

# The Rainbow Times

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



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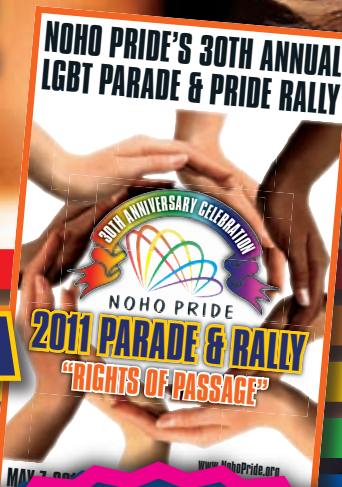


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PHOTO: KRISTA BENSON

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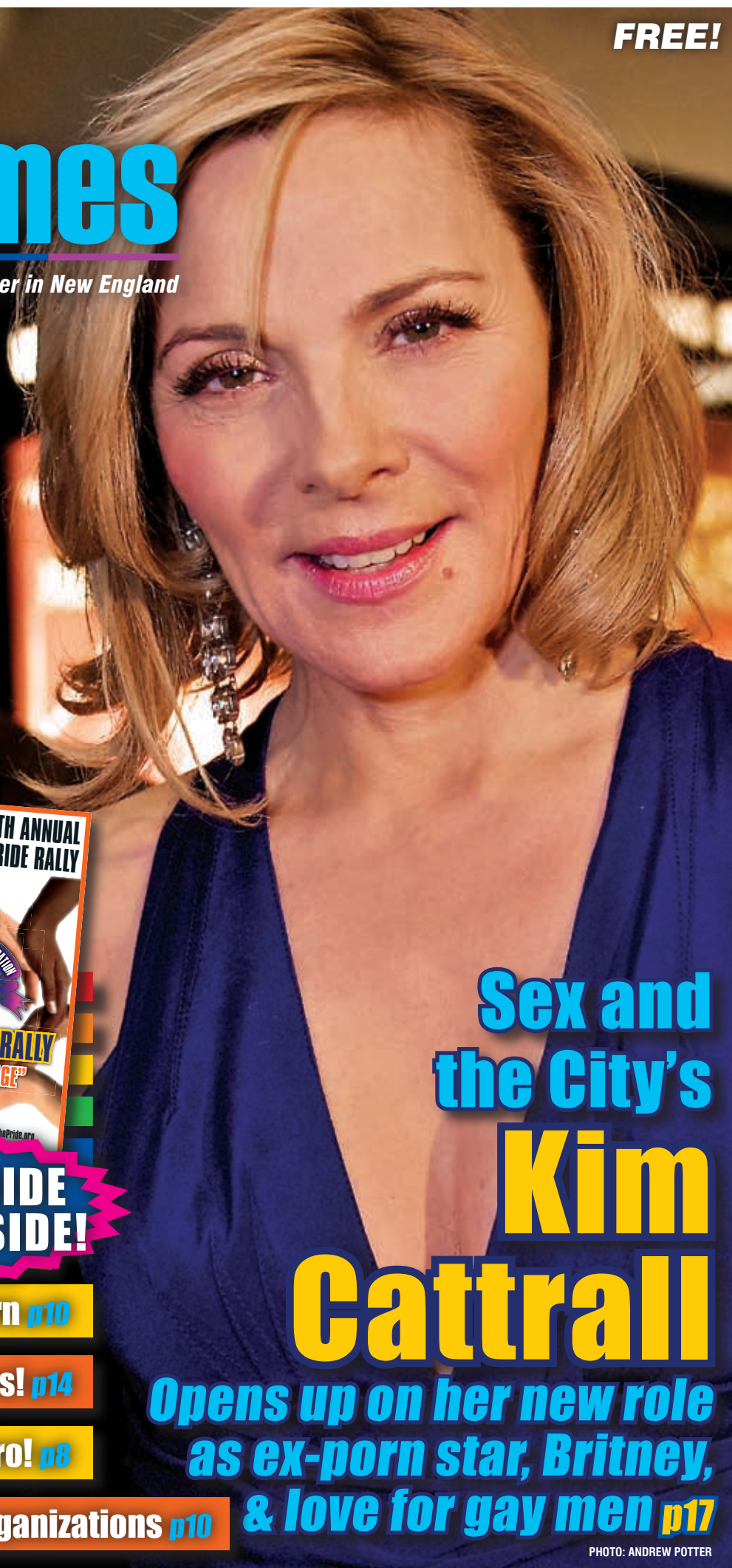
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PHOTO: ANDREW POTTER



## Reaching marginalized communities with Pride

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

**OPINION** Recently, Noho Pride, a newly formed 501(c)(3) organization that has worked diligently to bring Pride to the Valley for the past 2 years, has been under fire for its lack of inclusion, particularly when it comes to race and ethnic groups. While the Pride board and committee is comprised of all but one non-Caucasian person, last year, the group managed to put together one of the most racially and ethnically diverse Noho Pride audiences that I've witnessed since 2007. The attendance was also record-breaking.

Having served on the board of Northampton Pride and the committee, before its re-formation, I can attest to how difficult it was then to find active and committed committee members. From my experience, unfortunately, many people are not willing to tackle such a large-scale event on a volunteer basis. Although the community at large expects Pride to take place, few are privy to exactly what it takes to make the event successful.

However, it is also imperative that collectively, we learn how to reach other marginalized groups who are a critical part of the Western Massachusetts' LGBT community. To say we are inclusive and not follow those words with

actions are meaningless. Inviting people in general terms to take part of any event is not enough. Going into the communities who are often left out will help to prove that our differences do not separate us and will help bring others to the table. It is not about being politically correct or having a token representative from each marginalized group, but instead, it is about having our collective LGBT community represented on the committees and boards of any organization.

Unfortunately, we do not live in an equitable society where all members are treated with the same dignity, respect and honor. As such, racially and ethnically oppressed groups face different struggles than their Caucasian counterparts. Becoming educated on what it means to be a member of an under-represented community, learning about the struggles that oppressed groups face and why such struggles exist will assist in bringing us together as one people.

*Nicole Lashomb*

*\*Nicole Lashomb is the Editor-in-Chief of The Rainbow Times, holds a Bachelor's degree from SUNY Potsdam, and an MBA from Marylhurst University. Send your Letters to the Editor to editor@therainbowtimesnews.com.*

## Queeries: Sexting is the new 'unsafe sex'

**By: Steven Petrow\*/Special for TRT**

**ADVICE** "My boyfriend wants me to sext him"

*Q: Many of my friends are sending naked pictures of themselves to their boyfriends, and they don't seem to think twice about it. I'm a competitive gymnast on my high school's team, and the guy I've been dating for a couple of months says he wants to be able to look at my body even when we're not together because he loves me. He's even emailed me a real keeper of a photo—completely naked, which I do enjoy looking at. But I'm kind of uncomfortable about doing this and I don't really know what to say. Any suggestions?*

**A:** I've been asked about teenage sexting quite a lot lately, and I'd have to say that it's now officially the "unsafe sex" of this century. How big

is the problem? In 2009, a study by the AP and MTV reported that nearly one-fourth of 14 to 17 year olds had been involved in some kind of naked sexting. And more and more we're reading stories of sexting gone wild. Sometimes there's a criminal prosecution for the distribution of childhood pornography; sometimes schools suspend or expel those found guilty; and always there's deep embarrassment to the victim (who usually sent the original photo).

Believe me, I do understand that sexting is seen as a way to express your love and trust of someone, that it's a status symbol of being sexually active (some refer to it as an "electronic hickey"), and that you can't get STDs or get pregnant

**See Queeries on page 14**

## Join CABO at the 24 Annual Out Film CT

**By: Jenn Tracz\*/CABO's Executive Director**

This time of year brings out the excitement in everyone when spring is in the air, pride parades and celebrations are getting into preparation mode and festivals of all kinds are happening. CABO is a proud sponsor of this year's 24th annual CT Gay and Lesbian Film Festival that kicks off on May 26th and runs through June 4th on the Trinity College campus in Hartford. CABO is proud sponsor alongside several CABO members, such as Cornerstone Healthcare Partner, Aetna, Pratt & Whitney, The Rainbow Times and the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective. It's great to see the camaraderie of businesses supporting one another in the community.

It is also fantastic to have Out Film CT as a member and supporter of CABO. When talking with Shane Engstrom, festival director, he says "I'm very excited about this year's festival because we have an amazing line-up of new films to share with our always enthusiastic audience. Our 24th year could be our best yet!"

The film festival has a rich history dating back to when it was founded in 1987. They have won a host of awards and proudly present Connecticut's longest-running film festival. You can expect that this year's festival will continue to provide Connecticut residents with a range of films that span from funny to fundamental. For more information on the festival visit www.Out-



**Jenn Tracz**

FilmCT.org. To find out more information CABO, Out Film Fest, or any other members mentioned above, please visit, www.TheCABO.org or contact me at JTracz@TheCABO.org. CABO is able to provide services to its member in large part due to our corporate partnerships, which include; Aetna, Foxwoods, Murtha Cullina LLP, Comcast Business Class, Bearingstar Insurance, Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union, Clear Channel Radio and The Rainbow Times. Each of these businesses has something great to offer and their commitment and support to the LGBT community is what separates them from the rest. We highly encourage you to do business with one or all of them. As a CABO member there are many great exclusive offers to take advantage of.

*\*In her role as Executive Director, Jenn is responsible for maintaining and growing membership, developing strategic business partnerships and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. In addition to being CABO's executive director, she also is a small business owner specializing in planning, branding, social media and design services.*

## Mother's Day does not only belong to straight women and families, let's make it queerly new!

**By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist**

The second Sunday in May is the annual celebration of Mother's Day. Pharmacies overflow with cards covered with adorable images of baby animals nursing from their mothers. Flower shops offer specials on tulips for mom, grandma, and godmother. Restaurants host special brunches for mothers and families recognizing the specialness of the day.

Even with all of the mainstream celebrations there are many queer possibilities in Mother's Day. It is regularly forgotten that the first Mother's Day was a gathering of women working to put an end to war. Julia Ward Howe wrote the first Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870. In it she calls upon us to, "Disarm! Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of Justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession." With the violence of war just as much a reality today as it was in 1870, this proclamation is still relevant to our lives. As our queer families are regularly under attack, we can also take special note of Julia Ward Howe's words. Mother's Day need not be simply a sentimental or "Hallmark" holiday.

Our queer families look at motherhood in a multitude of ways. On our queer Mother's Day we can certainly celebrate those mothers who gave birth to their children and raise them with great love. We can also celebrate mothers who raise children birthed by other women, whether those women be their romantic partners or some other woman they may never know. We

can celebrate mothers who were once fathers, whose gender has changed but whose love for their children has not. We can celebrate House Mothers, those women in the Ball scene who look out for all the youth and young adults in their house. We can celebrate the people of any gender who live the qualities and practices we consider mothering in our lives, these may be family members or friends, who are there for us through our lives. We can celebrate fathers who are also mothers, whether they are single dads or part of a family with only fathers. So many of us lost our families of origin when we came out of the closet yet new mothers have shown up to care for us when we're sick, yell at us when we're being fools, and celebrate with us when we have moments of success; we can celebrate these mothers too.

On the morning of Mother's Day, many moms, families, and friends will gather at the park in Fields Corner in Dorchester for the Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. This walk is organized by the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, an organization started by a mother whose

**See Mother's Day on page 4**



**Jason Lydon**

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was really interested in your coverage of the Johnny Weir's story. He is an amazing skater and a handsome gay man!

—John Stratford, Cambridge, MA

Dear Editor,

I was really grateful for your online coverage and subsequent print coverage of Justice Lenk's nomination to the Court. I liked MassEquality ED's quote that her appointment "would shatter the glass ceiling in Massachusetts..." Delivering the news so fast online and then with your paper was a pleasure to have. You should have an iPhone App. I'd definitely use it.

—Jonathan Gilmore, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

Mr. Chuck Colbert's story on the DADT discharges in 2010 was truly eye-opening. This country should be ashamed! At least Pres. Obama is doing something to work on the conservative people working against him, read Republicans and old-school Democrats.

Thank you,

—Lemon Rivers, Providence RI

Dear Editor,

I loved the Goddess & She story!! I can't wait to see them at Noho Pride and the show with Kate Clinton, I won't miss. Thanks for keeping us abreast these topics.

—Kimberly Rodgers, Amherst, MA

Dear Editor,

Nice online presence!! I am a faithful reader of the Times and I wanted to let you know that I am one of your fans on Facebook and Twitter. You guys do a superb job at the social media stuff. I also follow you on Isuuu and found you on Tumblr. You guys are

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## The Rainbow Times

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# SJC nominee vilified by detractors, praised by supporters at confirmation hearing

**By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter**

If a majority of eight members on the Massachusetts Governor's Council approve her nomination to the Supreme Judicial Court, Barbara A. Lenk, will make history as the first openly gay justice to serve on the state's highest court. Last week, April 27, on Beacon Hill both supporters and detractors of Lenk — and the nominee herself, currently an appellate judge — had their say during a lengthy confirmation hearing.

At times the more than seven hours of testimony seemed surreal, as two sharply contrasting points of view about homosexuality were articulated over the course of the day-long proceedings.

For supporters, Lenk's being gay is irrelevant. Far more important considerations were on their minds — a distinguished legal career, Harvard Law School degree, commitment to public service, and personal attributes of honesty and integrity.

But for detractors, Lenk's sexual orientation, her "lifestyle," is reason enough to disqualify her.

The way David Funnell of Commonwealth Covenant Keepers sees it: Lenk is a dangerous cultural change agent.

During "the last 30 years," he testified, there has been an "assault against our public institutions by a militant homosexual subculture," adding, "Any advocate of the agenda of placing personal behavioral choices and bodily pleasures under the rubric of civil rights has betrayed" basic morality.

Apparently, Lenk is one such militant gay-rights activist, according to Funnell.

For another opponent, Tom Haskins, "[Lenk] is dangerous to our society because she removes from us the safety of the rule of law with an oligarchy by the title of judges."

And he testified, "She openly and boldly opposes traditional family values that made us free, wealthy, and great."

According to Haskins, "Justice Lenk is part of the problem, not the solution."

For Sally Naumann, who hales from Carlisle, the same town as Lenk, denying her SJC appointment is all about children.

"Do we need yet another appointment that will be used as a weapon to promote and push a disastrous homosexual agenda onto our impressionable youth?" she said. "This is exactly what the elevation of an openly lesbian judge to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court [SJC] will do?"

As Naumann testified, "By elevating Barbara Lenk to the [SJC], you will be validating same-gender sexual conduct and gay marriage. This will be a clarion call to all of those who want to draw vulnerable children into the gay lifestyle."

But Councilor Thomas T. Merrigan of Greenville, an attorney, had enough.

"You have not said one single word about her qualifications as an attorney, experience as a judge, the quality of her judicial experience or capacity," he said.

"Is it your view that her sexual orientation alone should disqualify her from this appointment?"

"My feeling was that this was why she was appointed?" Naumann replied.

Merrigan pressed further, again with the same question.

"I guess, I guess, in this case, yes, because it is

such a prominent feature," Naumann answered. "I am concerned about the kids."

While acknowledging her right to express a point of view, Councilor Terrence W. Kennedy of Lynnfield, an attorney, took strong exception to Naumann's testimony.

It is "nothing more than prejudice and bigotry," he said. "I can't just let it sit here." Lenk's sexual orientation, he added, would have no bearing on his decision to confirm or deny the appointment.

Meanwhile, Lenk's supporters offered an entirely different assessment of her ability to administer justice impartially.

The Boston Bar Association, for instance, found no evidence of militant advocacy.

"A review of Justice Lenk's numerous decisions shows that she has no agenda other than the fair administration of justice and adherence to legal precedent," the 9,800-member organization said in a written statement, adding, Lenk would bring to the court "exemplary judicial temperament, characterized by humility, wisdom, balance, and respect for all who come before her."



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

**The Honorable Roderick Ireland, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, testified in support of Barbara Lenk's (observing on left) nomination before the Governor's Council confirmation hearing.**

The Rev. Mary Redner Robinson, director of pastor care/chaplaincy, at Children's Hospital, testified that Justice Lenk, the mother of two teenage daughters, would bring "family values, respect, and dedication" to the court, adding, "She is utterly trustworthy."

Another supporter, attorney Jennifer L. Conrad, testified on behalf of small group of former law clerks. She spoke of Lenk's

careful mentorship of them throughout their yearlong appellate-court apprenticeships.

And yet Justice Lenk's own words before the Governor's Council perhaps speak best for an affirmative vote to confirm her nomination.

"I will never take for granted that each case before me, no matter how technical the legal issue may seem, involves real people with real problems who look to the court to resolve them," she said.

For Lenk, four principles guide her decision making from the bench, she said, "Hear courteously; answer wisely; consider soberly; decide impartially."

A vote to confirm Lenk's nomination could come as early as next Wednesday, May 4.

## Stand up for LOVE

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

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

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## Mother's Day from page 2

son was murdered in the streets of Boston. This walk raises money to fund programs that teach young people about alternatives to violence and offer solutions to conflict that honors the experience of everyone involved. As queer people who know the realities of systemic and interpersonal violence we have much we can learn from the organizing of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. We can be open to the practices of restorative and transformative justice that they suggest. We can honor our own mothers, the mothering people in our lives and our children by heeding

the call of Julia Ward Howe and gather in "the great and general interests of peace."

Mother's Day does not only belong to straight women and straight families. Mother's Day is an open invitation to queer families to create and

grow our own traditions that celebrate motherhood in its many complex and beautiful forms. We have the responsibility to meet the needs of our communities and as Marge Piercy reminds us in her poem,

*The Art of Blessing the Day*, "If you can't bless it, get ready to make it new." This Mother's Day let us both bless the day and make it queerly new.

**It is regularly forgotten that the first Mother's Day was a gathering of women working to put an end to war.**



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## To Cook is To Love: A Foodies Journal Spring Cleaning – Getting your food house in order

By: John Verlinden/TRT Cuisine Columnist

**¡MUCHO GUSTO!**



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER

In with the new, out with the old: We wade into overstuffed closets, review what's been stashed under beds and behind the couch, and venture into dark corners of basements, garages and storage spaces.

We're here to take inventory, take names and take action. Just as nature sheds its drab brown winter wardrobe in favor of new green growth and lots of color, we purge the things from our private spaces that we've outgrown and grown tired of to make room for what is new and improved in our lives.

Don't forget the kitchen! it's also time to take stock of your food stocks. And, when done, you'll discover that you do have enough cabinet space after all and that you really don't need a bigger refrigerator. Best of all, you'll find forgotten things – a tasty chunk of vintage cheese, three boxes of pasta, two unopened jars of pick-

les and that piece of delicious cake you froze last fall.

Begin by taking off all your clothes and taking everything out of your cabinets, refrigerator and freezer. (Okay, you don't really have to do the clothes part; I'm just looking for ways to jazz up a tedious job). Now, trust your senses as you consider each item. Your sense of sight -- If it's black, unless it's caviar, it's probably time to throw it out. Green? Okay for fresh broccoli, but if it's ground beef, it goes. Your sense of smell -- if it smells funky; it is! Get rid of it! Your sense of touch -- mushy, squishy, slimy -- you know what to do. Your sense of time -- expiration dates from the 20th century -- out. If you've had an item for a year and haven't used it, you're probably not going to -- let it go. (this same rule applies to dishes, kitchen tools and small appliances). Your common sense -- rusty or swollen cans? Out! And, if you're just not sure and can't decide -- out. Finally, your sense of humor -- don't make it a chore, have some fun with it.

*Have questions? Need a recipe? Want to suggest a topic? Contact me: [john@muchogusto.com](mailto:john@muchogusto.com) or [www.muchogusto.com](http://www.muchogusto.com).*

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



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## HUD Grants offer \$23 Million to 22 Local HIV-AIDS Housing Programs in 18 States

### Funding supports stable housing for individuals and families at an extreme risk for homelessness

WASHINGTON—Recently, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that more than a thousand extremely low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS will continue to receive permanent housing as a result of \$23 million in grants. During each of the next three years, this HUD funding will help provide permanent supportive housing for 1,015 households so they can manage their illnesses while receiving critically needed support services.

The funding announced today is offered through HUD's *Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA)* and will renew HUD's support of 22 local programs in 18 states.

"These grants are a vital source of support to the local programs that are on the ground working to keep families healthy," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "Knowing that you have a place to call home can make all the difference to the wellbeing of families living with HIV/AIDS, many of whom have been on the brink of homelessness."

These projects have estimated that about 40 percent of the households to be assisted will involve persons who have been homeless. The grants announced also support the Obama Administration's new strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness ([www.usich.gov/PDF/OpeningDoors\\_2010\\_FSPPreventEnd-](http://www.usich.gov/PDF/OpeningDoors_2010_FSPPreventEnd-)

Homeless.pdf), an unprecedented initiative announced last June at the White House. In February 2011, HUD released its plan to guide the agency's actions under the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. As the nation's housing agency, HUD will contribute a variety of housing resources to promote better integration of housing interventions into comprehensive HIV care systems.

Housing assistance and related services funded by HOPWA are an essential part of the comprehensive system of care for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS. A stable home environment is also vital for these households in allowing them to access consistent medical care and maintain their health. Furthermore, secure housing can be a platform for improved quality of life.

Ninety percent of HOPWA funds are distributed by formula to cities and states based on the number of AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HUD's formula grants are managed by 124 local and state jurisdictions, which coordinate AIDS housing efforts with other HUD and community resources. HUD is making available a record \$334 million in HOPWA funds this year to help communities provide housing for this special needs population. Overall, these resources assist 60,669 households annually to promote stable housing and reduced risks of homelessness for those living with HIV and other challenges.

**online calendar of events @ [therainbowtimesnews.com](http://therainbowtimesnews.com)**



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**Session II** July 11 - August 11

**Online** June 6 - August 11

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# Faith, Family, and God: Raising Children with Faith can Anchor them in the World

IN THE NAME OF GOD

By: Paul P. Jesepe\*/TRT Columnist

More LGBT families are adopting children. I'm not referring to the furry kind. According to the Family Equality Council, one million same-sex families are raising about two million children. Sometimes same-sex parents are challenged with whether to raise children with faith, religion, spirituality or a combination. Religion has scarred many in the LGBT and Searching community. Yet many gay and lesbian parents still have faith in something bigger than themselves and a spiritual hunger that is distinct from man-made religion that can obstruct rather than enhance an individual's spiritual sojourn.

Raising children with a sense of a greater power can anchor them despite living in a world that is cold, complicated, unpredictable, and sometimes cruel. Despite the issues they will inevitably face growing up or as adults they can take comfort in an eternal supreme goodness.

Children sometimes have questions about life, purpose, and someone called God. *Does God wear a white beard? If God is a woman shouldn't there be electrolysis in paradise? Did Golda the gold fish really go down the toilet after the flush or did she go to a heavenly pond? Does Killer the man-eating Chihuahua have a soul? What's a soul? Is Diva the Siamese cat in heaven and is she telling God how to run the place? Did Grace(less) the Great Dane go to the same heaven as grandma? Is grandpa living in a different set of clouds (post-medication)? What's an angel? Or is that something my two mommies call me when I'm not being a little devil? Who is the pope and why don't my daddies like him? Is it because he wears white after labor day?*

**Science without faith is arrogance incapable of keeping fallible men and women grounded. It becomes its own god that lacks empathy, compassion, and humility. Faith absent logic, science, and common sense is ignorance and superstition.**

What is faith and spirituality? After years of reflection I'm not sure. The ongoing questioning helps me to grow. It forces me to step outside myself and look at the world in different ways. Although I should warn you that Dante had it right when he said, *hell is an endless conversation*

with oneself. I've been to hell too often. It's best to call it a day at some point.

Although I have found no answers, let me share some thoughts. Science without faith is

arrogance incapable of keeping fallible men and women grounded. It becomes its own god that lacks empathy, compassion, and humility. Faith absent logic, science, and common sense is ignorance and superstition.

Faith can be your child's connection to the universe and each person in it. It can be a reminder that everyone (gay, lesbian, straight,

transgender, liberal, conservative, atheist, agnostic, or believer) share a common origin and destiny. Spirituality can be mysticism and wonderment about life.

If you decided to send your child to a religious school, it doesn't mean you accept the dogma, but you may find the ritual, ceremony, and quality education important. You may want a child baptized or circumcised. You believe in the basic tenets of love thy neighbor.

The right religious community can offer you and your children a second family. In general, Unitarians, Episcopalians and the United Church of Christ are among those who are very supportive of same-sex families, especially those with people-children.

Children can be raised Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Wiccan, Pagan, or other without belonging to a particular type or branch. Parents can share with children that they are part of a holy purpose. Together each person represents all that is good and noble. Collectively, positive energy as individuals and as a family helps give the universe its joy, its hope, its love, its soul.

*\*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He is a contributor to the book Homosexuality in the Orthodox Church, available on Amazon.com. He may be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.*

## Letters from page 2

everywhere and guys my age like that a lot. Will you be having an iPhone App soon? I like the coverage you have and it is nice in that it applies to just about anyone. Best glbt paper around, thank you Times, you rock!

—Stephen Redding, Hartford, CT

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for being a loyal online follower of The Rainbow Times. We appreciate your feedback. To answer your question, an iPhone App is something that we have spoken about and it may be coming up in the near future. We will keep you posted online, of course. Thank you for your support of TRT and for your words!

—Best in Pride, The Editor (Nicole Lashomb)

**Unexpectedly Gay**

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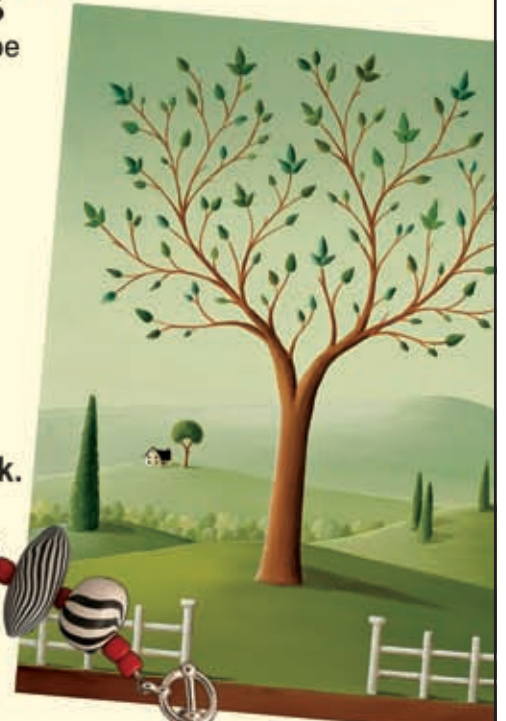
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# TRT Heroes: Wilfred Labiosa, on uniting and making dreams become real

NEW ENGLAND NEWS

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Wilfred Labiosa has been an active member of the Boston LGBT community for many years. Labiosa is the founder of Som@s Latinos LGBT Coalition of Massachusetts and Latino Pride of New England and is a member of the Board of Directors of Unid@s - the National LGBT Latino Organization for Human Rights.

He now serves as the Executive Director of CASPAR, a non-profit organization which provides services for people dealing with substance abuse. The Rainbow Times asked Labiosa to share his views on a range of LGBT issues.

**TRT:** What needs to be done to increase awareness of the importance of funding for HIV/AIDS?

**WL:** We all should work towards informing all about the importance of increasing funding for HIV/AIDS because

AIDS is not over yet and people are living with HIV and don't know it. More importantly we need to educate on increasing funding for prevention programs. Prevention is the key element including increasing funding for risk-factor prevention programs that educate about substance abuse/alcohol addictions, STD's screenings, needle sharing, etc.

**TRT:** Which people in the LGBT or allied community have been most influential in your

life?

**WL:** There are so many people in the LGBT community that have influenced my life including Representative Liz Malia and Carl Sciortino, Oz M., Camille D., Linda D., Anibal, Tisha, Pedro Julio, John A., Lisbeth, Beth, Cristian P, John B., and so many others. Of course there are allies that have influenced my life like Ana Margarita, Willie S, Yarice, Henia H., Libyan, Uncle David, Chandni, and Sail, among so many others. All of them have taught me

something that I have incorporated in my work, my relationships, my advocacy community work, and in my life in general.

**TRT:** How can the average member of the LGBT community make a difference in our struggle?

**WL:** Every person counts and I believe that there are no average members as we all are important assets of the LGBT community. If we all see each other as equal members of the LGBT community, I know that we can

make a change in how we treat each other. We should unite equally in the struggle for rights and be counted. We can all make a difference by telling our stories, and convey to others the richness of our diversity.

**TRT:** What is the best advice you have ever been given to do the proactive things you do today for our community?

**WL:** The best advice is that you can make your dreams come true; each one of us has the capacity and the strength to overcome our problems. One needs to be proactive and not just sit and hope that our dreams will come true, instead stand up and make it happen!

**TRT:** What have you done for the LGBT community individually or collectively that you are proudest of?

**WL:** I have been most proud of being able to bring together members of the LGBT community from all ethnicities as well as allies during Latino Pride of New England activities. Latino Pride events, now facilitated by the Boston Pride Committee, bring together people that normally don't participate of activities due to their "closet" status, financial issues, or family related problems. This event, the longest running event of

its kind in our Nation, has been the springboard for other Latino Pride celebrations to begin across other states.

I'm also very proud of the Latino Vision column that (The Rainbow Times) publishes as it is the first column of its kind in an English paper but in Spanish. In addition, I am very proud of

the advocacy work that I have done at a local, national, and international level on behalf of the Latino GLBT and GLBT community; inclusion of diversity is always a problem in coalitions and in the general LGBT community, hence I have always spoken about the inclusion of the Latino GLBT community - "we need to be included at the table and in every discussion."

**TRT:** What motivates your work within this community?

**WL:** All the work that we have accomplished and all of the work yet to be done—our history and our future motivates me to continue the work for the LGBT community especially for the LGBT Latino/a community.

**TRT:** What can be done about teen suicides that happen as a result of bullying or anti-gay sentiment?

**WL:** We can all stand together and educate our teens to be proud of who they are and to look ahead into a brighter future. Bullying and anti-gay sentiment have always been existent in our community but it is 2011 and we must educate others about this problem and stand up against it. It is important to rise above it and report it to the appropriate authorities.

**TRT:** What are the top three issues that affect our community the most?

**WL:** The top three issues affecting our Latino/a LGBT Community are: Immigration Reform, Lack of equal wages, and racism noted in our neighborhoods, cities, and states.



Wilfred Labiosa

PHOTO COURTESY: CASPAR

**TRT:** Do you consider yourself a hero for the LGBT community?

**WL:** I don't consider myself to be a hero in the LGBT Community; I'm only doing the advocacy work that needs to be done, educate others of our community, and bring a voice to those in the Latino/a LGBT community that don't feel comfortable speaking up.

It is about bringing the voice and the "experience" of being a Latino gay man to the "table," no matter which one it is and how difficult it might be.

**TRT:** Will full LGBT equality be achieved in this country during the next 10 years? 20 years? How?

**WL:** Definitely. We will triumph and achieve full LGBT equality in the next 10 years; and in the next 20 years in most Latin American countries by all working together and use our stories to educate our allies of our community - one step and a person at a time. We can achieve it all but only if we unite giving the chance for all and not the few to speak

up. It is not special rights, it is just equal rights!

**TRT:** Do you think that there are special needs in the Hispanic LGBT community that do not exist in the mainstream LGBT community?

**WL:** Of course there are needs. I won't categorize them as special but areas to focus as they should be of importance to all the LGBT community and not just the Latino community. These are areas related to equal rights, for example: immigration reform. In addition, as a Latino LGBT community we are in need of safe spaces to congregate and learn, and more educational opportunities. We as a Latino LGBT community should take the initiative to educate others in the Latino community about the diversity, and issues affecting the LGBT brothers and sisters.

## GLAD Supports Marriage, Not Civil Unions

After Rhode Island Speaker Gordon Fox announced that he would support a civil union bill rather than a marriage bill, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders issued a statement criticizing Fox and reiterating its support for full marriage equality in Rhode Island.

Karen Loewy, GLAD Senior Staff Attorney, said "Nothing short of marriage is equality for Rhode Island's gay and lesbian citizens and their children. By citing DOMA, Speaker Fox lets the federal government set the standard for discrimination and sells out the gay community for the sake of political expediency. DOMA's days are numbered as it comes under increasing legal and political attack."

"More to the point, civil unions tell gay people

and their kids that they are second class citizens and that their families matter less than other families. As an organization committed to equal justice under law, we find a civil union solution completely unacceptable."

GLAD has won marriage equality through litigation in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and has taken part in the legislative efforts that led to marriage equality in New Hampshire and Vermont. GLAD has been working on marriage equality in Rhode Island with the Rhode Island Marriage Coalition.

*Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders is New England's leading legal organization fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status, and gender identity and expression.*

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## Boston Pride joins forces with GLBT Youth and Somos Latin@s LGBT Coalition of Massachusetts

BOSTON, MA—Boston Pride is extremely proud to announce that they have come together with The Friends of GLBT Youth Inc. and Somos Latin@s LGBT Coalition of Massachusetts to bring the state's Youth and Latino Pride Celebrations under one organizational umbrella.

Says Keri Aulita, Deputy Director of Boston Pride, "Latino Pride is now a program of Boston Pride and we are excited to host our first meeting and build a Latino Pride Advisory Committee into our organization."



**boston pride**

Youth Pride will move from the hands of The Friends of GLBT Youth to Boston Pride's growing list of programs over a three-year period, with full ownership taking place in 2012. Continues Aulita, "We think it's important to work together over the next few years to ensure a smooth transition for our LGBT youth. We are collaborating on this year's May 14th event and learning from each other as we go."

**See Boston Pride this page**

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## Trans people of color: Injustice at every turn

*In The Life Media produces exclusive web video inspired by the findings in first comprehensive transgender discrimination study*

NEW YORK CITY, NY—In mid-April, *In The Life Media* released a web video, produced with generous support from The Calamus Foundation, featuring the personal stories of two transgender women, Ja'riel and Michelle, highlighting the findings of the first comprehensive transgender discrimination study completed by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

"I went to school and earned a degree, but because of discrimination I'm limited in my employment options, and so it's been very troubling to know that this is an extra burden on me financially and in other ways," Ja'riel. The National Transgender Discrimination Survey found that respondents experience unemployment at twice the rate of the general population. Ja'riel shares her story from Hinesville, Georgia.

"While we were inside the office he reached out and he grabbed, he touched my breast. At that point I didn't think there was anything that I could do and I didn't," Michelle. According to the Survey, over a quarter of respondents reported that they had lost their job due to being transgender or gender non-conforming and half were harassed. Michelle shares her story from Los Angeles, California.

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey concludes with a call to action, "to make a significant difference between the current climate of discrimination and violence and a world of freedom and equality." *In The Life Media* joins the efforts by sharing the personal stories of two transgender women who model determination, resourcefulness and perseverance.

WATCH Injustice at Every Turn here: [www.itlmedia.org/html/other/Injustice%20at%20Every%20Turn.html](http://www.itlmedia.org/html/other/Injustice%20at%20Every%20Turn.html)

### ABOUT IN THE LIFE MEDIA

*In The Life Media produces change through innovative media that exposes social injustice by chronicling lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender life. Produced by In The Life Media, IN THE LIFE is the longest running television show documenting the gay experience. IN THE LIFE is a two-time Emmy Award nominee, a Lambda Legal Liberty Award honoree, a Seigenthaler Award recipient from the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association for excellence in network television and a GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding TV Journalism-News magazine.*

### Boston Pride from previous on this page

The Friends of GLBT Youth is a non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating homophobia and transphobia in order to allow all young gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people the opportunity to reach their full potential. The organization works with youth and teens to provide them with knowledge and courage to be who they are in today's society.

"Our three organizations have a common goal of bringing people together in the name of visibility, acceptance and equality. Now we will also have the shared resources and infrastructure to grow and increase the impact of our work and mission."



# PRIDE WEEK

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5 <b>LGBT SENIOR TEA DANCE</b>  <b>"MARDI GRAS" BOAT CRUISE TO BENEFIT PRIDE</b>	6 <b>BOSTON PRIDE PAGEANT</b>	7 <b>EQUALITY CAFE: A Discussion on Assimilation</b>	8 <b>PRIDE IDOL MOVIE NIGHT #1</b>	9 <b>CONCERT: THE B52'S &amp; THE GO-GOS</b>  <b>MACY'S EVENT</b>  <b>MOVIE NIGHT #2</b>  <b>TRANIWRECK</b>  <b>OPTIONZ</b>	10 <b>DYKE MARCH</b>  <b>MOVIE NIGHT #3</b>	11 <b>PRIDE PARADE &amp; FESTIVAL</b>  <b>CLUB SIZZLE!</b>

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12 <b>BLOCK PARTIES: JP &amp; STUART ST</b>

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# What does Noho Pride mean to you? Is it a Cause for Celebration? Yes, indeed!

TRANS NEWS

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw\*/TRT Columnist

Saturday, May 7, is the 30th Northampton Pride. That fact that it is the 30th Pride is reason enough for celebration. Any organization that makes it to 30 years needs to be recognized and applauded!

Times sure have changed since the first Noho Pride back in 1981. I am told that there were marchers in the parade back then who actually had bags over their heads so that no one would recognize them. The marchers feared for their jobs, the very possible loss of friends and family and maybe even their lives. Back in those days there wasn't much being "out." There was mostly being "in" the closet. We have come a long way since then as many of us are "out and proud" these days. That alone is also another reason to celebrate the Noho Pride.

I don't know about you, but back in 1981 I was so deep in my closet, as my girlfriend Laura would say, I was subterranean! It was awful being petrified to even explore who you are and who you might become. The world was a very cruel place to us back then and there wasn't very many of us who had the nerve to say "I am who I am" and actually live it!

Me? I was being a hubby and a daddy of 3 children in the 80s. I pushed my feeling way, way down into the deepest, darkest parts of my soul. I was extremely busy doing wonderful family things but when I did have time to think,



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

I would day dream about being female. I always wondered what my life would have been like if I just ran away as I wanted to when I was 19 and somehow became a female and got work playing as a musician. Back then, in the early 70s, Glam Rock was peaking and I yearned to be in one of those bands so badly! I was obsessed with being female. This obsession would even haunt my sleep at night when I dreamed that I would be female and living accordingly.

It took a few decades but I finally began accepting myself and who I am. I finally stepped out of my closet in 2001 and I transitioned to female in 2007. Nowadays I am living out and proud and I love marching in the Noho Pride Parade!! This is reason number three to celebrate Noho Pride!

Reason #4 to celebrate Noho Pride is that fact that it is very much like a "family reunion." It's wonderful to watch old friends meet, hug and catch up. I've seen so many happy reunions at the Pride and it warms my heart. It's great to see these little reunions because too many of us have been ostracized from our blood families. However, with events like Noho Pride we can be with people who love and accept us and

don't judge us and are not afraid of being with us. We have our own TLBG family! Yes, Noho Pride is a huge, happy family reunion!!!

Some folks think that Noho Pride has lost its focus and purpose and has become a party rather than a political statement. I can see their point. Yes, we have come a long ways since 1981, yes, we still have a long ways to go and yes we need to keep working on making things better. I totally agree.

At the same time I love Noho Pride even if it is a party, even if it is a celebration of being proud of who we are, a celebration of finally accepting who we are and being ok with it, a celebration of being a family reunion and a celebration of being a milestone number of years. I love the fact that for one day we can put aside all of the awful things that still spill over into our lives, the family and friend rejections and ostracisms, the difficulties of work situations, the thoughts of suicide and the very possible bodily harm that still lurks out there.

For one day I personally don't want to think about the awful things that are still in our lives. I want to think about the good things! Yes, we can put all of that awful stuff aside and be happy and proud and the world is right at least for that one day. My thanks go out to Bear and Cid and

the Pride Committee and to all the volunteers who make Noho Pride happen. Thank you all for all your hard work from the bottom of my heart!

So, meet me at the Pride? Please stop in the UniTy/COS table and say "Hi!" and visit The Rainbow Times table and tell them that Deja sent you!!! So, meet me at the Pride? Please stop in the UniTy/COS table and say "Hi!" and visit The

Rainbow Times' table and tell them that Deja sent you!!!

\*Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has 3 grown children and works at a local Fortune 500 company. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.

## Finding some perspective on the pros and cons of your plastic surgery decisions

By: Lorelei Erisis\*/TRT Columnist

Lorelei,

Can I ask you about plastic surgery? I'm thinking about getting some work done and I have issues with surgically constructed beauty. The concept of having some surgeon cut me open to make me acceptable to view is sickening. I'm hoping that you can put some perspective on the reality of plastic surgery for me. I need to have some but I can't quite get over my own personal belief that it is gruesome and misogynistic. What is your take?

Hideous

As a transwoman who is also an activist and who grew up in pretty progressive circles, I think about this a lot. The simple answer is that plastic surgery IS gruesome and misogynistic. It can also be beneficial and life-saving.

Like life itself, as I am often fond of saying, the real answer is fairly complex.

"Plastic surgery is gruesome."

Yes it is. I've been considering getting some plastic surgery procedures for years and as a person who likes to be as informed as possible, I've looked at a lot of different procedures. Pictures and video and such, and it's frankly terrifying!! I'm admittedly pretty squeamish, but we're talking stuff that would make an avid reader of Fangoria magazine faint!

Okay, fine, surgery is like that generally. The

results though are also often as gruesome as the procedures. Body parts and major physical features are blown up or shrunk to sizes out of all natural proportion. Faces are altered beyond what our brains recognize as normal and human.

This happens for a variety of reasons. Sometimes simple addiction makes people pile one procedure on top of another until their appearance becomes something entirely alien. Go Google "The Cat Lady" if you want to see a "purrrfect" example of this.

More frequently though, and this is certainly tied into the previous example as well, plastic surgery allows people to physically emulate the often absurd and completely unrealistic ideas of beauty that permeate our modern society. Everywhere from fashion magazines and billboards, to so-called "serious" news outlets and even in our own homes from the people who love us, we are confronted with unhealthy and often unnatural standards of "beauty."

This is not new. We have been painting, squeezing, cutting and stretching ourselves for centuries to fit our social standards of presentation. It's just that plastic surgery allows us push even farther in physically impossible directions than ever before.

Plastic surgery is also a miracle! It can help those

who have been in disfiguring accidents lead "normal" lives that would have been impossible in previous centuries or even decades. Victims of serious burns, violent assault or dumb "sporting" ideas, can all be made acceptable to our judgmental eyes again.

It can help boost self-esteem by fixing physical defects both major and slight. A hare-lip or a crooked nose can be "fixed" to allow a person to look in the mirror and easily love the person they see.

This is where we intersect with trans people. For trans people, plastic surgery is the "modern miracle" that allows us to alter our bodies to fit our gender. SRS, Sexual Reassignment Surgery (or GRS, Genital/Gender, Reassignment Surgery) is essentially

a series of plastic surgery procedures. Penises are fashioned into vaginas for MtFs; Vice-versa for FtMs. Breasts are removed or augmented depending on the direction of transition.

Also available for the transperson wishing to become more "themselves," are a wide variety of other procedures. For transwomen, eyebrows may be raised, hairlines lowered, chins softened and cheekbones heightened.

Is it misogynistic to expect women will subject themselves to all manner of surgical procedures just to achieve a certain standard of beauty? Almost certainly the answer is yes. But like it or not, we live in a fairly misogynistic society and not everyone is willing to be a martyr for the cause.

I lie awake at night wondering if things I am doing in order to be perceived as the woman I

**Is it misogynistic to expect women will subject themselves to all manner of surgical procedures just to achieve a certain standard of beauty? Almost certainly the answer is yes. But like it or not, we live in a fairly misogynistic society and not everyone is willing to be a martyr for the cause.**



Lorelei Erisis

am by a judgmental society are insulting to other women or reinforcing negative stereotypes. Some things I choose to fight. It's true for instance that if I were less assertive, I would be more easily "passable" as a woman out in the general public and I might even get a date with a guy more

often. But I believe women have every right to be as assertive and strong as men are raised to be. So I try as best I can to put my beliefs in front of my comfort level.

On the other hand I dress pretty aggressively femmy sometimes. It's not that I think women should have to wear dresses and makeup; it's more that I get tired of being "Sir'd" sometimes and wearing a skirt helps to clue people in that despite my height or the slight cleft in my chin, I am a woman. And trust me, some people need more help than others.

For me, as for many others of my trans sisters and brothers, plastic surgery is a choice I am prepared to make to feel not just more comfortable with myself, but more at one with my own physical being. It's a choice I make to feel sexier, happier and more feminine.

Ultimately though, it is MY choice as it is MY body. No one can tell me what to do with my own body. And no one should be able to tell you what choices to make with your own body, Beautiful Hideous. If you decide to go ahead with plastic surgery, do it for yourself. Do it because it is something that YOU want. For whatever reasons are acceptable to you.

Or don't. The choice is yours.

Slainte!

\*Lorelei Erisis, former Miss Trans New England, can be contacted at: loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.



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## Is Trans 101 really too advanced for most people?

By: Tynan Power\*/TRT Columnist

TRANS MAN



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

Last month, I was on a planning team for an LGBTQ worship service at the Unitarian Society in Northampton. The service had a strong educational component, like a workshop from the pulpit. I raised a transgender-related issue I wanted to cover and another person responded with something I hear often from lesbians and gay men when I talk about basic “trans 101” topics: “That’s 401! They’re not ready for that.”

Transgender, it would seem, is by definition a “401” topic—just too advanced for most people to understand.

Is it really? Apparently, some lesbians and gay men think so. I disagree, but I don’t fault the individuals who say it. Clearly, it has to do with how differently we see gender identity.

In the past few decades, transgender people have become increasingly visible and vocal. Before that, we were nearly invisible. When I was growing up, there weren’t even bad images of FTM (female-to-male) trans people in the media. Now, there have been talk-shows about the transgender “pregnant man,” 20/20 episodes and a reality TV series about transgender college students, attention-getting mainstream movies like “Boys Don’t Cry” and “Trans America,” and The Daily Show’s Jon Stewart defending the mother of a little boy with painted toe nails who appeared in an ad that conservative pundits used as a field day for railing against “transgen-

der children.”

Yet most cisgender (non-trans) people, straight and gay alike, seem to see transgender through a sexual orientation lens. Trans women’s experiences are seen as related to those of gay male “female impersonators.” Trans men’s experiences are understood as related to those of butch lesbians. Transgender identity routinely gets called “a sexuality” or “sexual identity,” trans rights are blurred with “gay rights,” and the “gay community” is supposed to mean everyone allied under the LGBTQ tent—including straight trans people.

The trans umbrella does cast a wide protective shadow, especially in the legal struggle against discrimination based on “gender identity and expression”—a struggle that intentionally has swooped masculine women and effeminate men into its embrace. There are also legitimate areas of overlap between gender and sexual orientation. There’s something that draws some gay men to “female impersonation,” after all, while others wouldn’t be caught dead in drag.

The key word is “overlap.” Think of it as a Venn diagram, in which two circles overlap. If you start off in one circle (sexual orientation), you have to go through the complicated mesh of overlap between gender and sexual orientation of the other circle (gender identity). The overlap is real, but the two circles remain separate. If we start off talking about the overlap, it makes things complicated. If we try to gaze from one circle to the other, through the overlap, it would probably look about as clear as a midnight fog.

Though there have always been transgender people and we’ve always been part of the movement,

To continue this story, please visit us online at [www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/05/05/2011/transman](http://www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/05/05/2011/transman)

## Calpernia Adams to dazzle crowd at Noho Pride

NORTHAMPTON, MA—Perhaps best known for her star role in MTV/Logo’s “Transamerican Love Story,” a show examining dating and romance for transsexual people, icon Calpernia Addams will be performing at Noho Pride on May 7.

As an actress, musician, author and activist, Addams produces entertaining and educational material promoting understanding and growth centering on the trans community through Deep Stealth Productions. Additionally, she recently performed alongside Jane Fonda in the 10th anniversary production of “The Vagina Monologues” at the New Orleans Super Dome to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Raised as a boy by loving but religious parents in the rural heartland of Tennessee, Addams found her way on an unlit

path from forbidden dreams to fulfillment as a scholar, showgirl and eventually, as a woman.

Her memoir, *Mark 947*, details her Southern childhood and service as a field medical combat specialist with the Navy and Marines in Saudi Arabia during the first Gulf War.

Whether ablaze in the dazzle of the spotlight or haunting the woods of Tennessee in flannel and pigtails, Addams lives her life with the humor and spirit of a woman who can face anything and still move forward with hope intact.

Calpernia Addams will perform on the Noho Pride stage from 2:35-3:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 7. For more information about Noho Pride or their entertainment line-up, please visit [www.nohopride.org](http://www.nohopride.org). To find out more about

Calpernia, please visit: [www.calpernia.com](http://www.calpernia.com).



PHOTO: KRISTA BENSON

Calpernia Addams

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### Queeries from page 2

from sexting. Fine and good. I also know that it isn't always easy to just say no. As for you, trust your instincts. Just because so many other guys are doing it, that doesn't mean it's right or that you should follow suit. If the guy you're dating keeps pressuring you to reciprocate, think hard about whether this is someone you want to be so involved and intimate with. Even if he claims that he's "different," you're definitely not too young to be cautious, if not suspicious. Say something like, "I'm really not comfortable doing this," or "My parents are really nosy and watch my texting."

They'll find out." And what happens if—or when—you break up? Vindictive sexting of an ex's naked pictures may very well be the new century's best example of "revenge sex."

One last point: Once a picture hits the Internet, it lives forever. When you apply to college, an admissions officer may come upon it while doing a little background research on you. Ditto when you're applying for a job. If this happens, you could lose out big time. Just sayin'.

*To continue this story, please visit us online at [www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/05052011/queeries](http://www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/05052011/queeries)*

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## Bin Laden killed!: Governor Patrick, LGBT leaders & community members weigh in

**By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter**

Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S., was killed after a firefight with a small group of American forces on May 1st. According to President Obama, the U.S. quickly took custody of his body following the shooting.

Located in Abbottabad, Pakistan, bin Laden was hunted down in a million dollar compound, which had been under surveillance for several months. The target operation was authorized by president Obama once enough security intelligence was gathered to authorize mobilization, he said in a statement. However, the war on terror is not over.

"[Bin Laden's] death does not mark the end of our effort," said President Obama in an address from the White House. "There's no doubt that al Qaeda will continue to pursue attacks against us. We must -- and we will -- remain vigilant at home and abroad."

In Massachusetts, the Governor's Office congratulated President Obama on his handling of the top-secret mission.

"On behalf of the people of Massachusetts and all others who suffered the profound loss of the September 11, 2001 attacks, I congratulate and thank President Obama and the soldiers and intelligence personnel who carried out this mission," Gov. Deval Patrick said. "We also remember our Massachusetts servicemen and women who continue their extraordinary efforts to rid the world of terrorism. Let us heed the President's call to unite, as we did in the months of mourning following that terrible day, to make a better, safer and more just world."

MassEquality's Executive Director, Kara Sufredini, remembers the real 9-11 heroes and the struggles that LGBT families without rights suffered due to the LGBT inequality under the law.

"With the news of Osama bin Laden's death, the LGBT community is called to remember the courage and strength of 9-11's LGBT heroes and surviving family members. We remember Mark Bingham, a gay man who was among the passengers of Flight 93 who saved countless lives by wrestling control of the plane from hijackers' intent on crashing into Washington D.C.," said Sufredini. "We also remember Father Mychal Judge, a gay Catholic priest who was killed tending to the wounded and dying at Ground Zero. And we reflect on the acute struggle with inequality that surviving partners of LGBT victims faced when their unimaginable grief was compounded by denials of worker's compensation benefits, access to the Victim's Compensation Fund if surviving blood relatives submitted a claim, and aid from the American Red Cross, all because of our country's unfair treatment of same-sex couples."

In a press release, Democratic Massachusetts Senator John Kerry issued a statement about the mission of justice.

"The killing of Osama bin Laden closes an important chapter in our war against extremists who kill innocent people around the world," Kerry said. "We are a nation of peace and laws, and people everywhere should understand that our ten-year manhunt was in search of justice not revenge."

Kerry had words of praise for President Obama and those involved in the operation that finally killed bin Laden for "never forgetting the need to secure justice for those who lost their lives nearly 10 years ago and for those who have lost their lives in the war against extremism that continues today."

*To continue this story, please visit us online at [www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/05022011/binladen](http://www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/05022011/binladen)*

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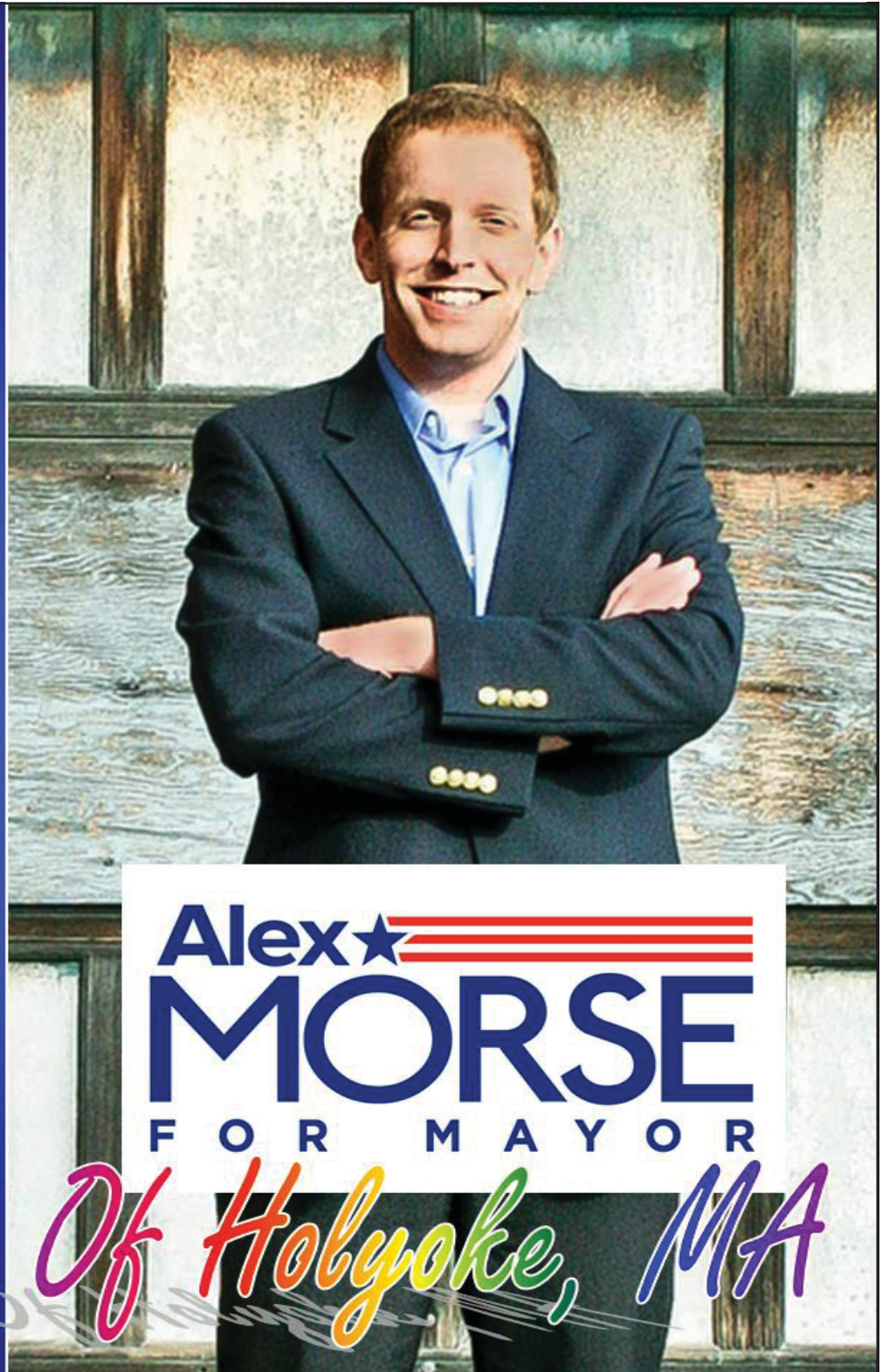
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## Grass-roots Queer Insurgency seeks to address perceived gaps in Noho Pride

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

On May 7th, more than 70 contingents are expected to march into history as part of Northampton's 30th Annual Pride Parade and Rally—but one LGBTQ group won't be among them.

Instead, Queer Insurgency—a recently-formed regional grass-roots group—will stand on the sidelines with signs that ask open-ended questions about the issues the group feels are left out of Pride today. The signs are designed to be thought-provoking: “What about racism?” “What about transphobia?” “What about teen suicide?”

“We’re trying to fill-in-the-gaps,” as transgender activist Bet Power explained. “We’re not going to disrupt Pride.”

Queer Insurgency has a list of issues members think should be on the Noho Pride agenda, from transphobia and HIV/AIDS to unemployment and the prison industrial complex. Yet racial and ethnic diversity have taken center stage in the controversy around the protest.

A Queer Insurgency press release stated that only one person of color sits on Noho Pride's twenty-seat committee. The entertainment lineup is also almost entirely white and all four Parade Grand Marshals are white.

Critical statements quoted in an article about the controversy on the MassLive website—and in reader responses to it—prompted Noho



PHOTO: TYNAN POWER  
**Bear White, Noho Pride Director**

Pride's entertainment chair J.C. Ortiz Calcaño to refute the comments. “As the only ‘Black/Person of Color’ and most senior member in the new Noho Pride organization, I find a lot of this so-called feedback regarding ‘commercialism’ and lack of ‘political’ focus

outright hilarious,” Calcaño wrote. “Diversity and inclusivity goes far beyond inclusion of ‘token’ persons of color or representatives of minority groups within the LGBTI community.”

Barbara Allen, a past co-chair of Northampton Pride, recalls the challenge of putting together a diverse lineup for the event. “I booked the people on stage for the five years I did the Pride March with Melinda [Shaw],” Allen said. “I remember we had eight weeks to organize, get permits, entertainment, food, insurance, etc.—not much time to pull off a huge event ... and we did it! Over the years we had Matt Yee (an Asian gay singer), an African-American drag king, a Trans speaker when people were first talking out loud about being Trans, a gay comic, and Barney Frank, to name a few.”

“We worked to be inclusive,” she said. “Yes, it was hugely time-consuming—and a great thing to do!”

However last year, Northampton Pride ceased to exist. Instead, its successor “Noho Pride” was formed and incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization.

This year's Pride committee has no doubt faced some challenges. Calcaño stated that Noho Pride originally did have people of color in the entertainment lineup.

“For unfortunate reasons, those persons were not able to meet their commitment,” he said.

That has left Noho Pride in a difficult position.

“Right now,” Noho Pride Director Bear White said, “they are saying we should get somebody up there just because we don't have people of color, not because of the person. That doesn't seem like it's a very good way to do it.”

White feels that Noho Pride still includes diversity in other important ways, such as having lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Grand Marshals, award-winning transgender actress/author/activist Calpernia Addams and Deaf performer Robert DeMayo. Noho Pride also has a liaison to the transgender community and an ASL coordinator who serves as a liaison to the Deaf community.

Power doesn't feel those successes make up for the lack of racial and ethnic diversity, though. He also questions whether having a “transgender liaison” is the same as being trans-inclusive.

“It's like we're an outside group they need a liaison to talk to,” Power said, clearly mystified.

Organizers are finding the criticism frustrating, especially as it has come so late in the planning process.

“Having this come up three weeks before Pride is not that productive,” White said. “In September, we asked everyone to please be part of our committee. If they expressed interest by sending any one of us an email saying ‘I would really like to on the committee,’ we would have gladly invited them to come on, because all of the people [on the committee] are volunteers.”

Even the best of intentions, however, can fall flat.

Nelson Roman, President of the Holyoke For All-Holyoke “Para Todos” Board of Directors, tried to get involved last fall after meeting one of Noho Pride's Board members.

“I emailed her twice and never heard anything back,” Roman said.

Amaad Rivera, Springfield's first openly gay city councilor, also would have liked to have been involved with Noho Pride. He admits to having been surprised that he wasn't approached to participate.

Queer Insurgency also hopes to draw attention to the shift members feel Pride has made from being a political march for LGBT rights to being a big queer party.

“The theme now is parties and more parties,” Power said. “I'm not against partying, but if you put politics into the party, then you're leading people somewhere.”

Now, Power feels, people are being “herded like cattle” to an increasingly commercial event.

White pointed out that the “commercial” vendors at Noho Pride are mostly for local LGBT-owned businesses. Vendors and business sponsors are welcome, according to White, because the committee is determined to keep Noho Pride free. Marching in the parade and attending the rally are both free.

Still, the costs of the full Pride experience—including Kate Clinton's Friday night performance, lunch and bottled water at the rally, a Noho Pride t-shirt and 30th anniversary commemorative book, followed by attending a post-Pride after-party—add up quickly.

**See Queer Insurgency on page 22**



PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

**Bet Power, Executive Director, Sexual Minorities Archives, Northampton**



# Sex and the Seedy: Kim Cattrall on her very un-Samantha role, love of gay men, and Britney Spears

By: Chris Azzopardi/Special for TRT

There's not much city in *Meet Monica Velour*, but there's sex – and a trailer park and a very haggard-looking Kim Cattrall. The *Sex and the City* actress plays the title character, a washed-up porn star who meets a young fan of hers when the boy travels to rural Indiana to see her at a strip club. After six seasons of glam in her iconic role as super-slut Samantha Jones on the hit TV series (and two movie spin-offs), Monica Velour is nothing like the femme fatale Cattrall once played.

Recently, we caught up with Cattrall, who discussed how the part parallels her own career, why she shops at Kmart and whether she'd be up for another *Sex and the City*.

**Chris Azzopardi:** What about this role was so different for you?

**Kim Cattrall:** I usually play characters who are very strong, forceful and successful dynamos, and this woman is someone who's been marginalized and is very much an outcast. I thought, "What will it be like to inhabit that, and do I have that in me?"

In some ways it's a story that's not too far from what has happened in Hollywood for decades. And I thought, "I can relate to that. That's a great handle for me to go on, because I'm in my 50s and suddenly you become, 'You look good for your age,' instead of, 'You look good.'" It was a physical, emotional and intellectual challenge.

**CA:** You really threw yourself into this part.

**KC:** I had a tremendous amount of support – I really did. To be handed a role like this at any time in your career, but especially at this time, I said to Keith Bearden, the director: "You've written a feminist film. It's really incredible that you cast a woman in her 50s who's overweight, and that you wrote that role." This is a guy who's rewriting a Hollywood movie and what he's done is make a wonderful American movie. And I don't think we have a lot of those around anymore, sadly.

**CA:** What kind of research went into this role? I heard some of it involved you going to strip clubs.

**KC:** That was the least of it, really. I mean, that kind of reality is very easy to access on the Internet. For Keith and I, it was really an investigation on multiple levels. I decided to go with a deeper register in my voice. I felt that my voice as Kim was too hopeful, too lyrical, and I wanted to go deeper than that. Gaining the weight was, again, like looking at porn. It was something that was a dedication in the sense of continuously being aware of it and doing it and not exercising, which was a blessing, and not being on diet, which was an even bigger blessing. (Laughs)

**CA:** What did you eat?

**KC:** Oh, god. Definitely pasta, butter, desserts,



PHOTO: ANCHOR BAY FILMS

**Kim Cattrall plays a washed-up porn star in *Meet Monica Velour***

lots of pork. Anything and everything that was either salty or sweet. It was really a "Get Out of Jail Free" card, because my whole life I've been on a diet or on an exercise routine. But I do love to eat.

**CA:** Before the shoot, you were spotted at Kmart.

**KC:** Oh, yeah. I was there. I did a lot of the costumes myself, and every weekend I would go to Kmart because that's where Monica would shop. That's the kind of authenticity that was going on in the sense of this is real; it's not Hollywood real, it's real. No special lighting, no special treatment.

**CA:** You mention Monica being an outcast, and early test screenings for the movie showed a strong interest among gay men. Do you think that has something to do with it?

**KC:** Well, not being a gay man, I can't really comment on that. But I can understand how it would – yes, definitely. Especially in Middle America.

**CA:** Did you tend to buddy-up with the gay people on set?

**KC:** Our scenic designer, who did a brilliant job, is gay and he absolutely loved working on this movie. He came in at the last minute, and he did a phenomenal job. That trailer park doesn't exist. A lot of those places didn't exist. We actually shot in the trailer, and with such detail. I

remember saying to him, "This really feels real." The bedroom felt real; the living room and everything in the kitchen, he built that all out and he did a phenomenal job.

**CA:** Do you appreciate porn stars more now?

**KC:** It gave me an appreciation for women of a certain age – which I am one of them. Whether you're an actress or a teacher or a porn star, after a certain age you are marginalized – and then,

in the case of a porn star, you're an outcast. So where do these people go? And where do aging actresses go? I like to think that they go to the theater and they continue to be involved with great stories. So there are a lot of women that I've surrounded myself with, like Janet Suzman, Judi Dench and Meryl Streep; they are really inspiring, but most people get so downtrodden, like this character – where do they go, what happens to them? So I have a real respect and appreciation for what that is and will continue to fight it with everything I have. (Laughs)

**CA:** If you were a porn star, what would your porn star name be?

**KC:** Mine would be Fluffy Dawn, because my cat was Fluffy, and I lived on Dawn Road.

**CA:** What do you think Samantha would say about Monica? Would they be friends?

**KC:** I don't think they would be friends. I think they live in different universes. Samantha is a dynamo and in some ways she's kind of stuck in her own way, meaning that she doesn't want to change, she doesn't want to age. A character like Monica Velour doesn't have a choice.

**CA:** Will there be a *Sex and the City 3*?

**KC:** I have no idea. I really don't know.

**CA:** Would you be onboard?

**KC:** To me, it always depends on the script, because I always felt the writing was so good on the show and I know that for the writers and producers – Sarah (Jessica Parker) being one of them – that would be a real priority. But I've heard nothing. I also haven't been around too much. I've been busy working. You'll probably know before I do.

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## Rhode Island House Speaker backs civil unions

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

House Speaker Gordon Fox (D-Providence) stunned members of the LGBT community on Wednesday when he announced his support for a civil union's bill.

Fox, who is openly gay, had pledged to push for a vote on a marriage equality bill during the current legislation. Hearings were held on the issue by the House Judiciary Committee in February and the Senate Judiciary Committee in March.

A same-sex marriage bill has been introduced every year since 1997 but has never made it out of committee for a floor vote. Marriage equality advocates had hoped this year would be different.

In a letter to his colleagues, Fox acknowledged the uphill road a gay marriage bill would have in the General Assembly.

"Based on your input, along with the fact that it is now clear to me that there is no realistic chance for passage of the bill in the Senate, I will recommend that the House not move forward with a vote on the marriage equality bill during this legislative session," Fox wrote. "I will instead support full passage of a civil unions' bill that grants important and long overdue legal rights to same-sex couples in Rhode Island."

Fox continued: "I have had conversations with Senate leadership and, unlike the marriage equality bill, I am optimistic that a civil unions' bill can gain passage in both chambers during this legislative session. The new civil union bill is currently being drafted and will soon be ready for introduc-

tion and public inspection. I will be one of the sponsors."

Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed issued this statement:

"I have consistently stated that I support civil unions. I have spoken with Speaker Fox on this issue, and I appreciate the courage and passion which he has demonstrated throughout this debate. Based upon my conversations with members of the Senate, I believe that there is broad support in the chamber for legislation to allow civil unions in Rhode Island."

House Minority Leader Robert Watson, R-East Greenwich, said he has been on record "consistently favoring civil unions as a solution to this issue," and believes -- as he said told Fox just before the legislative break -- that there is "clearly more support" in the legislature for civil unions than there is for same-sex marriage.

"Civil unions today and debate lingers on relative to marriage,"

said Watson, voicing his own belief that "all people are equal and should be treated equal."

Governor Lincoln Chafee (I), a strong advocate of same-sex marriage, said he "had hoped that legislation enacting it would have reached my desk this year," but he respects Fox's position and believes "passage of civil-union legislation would be a step forward for our state and I would sign such a bill if and when it reaches my desk."

To continue this story, please visit us online at [www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/05052011/gordonfox](http://www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/05052011/gordonfox)



PHOTO: LARRY BERMAN

RI House Speaker, Gordon Fox

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Courtesy: wolfevideo.com

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8. The New World
9. The Kids Are All Right
10. My Normal

#### GAY TOP 10

1. Undertow (Contracorriente)
2. I Love You Phillip Morris
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# Colfer, Cowell & Abdul on again, James Frey, & the Real L Word gets real young

By: Romeo San Vicente\*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



## Glee's Colfer adds Disney Channel to friends list

Chris Colfer is no dummy. Clearly, he already knows – just from observing the gay actors that came before him – that to be an out actor can mean a strange, sometimes difficult

career, no matter how popular you are on your current weekly TV series. As reported earlier he's already branched out with his first foray into screenwriting, *Struck By Lightning*, which he'll also star in, and it rolls before cameras this summer with director Brian Dannelly (*Saved*) while Glee takes a break. But the latest news from Colfer, Inc. is that he's also sold his first TV pilot to the Disney Channel. It's called *The Little Leftover Witch* and based on the children's book by Florence Laughlin about a little witch adopted by a non-witch family after she crash lands her broom at their house. Sounds adorable, and the best news of all is that it only has to be marginally better than that trainwreck '80s show *Small Wonder* (you remember, the one about the robot girl) to enjoy a respectable legacy in children's television history.

## Paula and Simon to reunite for X Factor

The winning qualities of Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler notwithstanding, you know it just hasn't been the same since Paula Abdul left *American Idol*. And her dance show sank into the

ratings dump and never came out. But like her old pop hit, opposites attract, Simon Cowell has tapped his former co-judge for a spot on this fall's *X Factor*. Already an annual ratings smash in England – and, unlike *Idol*, fully owned and operated by Cowell – the singing talent show has also lined up music industry power player and former chair of Island/Def Jam Music Group Antonio "L.A." Reid, as well as British pop star Cheryl Cole, to serve as judges. Rumors swirled that Snoop Dogg, Gloria Estefan and Mariah Carey had all been approached but, in a recent interview with blogger Nikki Finke, Cowell said that no such offers were made. Not that it matters, the other two judges could be the corpse from *Weekend Update* and a 40-watt lightbulb and we'd tune in just to see Cowell and Abdul continue their weird romance.

## James Frey courts controversy for Christ

Hand it to the man, James Frey knows how to get his name out there. Of course, when it first happened it was because he told his own occasionally fictional version of the truth in his Oprah-scorned memoir *A Million Little Pieces*. But now it's going to be because a million little angry conservative evangelical Christians will line up to despise his new book, *The Final Testament of The Holy Bible*. It's an intentionally fictional work, imagining a reality in which the Messiah is alive and well and living today as a bisexual with a healthy appetite for physical pleasures. In other words, blasphemy. But is the writing good? Early positive reviews may earn it literary cred, but it's going to be the controversy – complete with, no lie, a return visit to the Oprah set any minute now – that aims it straight for the *New York Times* bestseller list. And just wait until the movie rights get sold. Westboro Baptist Church is probably already designing protest placards.

## Real L Word gets real young

Show of hands, who was bored by the first season of *The Real L Word*? Well, guess what? So was everyone else, including Showtime, the network that aired it. So for season two, coming up very quickly in June, get ready to meet an entirely new cast of younger, wilder, sexier lesbian drama factories. OK, actually, Whitney is back and so is Romi, the girl whose affections Whitney was toying with, but that's it. The rest of those older women with semi-real-life problems are gone and in their place is a cast of hot young babes willing to pose bi-

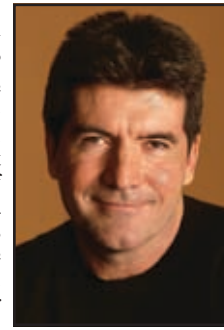


PHOTO: FOX TELEVISION  
Simon Cowell

kini-clad and mud-splattered for publicity shots. Will drinks be thrown? Fighting commence? Threesomes be had? Without a doubt, and now, finally, lesbians (and the straight dudes who fantasize about them) will have their very own, all-girl, bad behavior-intensive *A List: New York*-style show. Equal time and all that.

\*Romeo San Vicente would very much like to see the lesbian version of *Deadliest Catch* or *Ax Men*. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com)

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## Creep of the Week: Let's look at Teonna Monae Brown & the Baltimore County McDonald's beating

By: D'Anne Witkowski\*/Special for TRT

There are plenty of reasons why Chrissy Lee Polis, a 22-year-old transgender woman should have thought twice about going to McDonald's on April 18. Pick just about any item off the menu, really. High fat, the empty calories, the boatload of preservatives, the environmental impact of beef production.

But one thing she probably didn't consider was getting the shit beat out of her by a couple of teenage girls while store employees recorded a video and laughed.

That's exactly what happened at a Baltimore County McDonald's in Maryland and the horrific video has been watched thousands and thousands of times.

In the video Polis is seen being kicked and punched and slapped repeatedly by two girls who are screaming at her, though what they're saying is not intelligible on the video (I suspect, however, that it is not nice). She screams back at times and keeps trying to walk away, but it's no use. The girls are nothing if not tenacious. And savage. They just keep coming back with more violence to dish out.

Like I said, I can't understand anything the girls are screaming or anything that Polis says. After Polis is dragged cave-man style by her hair from the back to the front of the restaurant, an elderly woman stands up and tells one of the attackers to "get off of her" as she tries to break up the attack. The girls are not very receptive to this for some reason. I mean, you'd think that two people ruthlessly attacking someone in the middle of a McDonald's would be totally reasonable and respectful of their elders. But the girls go right on slapping and kicking and punching.

The manager at the store repeatedly says, "Stop," trying but failing to separate the girls

from Polis. No other employee attempts to help, though early in the video Polis is on the floor after being kicked and is holding what looks like a plastic shopping bag. As she scrambles to get away, something falls out of the bag and an employee in a red shirt reaches down and grabs whatever it was that fell out. And that's the last we see or hear of the McDonald's crew until the end of the video where we hear someone warn the girls to get out of there because the police are coming and then say, "She's havin' a f%\$&#n' seizure, yo."

Because Polis is, indeed, having a f%\$&#@g seizure, and no attempt is made to assist her in any way. Even after someone says, "She needs help right now," you hear the manager off camera saying, "They're on their way" while Polis thrashes unaided on the floor and the girls take off.

The girls, by the way, have names. One of them is 18-year-old Teonna Monae Brown. The other is only 14 years old so her name has not been released as of press time. All I know about her is that she apparently has really cool older friends and that she told police that she and Brown "got into a fight with a woman over using the bathroom."

In a case of tragic irony, Maryland's legislature recently stripped the Gender Identity Anti-discrimination Act of "public accommodation protections" for transgender people and then failed to pass the damn thing anyway.

The police may prosecute the beating as a hate crime. Not because Polis is trans, but because Polis is white and her attackers are black. Whether race played a role in the attack or not is not yet clear. That trans-phobia played a role in the attack seems pretty clear.

See Creep on page 23

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**Queer Insurgency from page 16**

Power and others in Queer Insurgency feel that Noho Pride has turned into a business venture.

"The purpose of a Pride march is to recreate Stonewall," Power said. "[Noho Pride] replaced our annual march for our rights. It co-opted it."

While White has said that establishing Noho Pride as a 501(c)3 non-profit last year will mean greater stability and legal standing for the event, Power believes it has taken power away from the community.

"It's seen as ownership," Power said. "But no one asked the community."

In contrast, when Power was on the Northampton Pride committee in 1993, he explained, there were community meetings of hundreds of people who voted for Pride committee members.

Noho Pride's constituent community has changed since the '90s, though, as the event has become increasingly regional. Northampton Pride's former chair Melinda Shaw recalls that regionalization as part of growing and promoting the event.

"We reached out to all of New England for marketing, to get folks to attend. We reached as far and wide as we could afford for performers," Shaw said.

Roman, of Holyoke For All—"Holyoke Para Todos" also feels that Noho Pride organizers need to reach out to the rest of the region—not just for attendance, but for involvement and representation of diverse populations.

"Northampton is a different universe than the [neighboring] cities," Roman said. "But the spirit of it is beautiful. I wish that they could

bridge the gap and really come down to us and say 'How can we get Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke or the lower Valley involved.'"

Springfield City Councilor Rivera knows that closing the gap may not be easy—but it is necessary for a truly representative regional event.

"There can be bridges between those communities," Rivera said. "I do often think there is an assumption that there is not a strong LGBT community in Springfield. I think it's because [some] are poor or they are people of color and therefore they are perceived to be invisible."

Rivera and Roman aren't wasting time waiting for Noho Pride to build bridges, though. Both are actively involved in a planning a regional pride in Springfield for 2012, an event they say will be consciously inclusive of the area's diverse population and will include bilingual speakers.

Roman also isn't letting his dissatisfaction with Noho Pride keep him away from the area's largest LGBTQ gathering of the year. He plans to be in Northampton on May 7th to support Holyoke's GSA students and to spread the word about the 5th Annual Western Mass Youth Prom slated for May 14th.

Meanwhile those who have put tireless hours into making Noho Pride a reality—however flawed—share concern that Queer Insurgency's

protest will be divisive.

"I believe people should spend less time and energy criticizing an event that was meant to bring together our community," Calcaño said, "and spend more time offering help/support for change and awareness."

Bear White acknowledges that Noho Pride can learn from criticism.

"This isn't really what I want to talk about on our 30th Anniversary," White said, referring to the media coverage of the Queer Insurgency. "But protest is what we have always done [in the LGBTQ community]. We do get praise for the things that we do and we also have to be able to recognize some of the things that we don't do. I think that is important."

Bet Power said he hopes that Queer Insurgency's action will have a positive impact.

"I've been through this," he said. "This is good. It will lead to something better."

Queer Insurgency will present *The Black and Radical Origins of the LGBTQ Pride Movement* on May 7th at 7pm at the Media Education Foundation in Northampton, MA. Anyone wishing to get involved with Noho Pride for 2012 can visit [www.nohopride.org](http://www.nohopride.org) or contact [info@nohopride.org](mailto:info@nohopride.org). Anyone interested in performing or speaking at next year's event may contact the chair of entertainment by emailing [entertainment@nohopride.org](mailto:entertainment@nohopride.org).



PHOTO: NELSON ROMAN  
**Nelson Román, Board President of Holyoke for ALL**



PHOTO: COURTESY AMAAD RIVERA.COM  
**Amaad Rivera, Ward 6 Springfield City Councilor.**


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# The OutField: Kobe Bryant fouls out with the f-word

By: Dan Woog\* /Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



I'm pretty sure Bennie Adams is straight. So what's the big deal with Kobe Bryant calling him a "f#\$@&%g fa&ot" during a nationally televised game?

After all, that's common parlance in locker rooms and

on basketball courts around the country – not to mention countless school hallways, playgrounds and everywhere else.

Precisely.

Bryant's outburst – for those of you who may somehow have missed it – came last month, after receiving a technical foul. Bryant – for those of you who may somehow not know him – is one of the National Basketball Association's true superstars. He's a 13-time All-Star, and makes about \$25 million a year.

In other words: Kobe Bryant is not some kid playing Horse in an empty gym. He's not a boy who doesn't know any better, or a closeted kid trying to fit in by saying anti-gay stuff every chance he gets.

Kobe Bryant is one of the most recognized athletes in the world. His purple #24 jersey is worn by admiring fans around the globe. Millions of people look up to Kobe Bryant, admiring everything he does.

And listening to every word he says.

When it became clear that his f-bomb detonated loudly, Bryant went into damage control. Through the Lakers, he issued one of those non-apology apologies: "What I said last night should not be taken literally. My actions were out of frustration during the heat of the game, period. The words expressed do NOT reflect my feelings toward the gay and lesbian communities and were NOT meant to offend anyone."

So what are Bryant's "feelings toward the gay and lesbian communities?" He didn't say.

If he did not mean to offend anyone, why did he call Adams a "f#\$@&%g fa&ot"? Why not "a horrible official"? Or simply "you a \$hole"?

The National Basketball Association acted swiftly. Commissioner David Stern called Bryant's outburst "offensive and inexcusable." Acknowledging that basketball is "an emotional game," he added, "such a distasteful term should never be tolerated....Kobe and everyone associated with the NBA know that insensitive or derogatory comments are not acceptable and have no place in our game or society."

Stern then fined Bryant \$100,000.

Seems like a lot, huh?

Well, not if you have Bryant's net worth. And not – as the Good Men Project revealed – when compared with other NBA fines. In 2007 the league fined Vladimir Radmanovic – another Laker, ironically – \$500,000 for violating his contract by snowboarding. (He separated a shoulder, and was out of action for several weeks.)

And despite his "apology," Bryant said he would fight the fine. He called the appeal "standard protocol," whatever that means.

Come to think of it, "standard protocol" could mean standing up, admitting a mistake, recognizing the power of role models, and issuing a strong statement explaining exactly why words like "fa&ot" hurt. Describing how they hurt straight kids as well as gay ones, by reinforcing stereotypes.

Then, for good measure, Bryant could say he's leading a campaign to eliminate, once and for all,

the use of anti-gay words in basketball.

In other words, he could do something like what NBA players Grant Hill and Jared Dudley are doing.

They might not have Bryant's stature – though Hill is no slouch himself – but the Phoenix Suns teammates recently filmed a public service announcement for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

Part of GLSEN and the Ad Council's "Think Before You Speak Campaign," it airs during the NBA playoffs. The ads are striking; they reach an important audience during a high-powered event, and the NBA's commitment to the campaign underscores Stern's strong statement about the power of language.

Ironically, Hill and Dudley taped their public service announcement just hours before Bryant demonstrated his own inability to think before he spoke.

But words are not the only weapons that can hurt. Images do too.

For years, the NBA's Washington Wizards have shown a "Kiss Cam" during games. Two people appear on a giant TV screen, and are urged to kiss. Sometimes they're strangers sitting next to each other. The crowd goes crazy (hey, it's better than watching the Wizards play).

Then the camera cuts to two players from the visiting team, on their bench. The words "Kiss Cam" remain on the screen. Now the fans really howl. The players make

faces, hide under towels, or pretend to ignore each other.

What would happen, I wonder, if the "Kiss Cam" showed two guys – men who were not teammates, that is. And what if they did kiss, because they had gone to the game together?

Maybe it could happen when the Wizards play the Lakers. Maybe after the game Kobe Bryant could head into the stands, high-five the couple and pose for a picture.

That action, I'm betting, would speak far louder than his "f#\$@&%g fa&ot" words. Or the half-hearted "heat of the moment" apology that followed.

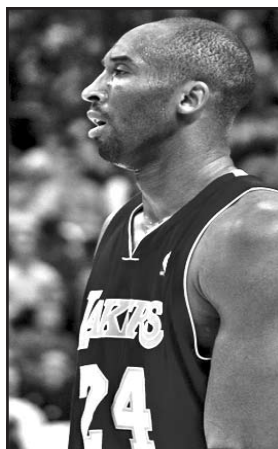
*\*Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at [www.danwoog.com](http://www.danwoog.com). He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutField@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).*

## Creep from page 21

Teonna Monae Brown clearly has some anger management issues (last year she was arrested after starting a fight at the very same McDonald's). But it's more than that. This was not just a couple of girls getting into a catfight. This was a sustained, directed, malicious attack on a person who was unarmed and outnumbered.

Brown isn't the first person to get it in her head that a transperson is less than human and deserving of violence. But you know what? Thanks to the dumb shit with the cell phone, thousands of people have seen what would otherwise be just another under-reported attack on a transperson. This has happened before. And it will happen again. If anything good comes out of this situation it'll be that next time fewer people will be able to just stand by and watch.

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



Kobe Bryant

# Personas GLBT sin viviendas y desamparadas: ¡Es la realidad!

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

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Nuestra población aquí en los Estados Unidos sigue siendo afectada por la crisis económica cada día más y más. El gobierno casi tuvo que paralizar operaciones por no poder llegar a una resolución económica. Cada partido político 'da para su lado' sin importar las consecuencias que le trae a las personas. El precio de la gasolina sigue subiendo, al igual que el precio de la leche y todo lo demás. La ansiedad y la angustia de donde va a salir el próximo dólar la vivimos todos/as pero más las personas sin empleos y desamparados/as. Hay personas GLBT en estas dos categorías y es importante que como comunidad nos unamos para ayudarlos/as.

Se estipula que en Massachusetts hay más de 15,480 personas (2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report) sin hogar o sitio donde poder vivir ya que no tienen los recursos económicos necesarios. Se estipula que hay más del 5% de estas personas que son personas GLBT. Casi siempre pensamos que esto no nos puede pasar a nosotros/as pero esto no es cierto ya que le puede pasar a cualquier persona. ¡La situación económica de una persona, pareja o familia puede cambiar tan rápido! He conocido a tantas personas que me dicen esto. Es triste pero es la realidad de muchos/as personas y familias GLBT.

El otro día fui a un albergue en Cambridge y

conocí a José (un pseudónimo dado para respetar confidencialidad), un joven de 24 años de edad. El salió del closet cuando tenía 18 años. Su familia, originalmente de Puerto Rico, le negó regresar a su casa y desde entonces no se comunican con él. Al pasarle esto buscó ayuda en sus amistades. Uno de ellos le ofreció albergue pero al pasar el tiempo también le abrió las "puertas" al mundo de las drogas.

El no sólo comenzó a trabajar en una tienda de ropa pero también a traficar drogas para su amigo; a la misma vez comenzó a usar drogas. El me mencionó que su adicción comenzó en unas pocas semanas y envés de gastar el dinero que tenía para alquilar un apartamento lo usó para comprar más y más drogas. Siguió viviendo con él por casi dos años cuando conoció a su primer "amor". Se mudó con su "amor", un señor mucho mayor que le compraba todo incluyendo las drogas necesarias en intercambio de la compañía. A los casi seis meses de estar en esta relación el señor lo comenzó abusar económica, verbal y físicamente. Unos meses después escapó y comenzó a quedarse en diferentes albergues de la ciudad. A los días de estar en la calle comenzó a prostituirse con hombres y mujeres. Una noche todo cambió, uno de estos encuentros envés de llevárselo para su casa lo lleva a sala de emergencia y rindió ayuda. Él no se recuerda quien fue pero lo menciona como su ángel guardián.

José estuvo recluido y participó de casi dos meses de tratamiento. Primero entró a un lugar de desintoxicación para su consumo de drogas, luego a otro especializado en tratamiento para

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