,” said Robinson, a Middlebury lawyer. “The vast majority of people who testified spoke compellingly about why this is an important step for Vermont to take.”

Two leaders of the opposition to civil unions in 2000, Rev. Craig Bensen of Cambridge and president of the group Take It To The People, and Stephen Cable of Rutland

## Backers of Calif. gay marriage ban ready to submit petitions

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The sponsors of a proposed constitutional amendment to outlaw same-sex marriage in California said Monday they have gathered enough signatures to qualify the measure for the November ballot.

A coalition of religious groups called Protect Marriage collected more than 1.1 million signatures in support of the amendment, said Brian Brown, executive director of the California office of the National Organization for Marriage.

The initiative needs 694,354 signatures, or 8 percent of the votes cast in the last governor’s race, to make it onto the ballot.

“We have gone against tremendous odds to do this, and now the voters in California will have the chance to protect marriage,” Brown said.

Supporters of the Limit on Marriage initiative plan to deliver their signed petitions to county registrars this week, ahead of the April 28 submission deadline set by the California Secretary of State’s Office. The signatures must be verified before the amendment can be approved for the election.

Although gay men and lesbians cannot legally wed in California, opponents of same-sex unions want the ban written into the state Constitution. In that way, neither the Legislature nor the California Supreme Court can legalize gay marriage without approval from voters.

They were especially anxious to put the question before voters this fall because the state Supreme Court is scheduled to rule by early June on a series of lawsuits seeking to toss out California’s existing one man-one

woman marriage laws.

If passed by a majority of voters, the constitutional amendment would overturn a court ruling in favor of gay marriage advocates. They hope California will become the second state after Massachusetts to legalize same-sex marriage.

“We shouldn’t have to be guessing. This shouldn’t be something left to the court either now or in the future,” Brown said. “The idea that California voters should be the ones to decide this is an idea that resonates with people.”

If it qualifies for the ballot, the measure promises to be the center of a hard-fought campaign.

Protect Marriage raised more than \$1.5 million in contributions to support its petition drive, money that allowed the group to hire paid signature collectors to supplement the volunteers it recruited from churches, Brown said.

A coalition of gay rights groups called Equality for All launched an aggressive counter-campaign to persuade people not to sign the qualifying petitions.

Its “Decline to Sign” volunteers approached patrons outside the shopping centers where the signature gatherers were working and asked them instead to sign pledges supporting same-sex marriage.

Representatives from the two sides have accused each other of trying to squelch free speech. There were reports of heated debates and even fistfights in some locations.

Dan Hawes, an organizer with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force who has spent two months on the effort to keep the initiative

and the Vermont Marriage Advisory Council, said they were not surprised by the commission’s report.

Bensen questioned whether producing a report that contained no definitive recommendation pro or con for gay marriage was a good use of time and resources. “I wonder what the purpose of this report was.” Then he added that some of the legwork would be done when a bill is introduced in the Legislature, as is expected to happen next year. “They did the research for this.”

Bensen said the proper course is the same as the one he called for in 2000: a statewide referendum on the question.

Cable said his group would soon issue its own report on same-sex marriage. “It will contain some information the commission didn’t have in theirs,” he said.

Issuance of the report came too late for legislation to be passed this year; lawmakers are expected to adjourn their 2008 session within two weeks.

But Robinson vowed her forces would continue pushing the matter.

“We’ve never made a secret of the fact that we’re planning to come back in ‘09 and we’re going to be here talking about these issues and looking to move forward, absolutely,” she said.

from qualifying, said he had never seen such a coordinated attempt to prevent a marriage amendment from making it to the ballot.

“There is a real sense of hope and possibility here because of the court ruling that is coming down in June,” he said. “The fact that could be taken away in five months is really painful for people who want to marry.”

Earlier this month, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger upset the amendment’s backers when he told a gathering of gay Republicans he thought the measure was unnecessary and that he would actively oppose it. He has twice vetoed bills seeking to make gay marriage legal.

“When Governor Schwarzenegger publicly opposed this constitutional amendment, he said the people of California are much further along on this issue, and the governor is right. The voters have moved on,” said Seth Kilbourn, political director of Equality California, the state’s largest gay-rights lobbying group.

Kilbourn said the amount of money the initiative’s sponsors spent and their use of paid petition circulators showed that California voters may be reluctant to write a same-sex marriage ban into the state Constitution.

“We are confident we will be able to defeat this measure, when and if it appears on the ballot,” he said.

The National Organization for Marriage, headquartered in New Jersey, and the Colorado-based Focus on the Family have contributed heavily to the Protect Marriage campaign. It also has received significant backing from the Knights of Columbus.

### Calendar from p. 18

(NY) May 18; **Capital Pride Singers** presents “Keeping It Gay!”; First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany; Emerson Hall, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, 4 p.m., \$10; A very special Spring Concert of serious and silly music from your favorite GLBT chorus.

(VT) May 18; **Transgender Support Group**; 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Brattleboro, VT; Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn’t fit neatly into the gender binary, including transpeople of all genders and sexual orientations: transgender(ed), transsexuals, FTMs, MTFs, non-op, pre-op, post-op, crossdressers, bi-gendered, gender-queer, genderfluid, questioning. Confidentiality guaranteed. FMI: Benjamin Robin: robin@benjaminrobin.net

(CT) May 30-June 7; **The 21st Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival**; Cinestudio, Trinity College @ 300 Summit St., Hartford, Connecticut; FMI: 860-586-1136.

(CT) May 31; **Marriage Makes a Word of Difference** is a featured film at the CT Gay and Lesbian Film Festival! Saturday, May 31st at 3pm at Cinestudio, Trinity College, 300 Summit Street, Hartford See all the films! The festival runs 5/30-6/7/08. The film is directed by Emmy-award winning filmmaker Fran Rzeznik.

(NY) June 6; **Romaine Brooks Art Gallery Opening** – First Friday featuring: The PRIDE Show! 5-9pm; @ Romaine Brooks Art Gallery @ CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Ave., Albany; FMI Michael at RBG@cdglcc.org.

(NY) June 8; **Capital Pride 2008**; Parade and Festival; 12noon-5pm, Rain or Shine; Join Capital Pride in Washington Park in Albany once again for this exciting annual event! More info soon so save the date! FMI: www.cdglcc.org/cappride.htm

(NY) June 21; **2nd Annual Black and Latino Gay Pride Celebration** hosted by In Our Own Voices; The celebration will take place from 9:00am -5:00pm; venue for the after party will be announced very soon. FMI: Jason at (518) 432-4188.

(VT) **Gay Pride** in southern Vermont will take place in the month of June, with many events planned. TBA

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