

The Rainbow Times

Your LGBTQ News in MA, RI, North Central CT & Southern VT

Toni Braxton's strong *Pulse* p10



PHOTO: BILL BERGGREN

NOHO PRIDE SUCCESS! Photos And Story p20



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IMPERIAL COURT OF RI Crowns New Monarchs p15



PHOTO: PURE MUSIC PRODUCTIONS

DJ PAULO Brings The Bang To Epic Saturdays At HOB Boston pB14



United in Pride: A collaborative community effort

From the Publisher

By: Grisel M. Ocasio/TRT Publisher

Pride is a time to share the company of our community. This community comes in many flavors, colors, and with much diversity. But, Pride is not the only time when we should cherish the company of our other members of our community and allies. That should happen each and every day. By taking time to talk to someone you do not know, or inquiring about other people's lives, we show that we care, that we are not ignorant, and that we are willing to be open to the things that we are not that familiar with. All communities deal with differences, and we are not any different. We are only different to those who refuse to educate themselves about humanity and how diverse of a term that is. Understanding ourselves, who we are, and others shows our Pride. Like someone who wrote an article for a while back said in her closing review of a trans film: "Nature prides itself in diversity, why can't we?"

At Pride, we can proudly celebrate that we live in Massachusetts and that we have the rights and freedom to marry, a commodity that the majority of gay people around the country do not have. We can

celebrate that we continue to work towards the rights of other members of the LGBT community. I am proud of last week's Anti-Bullying Bill that was sent to Governor Patrick's office (and hopefully he has signed by now), which the House passed by a vote of 159-0 and the Senate by a vote of 38-0. I am grateful that I no longer live in the south, where same-sex adoption is still illegal in many states and where gay marriage and equality are denied.

I want to thank everyone who supported the events that took place this past weekend (NoHo Pride, the Dyke March, and the many dances and after parties), which showed a united community that continues to strive for a sense of belonging and union. We loved Pride and we hope that you enjoy this issue with our Pride coverage and photos on page 20. Let's get together for the rest of the Pride Marches in Connecticut, Boston, Worcester, Vermont and Rhode Island.

Happy Pride Season!

Grisel M. Ocasio

Publisher

**Grisel M. Ocasio is the co-founder, co-owner and Publisher of The Rainbow Times. She is a graduate of Temple University and has been in the journalism and publishing field for almost 20 years. You can reach her at: publisher@therainbowtimesnews.com.*

Rampant homophobia and transphobia: Queer immigrants beware profiling law!

By: Jason Lydon/TRT Opinion Writer

On Friday, April 28 the Governor of Arizona signed into law one of the most racist pieces of legislation to be passed in decades. This law makes racial profiling legal and mandated. If someone is even suspected of being an undocumented immigrant the police are allowed to demand copies of their papers validating their right to be in the state. Outrage and organizing are the only appropriate response to the passage of this law.

Why should queers care about this legislation? Firstly, there are queer immigrants. This law will hurt our community because we are immigrants and immigrants are us. We also know that queer and transgender individuals who are targeted by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, are regularly sexually assaulted and violated while in ICE detention. There are

those queer and transgender immigrants who come to the United States thinking they can find a safer environment that will not criminalize their identity. But, laws like the one in Arizona and the rampant homophobia and transphobia of our culture creates violent experiences for many of those seeking sanctuary in the United States.

Secondly, as the signs at many immigrant rallies express clearly, "We didn't cross the border, the border crossed us!" Just as queer people are regularly left out of history and our struggles go without understanding, the same is true for



Jason Lydon

See Profiling on page 3

C'mon Out – Just Ask! Advice Column

By: Tety Gorfine*/TRT Columnist

Hello Tety:
I am very confused about Transgendered people. I am trying to keep an open mind and understand this experience. I thought the point of being transgendered is that a person does not feel right in their biological body and therefore desires to change their sex to the opposite one. Recently at a party I met someone who I thought was transitioning from female to male. She, or should I say he, looks like a man but uses a female name and her friends use female pronouns. I am so confused. I want to give transgendered people respect but it seems that some of them don't really know who they are. Do you know anything about this and if so, can you shed some light.
—Confused, BCT

Hello BCT:

Yes, I can shed some light on this. I am really happy people are asking these kinds of questions. They are important and don't leave the full responsibility for the answers on trans people. You are far from the only person confused and it is great that readers can be educated in this kind of forum. As I write, people within the trans communities are exploring and figuring out gender. We are at a time in history where this movement is unfolding. Your question is on the cutting edge.



Tety Gorfine

See C'mon Out on page 14

The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something!

By: Suzan Ambrose*/TRT Columnist

Can you imagine a test that defined how gay you were? Or how butch?



Like a scale from one to ten, with the different shades of gay, like hues in a Benjamin Moore paint store. "Oh, just a bit more pink in it, then you'll be just the right tint of gay, darlin'!"

Imagine, a (Very Tepid) gay #1 could be, say, "Only had thoughts of experimenting in high school," while an (Extraordinary) gay #10 might be "300+ notches over the bedpost" or "Chainsaws and Toro snow blowers in the shed." (No stereotyping here ... really.)

Congratulations! You're a real gay now!

As ironic as it may seem, it may shock you to hear that three softball players have a lawsuit against the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) after they were deemed "not gay enough" during the Gay Softball World Series, after which their league disbanded. The plaintiffs claim NAGAAA (now that's a mouthful) violated Washington state law during the 2008 Gay World Series Softball in Seattle by enforcing their own rule that each team in the tournament must have no more than two heterosexual players on the roster.

Ok, let me just process this out loud: *not gay enough*? Yes, that's right. The three men, who consider themselves bisexual, were called on the carpet about their sexuality and interrogated. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*,

they were asked "very intrusive, sexual questions," including what their sexual interests and preferences were. Exactly what were they asked? "Do you listen to Judy

Garland when stringing the Christmas tree lights? Do you only do it doggie style? Have you watched *La Cage aux Folles* more than 5 times?" I mean, what would be the best way to prove you're gay? OK, I know the answer to that. But was *that* the defining criteria, one may ask? We're not talking a Hollywood couch here.

It's an unfortunate truth that bisexuals are discriminated against in our community, but to actually do a litmus test for a softball league? "Sorry, you're not pink enough. NEXT!"

What's worse is that I listened to a Boston radio talk-show host snickering about this story on the air last week. And, although his comments were petty and yucky about gay men, I couldn't help but think someone gave him plenty of ammunition to rant about.

His biggest question was: Why is there a gay (specific) men's softball league? How could you tell, he wanted know. It wasn't as if hetero teams asked their teammates if they were all straight, he said. What was gay softball exactly, a different kind of game? He asked these with grotesque innuendo to "pitching" and "catching." Of course, he was looking to provoke listeners to call in, but his questioning kept shoving

See Test on page 8

Letters to the Editor

Dear Rainbow Times,

I was excited to see your publication at the Worcester Public Library and even more excited to bring it home to read. I really enjoyed reading a recent copy of The Rainbow Times—it's well written, informative, and entertaining. Congratulations on a successful publication!

I'm happy that The Rainbow Times has found its way to Worcester—Worcester needs a publication such as The Rainbow Times. Keep up the great work. I commend you on your efforts.

Sincerely,

—G. Rich, Worcester, MA

Dear Editor,

What a great feature on you and the publisher in the Northampton Pride Guide. The writer did a wonderful job at capturing your personalities and the article answered many of the questions I myself have wondered about, and the picture was great too. It was nice to be able to put faces to the names. Thank you for your words.

—K. Simpson, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

I recently picked up the last edition of the Rainbow Times and was pleased to see that the Northampton Pride guide was included in it. I'm writing to you because I read that you produced and designed the guide. Although I have advertised religiously in the guide in years past, this is the first year that I have not, regrettably so. The guide contained such fresh and valuable information—not to mention that it looked aesthetically appealing as well. Although I did not advertise this year, I will the next.

Thank you,

—P. Tynan, Northampton, MA

See Letters to the Editor on page 4

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Project 10 East dedicated to ending homophobia

Boston News

By: Elizabeth Gormley/TRT Reporter

"Coming out of the closet" presents challenges at any age, but it can be particularly difficult for GLBT youth. Teens in the community may face harassment and ridicule at an age when being "different" is tough. Project 10 East is a Boston-based grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to helping create safe environments for youth, working within schools to educate, promote, and sustain acceptance, growth and empowerment.

Project 10 East was founded in the late 1980s by Al Ferreira, a photography teacher at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, according to the organization's website. Ferreira was haunted by the 1987 suicide of a popular young man who had graduated that year, on his way to the college he had wanted to attend. But, this student's former girlfriend confided in Ferreira that the young man was coming to terms with the fact that he was gay, and felt his mother and peers would never accept him.

Ferreira, closeted at the school himself, decided after the boy's suicide that he would either come out or quit teaching. He attended a speech at Harvard given by Virginia Uribe. Uribe had founded Project 10 in 1984 at a high school in Los Angeles, CA. It was the nation's first school-based support program for gay and lesbian students. Ferreira was inspired and began working with area families, clergy, and fellow teachers to start the East Coast branch of Uribe's organization.

Today, Edward Byrne is Project 10 East's

Managing Director. The organization has burgeoned, sending volunteers to schools across the state to dozens of schools, setting up gay/straight alliances. In 2005, Project 10 East developed its own GSA curriculum with month by month activities and issues to discuss aimed at helping empower GLBT youth, and ending harassment.

"We coach faculty and administrators on how to make the school a safer, more welcoming environment for GLBT students and families," Byrne said. "We often collaborate with area organizations. We work closely with other GLBT-serving organizations in Massachusetts."

Byrne started working with Project 10 East as a part-time program director in 2005 and participated in an educational role.

"I [went] into the school, usually on a weekly basis, after getting a call from a teacher, student or administrator," he said. "I worked with the students on starting the after-school club, the alliance, coached them through leadership development, got their name out there, and planned assemblies to raise awareness about challenges that are faced by GLBT members in the school. I attended [meetings] weekly and facilitated them. As it got up and running on its own, I slowly took a step back and let them fly on their own. Then, I took a greater step back, and usually maintained a relationship with the school ... sometimes they would need extra help."

To create a more diversified GSA is a goal for Project 10's gay/straight alliances.

"A school might have a really popular GSA, but maybe everyone in the GSA is white, and that isn't representative of the racial diversity in the school," Byrne said. "We might ask, 'How do we diversify our group so that it's welcom-

ing to everyone?'"

The Project 10 East model created by Ferreira in the 1980s still exists today. The volunteers sent to educate at schools maintain the same three goals, which are to provide a safe space free of harassment and fear, provide an opportunity for GLBT youth to socialize and form a community, and prepare students to advocate for themselves and their community in an effort to rail against homophobia inside and outside of school.

Byrne has seen progress in his five-year ten-

ure with the Project.

"I've probably worked in fifty schools in Massachusetts, and that's just me personally," he said. "The success for Project 10, and for me professionally, is seeing the students be able to carry on the work, year after year. Once they've had the training and development work we do with them, it's really a student-led initiative."

To find out more about Project 10 East, or for information on starting a gay/straight alliance, visit www.project10east.org.

Profiling from page 2

Mexicans and other peoples of Latin America. The role of the Mexican/American War is regularly forgotten when the discussion of immigration comes up. The violence of NAFTA, CAFTA, and other transnational trade agreements hardly ever make it on the list of reasons why people immigrate to the United States. History and complex understandings of government power are vital pieces of the conversation about marginalized communities. We know the importance of this as queer and transgender people; let us allow that knowledge to inform our acts of solidarity and public witness.

Lastly (for now), immigrants are being used as scapegoats by politicians and others as the reason for high unemployment, expensive healthcare costs, violence in communities, and the rise in taxes. Not only is this scapegoating hurtful, it is completely untrue, based in lies, and created for racist fear mongering. We absolutely know what this is like. I remember being blamed by Pat Robertson and Jerry Fal-

well for the attacks on the World Trade Center towers in New York. I have heard Catholic Church leaders blame us for sexual abuse of children. We know what it feels like to be scapegoats and we must not take part in the scapegoating of others.

So then, what can we do? As people in New England we can keep pressure on our own political leaders to prevent bills such as that to be passed here. We can join farm workers and others in writing to Michelle Obama Mother's Day messages about the importance of celebrating all mothers and protecting all mothers from police violence. We can write to our friends in Phoenix who are organizing the Pride Gala on June 20th and ask them to make immigrant solidarity a central focus of their pride celebration. We can contact the governor of Arizona and inform her of our sadness and anger. Whatever we do we must do so now and with the strength of our community. It is our responsibility to use our voices, our feet, our pens, our fists, and all of our resources to protect one another!

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Faith, Family, and God – The Trinity: Different manifestations of the same God

In the Name of God

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist

Faith, Culture, and Science are a holy trinity. If you're spiritual, but dislike organized religion this concept may enhance your journey. If you have long ignored the question of a higher good because of religious hypocrisy you too may want to explore this approach. And, for those who embrace one of the different manifestations of the same God then please read on.

This trinity is represented by three red dots arranged like a pyramid. It is based on an ancient design that artist, mystic, and philosopher Nicholas Roerich (1874-1947) saw in the Himalayas. He was a prolific painter with museums throughout the world now exhibiting his work. Some of his depictions of eastern religions and natural landscapes can be seen at the Roerich Museum in New York City (Roerich.org).

He believed all faiths had truths. Jesus spoke of unconditional love, the Buddha taught of transcendence from human suffering, etc. Incidentally, Roerich unintentionally interchanged faith with religion, though there is a distinction. Any time that faith or religion wanders into the extreme it is kept in check by science – logic, reason, and common sense. Faith keeps sci-

ence from sliding into a god-like arrogance.

In art Roerich showed the oneness of humanity with itself, nature, and the Creator. Here faith and science exists in harmony. His art shows a type of symbiotic relationship with natural beauty – distinct yet part of it, like a marriage of the heart between two souls. He portrayed wholeness – a transcendental union – of faith and science through art.

Culture, often manifested in art, is "the heart," "reverence of Light," "love of humanity," "unity of life and beauty," "the synthesis of uplifting and sensitive attainments," observed Roerich. If all the definitions of Culture are gathered and synthesized, it is idealistically "the altar of enlightenment and constructive beauty."

Roerich would have rejoiced had he witnessed Leonard Bernstein conduct Beethoven's 9th to celebrate the Berlin Wall's demise on Christmas Day 1989. He may have been tearful, as were the musicians and concert goers, had he witnessed the performance in Communist North Korea of the New York Philharmonic not long ago.

Think about foreign films, great literature like Shakespeare, or music from other countries whether rock or classical. There is no litmus test to enjoy them. Sitting in a theater watching a film or Elton John's Lion King you may see a commonality that brings people together no matter their race, gender, politics, religion, or sexual identity.

In referring to the Tibetan mountains Roerich said "one feels the power of creative thought." Roerich did not limit the definition of creative. Each person is a Creation of the Creator. Therefore, everyone is empowered to create beauty and to be part of it. The ocean, mountains, the majestic maple tree are Created by the same Creator and with it humankind should find oneness with itself and the universal order.

Roerich wrote that when "you have the essential and vital combination of religion and beauty [then] you see that the highest symbol of religion [or faith] becomes the highest guardian of beauty."

He said that "international ties of friendship" "through creativeness" leads to a "path [where] mutual understanding and friendship remain steadfast." It is why art is "sanctified." It is, however, not just about "international ties," but also relationships formed in cities, towns, neighborhoods, and throughout America, especially with those who are intimidated or frightened that their way of life is at risk. Faith, Culture, and Science when joined are an extraordinarily powerful tool to combat hate, bigotry, ignorance, and to better unite all of us. This honors God.

**Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He may be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.*

Walk for life in AIDS Project of Southern VT

The Walk for Life, held on May 22, is a major fundraising event for the AIDS Project of Southern VT, the parent organization of your Men's Program. The economic crisis has been challenging for the organization and events like this are an important source of community support.

Their annual Walk for Life is also a community commemoration – of those we have lost and those who are still with us. Music, food, and remembrance are all part of this special day. Each year, we hope to see more of the men's community participate in the Walk. We hope to see you this year!

For more information, please contact Alex at 802-254-4444 or email men@sover.net.

Letters to the Editor from page 2

Dear Editor,

I am an avid reader but why do you have to publish so much about marriage equality? There are so many other issues to be focusing our energies on that are pertinent to our community too. I don't even believe in marriage. I think it is selling out to the mainstream. I believe in being monogamous, but not married. Isn't it all about religion anyway?

Annoyed with marriage,

—A. Backus, Providence, RIForestrum

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Why the no-child-left-behind law – *doesn't* apply to transgender children

Parenting News

By: Half-Lady Lisa*/TRT Special

In July 2008, I received a phone call from a transgender escort, (whom I didn't know), a few days after an article 'Cops Take Aim at Brighton Brothels: seek to shut down online sex rings' by Jessica Van Sack, appeared in the *Boston Herald*. The article, a page-and-a-half long, focused, (unfairly), only on transgender prostitutes; including revealing some of the names of the transgender escorts who were arrested and my caller was one of them. Irritated, she grumbled to me—"there are nearly a thousand female escort ads posted each day on the *Craigslist's Boston Erotic* section which never seems to reduce, but only 10-15 transgender ads are watched closely by the police." Further, the article quoted police: 'the trend in transsexual prostitution is an emerging phenomenon.' With sympathy, I inquired of my caller as to where she was going to live—all apartment leases require a background check; also she had no job history to provide; to fill out a lease application was a common problem for escorts; worse still, she had a criminal record. Isn't it ironic—the transgender minority had just caused a major public problem? It is very difficult for non-trans-gendered people to understand the host of problems transgender individuals face everyday in today's society.

While living in Thailand during my high school years, a teenage friend of mine was caught possessing women's makeup by her parents: they found a woman's powder compact hidden in her school bag. Her parents had suspected that she was attempting to live as a transgender. Her

mother pulled her into the bathroom, and locked the door. With anger, she used a toilet brush to slap her face with, until she was bleeding from her nose; then used a small scissors to cut off her long, curved eyelashes. My friend told me that, even today, psychologically some nights she still has nightmares that her mother tried to kill her. Another friend said—she hadn't spoken to her father for over ten years; after she revealed her transgender lifestyle, even though they were living in the same house. When my friend really needed to speak to her father, they spoke through

she expected to. "My classmates often laughed and teased me; they liked to pull my hair every day, I didn't enjoy going to school," she said.

In the case of trans-genders teens, the no-child-left-behind law doesn't apply. Parents ignore their children's problems—they believe that their child's transgender lifestyle itself causes all the problems; so the way to solve the problems is to simply keep their secret life as a trans-gender in the closet. Moreover, if some problems happen in public places such as in school, concerned over their child's gender issues, parents are embar-

assed I was a transgender who had lived in the neighborhood for a long time)—'are gay people welcome in this area?' These divisions in our society maintain each gender apart; resulting in very few straight people who are familiar with or work together with other genders. Gay men have no problem hiding their gay gender when necessary, but trans-genders face the greatest problems when their lifestyle activities, (cross-dressing), obviously reveals their true gender through their appearances. Many employers skirt gender discrimination laws, refusing to hire trans-genders, especially for management positions, by making false claims as to why the trans-gender is not hired. Today, gender discrimination in employment is common; it is practiced everyday in our society.

Gender transformation is expensive. Most people believe that when a teenage girl asks her parents for breast implants after high school graduation that it is luxurious spending and completely unnecessary. However, for trans-gender women, plastic surgery is a necessary part of their transformation. Imagine—a person whose appearance is half man/half woman, walking down the street; s/he would attract public attention in a way that would cause great embarrassment to her. Moreover, when using public restrooms, surely s/he can't just walk into a men's restroom but is she passable enough to simply walk into a women's restroom? That is what she is thinking while deciding where to pee. Plastic surgery is *not* an extravagance for those deciding to live as a transgender; but rather, a necessity to help them ease their way into society. So, investing \$8,000 for breast implants, \$200/week for female hormones, and even more for hair products, makeup, and women's clothing greatly

See Transgender Children on page 18

Parents ignore their children's problems — they believe that their child's transgender lifestyle itself causes all the problems; so the way to solve the problems is to simply keep their secret life as a trans-gender in the closet.

her mother.

In America, abandoning a child is illegal. However, in cases concerning transgender children, it is opposite. The family conflicts brought on by the transgender lifestyle of the child, and the sarcastic comments uttered everyday by their parents, has lead many teenage transgenders to run-away from home and live alone—so the parents of transgender teens avoid legal abandonment problems. Few, if any, parents report their transgender child as missing. Most disown any child who lives as a transgender.

A friend of mine, from Laos, came to America during the Vietnam War era, when she was very young. She never graduated from high school as

rassed to come forward and fight on behalf of their children.

Leading a single life, alone at a young age, is very difficult; especially when trans-gender teens have received inadequate formal education. For most Americans, finding jobs during difficult economic times is hard; but for trans-genders, jobs are extremely hard to find, even when the economy is doing well. Moreover, in American society, sexual genders are strictly divided: nightclubs, movie theaters, place to hang out, and even many residential areas are divided into gay or heterosexual areas. Once two gay men who were moving from Connecticut into a new apartment in Brighton, MA asked me, (when they re-



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Let us work together for the good of all

Trans Opinions & More

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw/ TRT Columnist

In the past week I have received messages from two people who appreciate my viewpoints. One was from a reader from Noho who wrote a *Letter to the Editor* in the last TRT issue and the other was from Willam Bella via a Facebook message. Willam is one of the actors who plays one of the leading roles in *Ticked Off Trannies with Knives* (TOTWK). I appreciated both gentlemen's supportive words and I'm glad that I can connect with others outside of the Trans community!

Sadly though, both messages made me think of the divisiveness and infighting that there is in our larger LGBT community. The "T" element sometimes seems to be the antagonist in the community. Don't get me wrong, being Tran is very difficult and we have many obstacles to overcome. I can see firsthand where the anger is present. Most of us Ts have been fighting our whole lives with who we are and who society wants us to be. We have to endure all of the same situations that everyone in the LGBT community has plus we actually change our physical genders and deal with our family, friends and coworkers about this change. This is a continually very difficult issue to deal with and believe me; it is not for the weak!

A few years ago, one of my electrologists (something that we Transwomen have to endure, painful and seemingly never ending hair removal) was talking to me as she was sticking her needle into my pores and shooting currents

of electricity into my face. I was complaining about a very vocal group of trans who wanted us to boycott one of the local LGBT bars. I remember saying to her, "Why are they always fighting? Why?" She said to me, "Deja, they have been fighting their whole lives living with being trans. Maybe they don't know how to stop fighting."

I thought about her comment for a while and it did make sense and rang true with a lot of the members of the T community. We are natural fighters. We are born with a gender mismatch and we fight it. We don't know what it is, it frightens us and we fight it. Then we realize that it is not going away and we fight it. We know from society that we are "supposed to be" one way, yet we feel the other way. So, we fight it. When we finally come to terms with it then we fight society into accepting us and respecting us. We expect society to acknowledge us as our true gender and the fighting spirit is always there. Many times people don't understand us, we confuse them or maybe they just plain forget how to address us and they may refer to us as our birth gender. That makes us upset. Let's face it, people make mistakes and use the wrong pronouns and "wham!" the fight in us surfaces! We must not lash out at our friends and allies. They will help us if we let them. If people make a mistake with pronouns we should politely and quietly tell them that we would appreciate it if they refer to us as our true gender.

I hate it when the Ts fight with the Ls and the Gs—whether it's boycotting an LGBT bar, protesting about TOTWK, being surly with local Ls and Gs about the Employment Non Discrimination Act, ENDA, or just from them simply from using the wrong pronouns with us. Yes, we can have issues and disagreements



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

about these things but I think we need to be more civil in dealing with these matters. After all, this is a much larger community, the LGBT community, and we are all members of it. We really should be working together to go after our real foes who try to deny us our rights.

That's where anger and our fighting should go! We shouldn't be infighting and trying to be divisive within our own community!

Like most Ts, we have many gay and lesbian friends. We support the gays and lesbians in their struggles and we expect them to support us in our struggles. This is what friends do. We should be helping each other, not fighting with each other. We should not direct our anger to those who have nothing to do with issues like the T being dropped from ENDA. We should direct it to the people who did that are in Washington, DC. The people from Northampton, Springfield, Boston or Hartford shouldn't be blamed! If you feel a need to address this issue then I suggest a civil protest much like the one I did, not once but twice, in 2004 when I civilly protested HRC (Human Rights Campaign) right outside of their home office in DuPont Circle in Washington, DC. We protested for Transgender inclusion in ENDA and the Hate Crimes bill both times. Yes, I am a TransActivist! But, I am also a realist. We must not overreact especially when it comes to airing differences within the greater LGBT community.

If we are offended by movies such as TOTWK please let's be civil with our disagreements. Please don't rant and rave as some Ts did on the internet. Please keep the disagreement on a civil level.

If we have an issue with an LGBT establishment, then approach the management of that establishment and ask for a meeting to talk about it, don't just boycott it without addressing the issues first.

If someone calls you "trannie," I personally don't mind it, but if you don't like it, please politely tell them that it makes you feel uncomfortable and then let it go.

We need to all work together as an LGBT family. When disagreements arise (and they will!) then we need to address these issues. We really are a team and we need to be together! There is still a lot of work for us to do and we need to be together to do it. I have heard on several occasions that some transpeople go as far as to say that we don't need the gays or the lesbians—that we can do it ourselves. I say that we do need the gays and the lesbians! These are our friends and allies and we need to work with them!

To the non-T members of our greater LGBT community, when we, as Ts, disagree with you please keep in mind the fighting spirit, which resides within us and has been there since birth. Sometimes it just comes out and we may overreact. We must get past that. We need to work together for the better for us all! I want all of us to move on and to fight for all of our rights together. I am hoping that our T community will tone down the way that we present our internal differences, work them out peacefully and work together for the good of all!

Ask a Transwoman: The reality of being trans, and how I killed Mac, part II

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist

Dear Lorelei,
(Continued from April 15th issue)
What is the best way for the friend of a transperson to express anger and resentment at a transperson for "killing" the person the transperson was before they started their transition?

—Nora C.

Wow. Taking a deep breath.

Welcome friends (and Nora) to Part 2 of "Live Nude Lorelei." This is the part frankly that I've been putting off, the part of this question that delves most deeply into who the heck I think I am. I honestly can't speak for all transpeople or all of the friends of transpeople on this one. But, I suspect based on my experience of the commonalities of human nature, that this is an issue that almost all of us have to deal with at some point, whether or not we have someone in our lives that can put it this clearly and succinctly.

Honestly, this question blew me away the

first time I read it. The idea of "killing" the person I was before I fully came into my own as "Lorelei" is especially distressing, but not entirely inaccurate. The person that I was in the world, while not an honest expression of who I really felt myself to be, was about as close as I could come to it. And, it was a fully fleshed-out person for what it was. What I was.

Here's some full-disclosure that you will almost never see from a transgender person. Information I might add that is NOT okay to ask unless it is offered. Before I was Lorelei, the fabulous entertainer/columnist/activist/pag-eant queen that you know today, I presented myself to the world as a boy named Mac. Reverend Mac, if I was feeling formal about it, and yes I am an ordained minister.

"Mac" was not my legal name mind you; it was a traditional Irish nickname that my parents gave me when I was born. You still don't get to know my soon-to-be-former legal name. I wasn't especially crazy about it even then and I'm looking to be rid of it now. That's a whole other column though.

The reason I've shared this with you is that "Mac" is the person that I killed. "Mac" is who I was and how I identified and as wonderful as he was, he is gone now. There is no Mac, only Zool. (For the pop-culture-impaired that was a "Ghostbusters" joke. —LE)

I was not happy being a man, but I figured if I was going to have to be one, I would be the best man I could be. It never came naturally, but I'm a good

study of character and an excellent actor. All told, I like to think I was a pretty good guy. I was well-dressed, polite, funny, intelligent, understanding and I always wore really fantastic shoes! Really, not so different from whom I am now. Except that it was a character. It was boy-drag.

I've always prized honesty and for the most part, I was very open and honest about whom I was and what I thought even as Mac. I was almost compulsively honest in fact. It got me into a lot of trouble, especially in relationships.

"Do you think I look fat in this?"

"Yep."

"Are you attracted to other women?"

"Sometimes."

"Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party???"

"Well, not actually a dues paying member, but ..."

You can see how this may have played out. Still, I was as honest as I could be. I think it's important. But I was lying to everyone about the single most basic fact of my existence.

That I was a woman.

I've come to think that my "honesty" came in large part as a way of distracting people from asking the one question I prayed they would not. If I was so notoriously and publicly honest, why would anyone think that I was hiding



Lorelei Erisis

something?

And here is where I come back to the original question.

How can I possibly expect you, Nora, to not be angry at me? To not be harboring all kinds of resentment towards me, when I have been lying to you and everyone else for all these years?

When we shared such intimate moments and closely held secrets with each other in the understanding that we were both being as honest and as open as was possible for two people to be—and here I am saying that the person you knew, that you shared so much with was at the heart of it a lie.

I fear sometimes that I did too good a job of being the best man I could be. The most common objection from my female friends when I announced my transition was that I was the one of the best men they knew and they needed me around to be an example for their boyfriends/husbands/brothers.

But, I went through with it anyway. I killed Mac. And the only thing I can do is apologize. I'm sorry. I truly am. You have every right to be angry and resentful. It is a perfectly natural reaction.

And so, on that dramatic note, I leave you 'til next time dear readers, when I will return with the third and final part of my answer to my long-time friend Nora.

R.I.P. Reverend Mac
Slainte!

*Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009 and she can be contacted at: loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.



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A Lesbian Paradise

Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival celebrates 23 years of Independent film

HARTFORD, CT—Out Film CT is pleased to announce that the Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival is celebrating its 23rd year this May, bringing to the region a wide range of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) documentaries, shorts, and full-length feature films. The festival runs from Thursday, May 27th through Saturday, June 5th, 2010.

"The screening committee has been working diligently since August to pull together a great line-up of films for this year's festival. And, as always, we expect to bring several directors, actors and special guests to make the festival a unique cultural event for the state," said festival director Shane Engstrom. Last year, festival attendees were treated to live question and answer sessions with filmmakers and actors from as far away as San Francisco and Newfoundland.

Here are a few of the films expected to screen (subject to availability):

• **Violet Tendencies** – In this romantic comedy, Mindy Cohn of 'The Facts of Life' fame plays a woman who, feeling her biological clock ticking, tries to distance herself from her gay friends in an effort to land a straight boyfriend.

• **La Mission** – Peter Bratt's moving film about the powerful ties of family and community is a love letter to the vibrancy and daily struggles of San Francisco's Mission District. Benjamin Bratt plays Che, a reformed and respected ex-con and alcoholic, who must struggle to unlearn a lifetime of destructive habits when he discovers that his beloved son is gay.

• **Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement** – Connecticut native Susan Muska and Greta Olafsdottir tell the love story of two remarkable women whose commitment to each other

is an inspiration to us all. After 42 years, feisty and delightful lesbian couple Edie and Thea are finally getting married.

• **Prodigal Sons** – Filmmaker Kimberly Reed returns home for her high school reunion, ready to reintroduce herself to the small town as a transgender woman and hoping for reconciliation with her long estranged adopted brother Marc.

• **Baby Love** – Manu, a gay pediatrician in his forties, has the perfect relationship with his partner Philippe, a successful lawyer. But things become very complicated when Manu insists on pursuing his life-long dream of adopting and raising a child.

• **Undertow** – An unusual ghost story set on the Peruvian seaside; a married fisherman struggles to reconcile his devotion to his male lover within his town's rigid traditions.

• **The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls** – Fun, disarming and musically provocative, the Topp Twins are New Zealand's finest lesbian musical comedy duo and the country's greatest export since rack of lamb and the Lord of the Rings movie trilogy.

Presented by Out Film CT, the festival takes place at Cinestudio on the campus of Trinity College, 300 Summit Street, in Hartford, CT. Films are shown nightly at 7:30 p.m., with matinees on May 27th and May 28th at 3:00 p.m. Admission prices are \$9 for general admission and \$7 for students and seniors, except \$15 and \$12 for Opening/Closing gala screenings (Friday, 5/28 & Saturday, 6/5) which includes the films, food, beverages and musical entertainment. Tickets will be available online two weeks prior to the festival or at the door.

A Cinema Café is offered on Friday and Saturday evenings starting at 6:30 p.m., featuring

Out Film CT

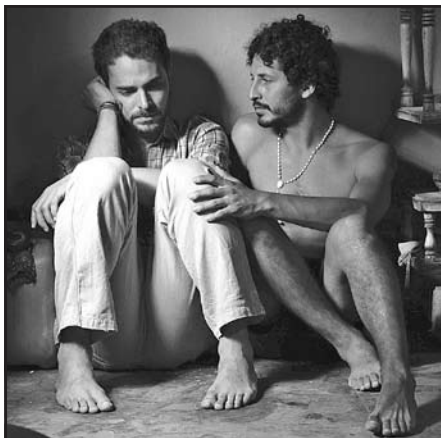


PHOTO: ANTHONY BENNOCH

Christian Mercado and Manolo Cardona in the unusual and haunting *Undertow*

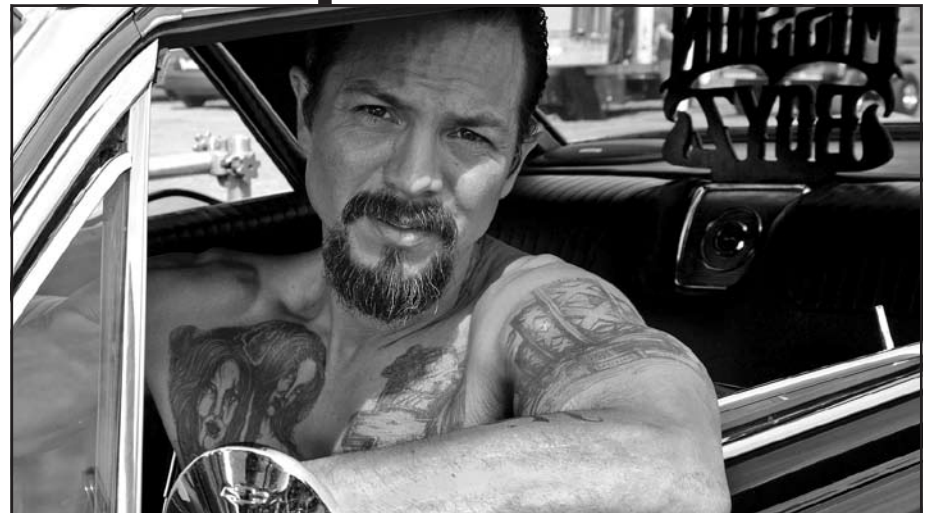


PHOTO: ANTHONY BENNOCH

Benjamin Bratt stars in *La Mission*, a love letter to San Francisco's Mission District

light meals and beverages from The Spot Eatery. Adding to the festivities, a silent auction is offered throughout the duration of the film festival. Movie buffs can bid on a wide range of items that include exotic travel, fine dining, artwork, spa packages, and fine wines.

Out Film CT is a nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to presenting outstanding LGBT cinema and other theatrical events

throughout the year, culminating in the 10-day Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. As Connecticut's longest-running film festival, it has become a distinctive fixture in our state's cultural landscape, bringing the community together to introduce, celebrate and rediscover the ideas and values that make the LGBT community unique.

For more information, call 860-586-1136, or visit www.OutFilmCT.org.



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Interim Rape Crisis Training & Counseling Specialist Everywoman's Center

The Everywoman's Center is seeking an Interim Rape Crisis Training and Counseling Specialist. The individual in this position will, under the general supervision of the Associate Director for Rape Crisis and Violence Prevention Services, manage the daily operations of 24 hour comprehensive services for victims/survivors of rape, battering and sexual assault in the University and Hampshire County area. Primary services include: 24 hour rape crisis hotline, advocacy, support groups, and counseling.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in related field such as counseling, public health, etc. and three to five years related experience, to include counseling. State certification as a rape crisis counselor will be required. Experience working in the field of sexual and domestic violence against women and a demonstrated understanding of issues of sexual and domestic violence including empowerment models and access to services issues for underserved populations; experience developing culturally competent programs and services for diverse cultural and linguistic populations. A driver's license and access to car required. This position requires regular evening and some weekend hours. Bilingual (Spanish, Chinese, Khmer/English, Russian) highly desirable.

Salary Range: \$36,265 - \$45,140

Normal starting salary: \$36,265 - \$40,617 (85%). This is a part-time (32 hrs/week) position.

This is a grant funded position with renewal beyond 6/30/11 contingent upon funding.

Send cover letter, resume and 3 letters of recommendation to Search #R38199 University of Massachusetts, 181 Presidents Drive, Employment Office, 167 Whitmore Administration Building, Amherst, MA 01003. Review of resumes will begin on May 17, 2010, and will continue until the position is filled.

The University of Massachusetts is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and members of minority groups are encouraged to apply.



e-mail: EditorialCartoon@QSyndicate.com

Planned Parenthood launches local "Get Yourself Tested NOW" campaign Men encouraged to get tested today

BOSTON—Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts (PPLM) is kicking-off a local campaign for the month of May to raise awareness among young adults, in particular men, about the importance of getting tested for

"People often think that only women use Planned Parenthood services, ..."

sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). PPLM is building on the success of "Get Yourself Tested NOW", a national campaign for STD Awareness Month in April spearheaded by Planned Parenthood Federation of America, MTV, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In Massachusetts, young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four contract

STDs at a disproportionately higher rate than any other age group. Nationally, one in two sexually active people will contract an STD before they reach their twenty-fifth birthday. Despite these alarming statistics, a new study in The Journal of Adolescent Health reveals that young men aren't getting the appropriate sexual health counseling they need. In addition, the Office of Health and Human Services reports that historically, men of all ages are far less likely than women to access important preventive healthcare services.

"People often think that only women use Planned Parenthood services," explained PPLM President/CEO Dianne Luby. "As a direct service provider we see first hand how limitations to access and information can negatively

ly affect the sexual health of both men and women. It's important for all of our patients to understand that it's easy to keep themselves safe and healthy. This campaign is an opportunity to start the conversation about sexual health and prevention as a public health priority."

Sexual Health Matters
Planned Parenthood
League of Massachusetts

PPLM offers "clothes-on" visits for a variety of STD testing options. Appointments are quick, convenient, and in many cases can be made the same day. Flexible payment options are available to meet the needs of individual patients.

Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts is the largest freestanding reproductive health care provider in the state. For over 80 years PPLM has protected and promoted sexual and reproductive health and freedom of choice through clinical services, education and advocacy. For more information, visit www.pplm.org.



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2010 Pride Marches & Rallies in our local Gayborhoods & beyond

The change of seasons welcomes in many Pride Marches, Rally's and Celebrations to the immediate region and beyond. Some of the closest to our gayborhoods are:

CT Pride 2010 takes place on June 5, 2010 at Bushnell Park. TRT will, once again, design the CT Pride Guide this year and will the next too. To learn more about entertainers and CT Pride, please visit www.connecticutpride.org.

Boston Pride 2010 celebrates its 40th Anniversary, will also be one of the biggest celebrations in the commonwealth. TRT will be a media sponsor and will be at Boston Pride this year too. Boston Pride will happen from June 4-13th, 2010 this year. For more information, and to see what will happen throughout the week please visit www.bostonpride.org/multicalendar.php

Worcester Pride 2010 will take place on Sept 11th this year. For more information about this great Pride, visit www.worcesterpride.com.

Rhode Island Pride, or Pride Fest 2010, will tentatively take place on June 19th. PrideFest and the Night Gay Pride Parade through Providence basically functions as Providence Gay Pride and Newport Gay Pride all rolled into one statewide celebration. For more information, visit www.prideri.com.

24th Annual Southern Maine Pride Parade & Festival will take place on June 19th. The Parade will start at Monument Square in Downtown Portland, ME. For more information, please visit: <http://www.southernmainepride.org>.

Pride Vermont 2010 will be celebrated on July 24th, 2010. TRT will be at the celebration. To know more about VT's celebration, check out their website: www.pridevt.com/

New York City Pride 2010 celebrates Gay Pride for a full week: June 19 to June 27, 2010. As with previous years, this 2010 Pride honors what many consider to be one of the foremost events in the history of lesbian and gay rights, the Stonewall Riots. For more information visit: www.nycpride.org.

Pride Toronto 2010 celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The week long celebration starts on June 25 and ends on July 4. Pride Week features 10 days of world class arts and cultural programming, community activities, one of the world's largest street festivals, Pride Parade, Dyke March, Family programming, Blackness Yes and Youth and much more. To learn more about Pride Toronto visit: www.pridetoronto.com.

For a more comprehensive list of all of the Pride Events in the U.S. and abroad, visit Interpride at: <http://www.interpride.org>

Test from page 2

itself into my consciousness. Why had this issue gotten as full blown as it did?

And, to top it all off, the NAGAAA doesn't have any specific guidelines on bisexual or transgendered people, so it seems nuts that they actually invalidated their championship place finish based on their Crusades-like decision concerning the three men's orientation. It's no wonder they are being sued.

We need to accept the fact that not everyone experiences their sexual orientation the way we do, and guess what? These "others" are still part of our community; what makes it so strong, diverse and embracing. Unless we're all just full of crap about that.

Recently, personal trainer Jillian Michaels of the television show "The Biggest Loser" came out as bisexual. "I've been in love with both" she said. Is there a place for people like her in "our world?" Are we prepared to tell so many members of our own community that they don't belong because they may have had heterosexual relationships along the way?

Maybe in the beginning or the middle of their life. Maybe even to spend the end of their days with. It's not for us to judge how people find love or who they find it with. And, we are often the first to loath folks that tell us who we should or shouldn't love; we don't accept their version of what's normal, immoral or just plain sick.

I believe the LGBT community has come to a divide in the road.

If it is wrong to bar an individual because he/she is gay, then it is just as wrong to bar an individual because they are bi or straight. Human rights are human rights and if we want our rights respected, we must respect the rights and equality of others.

One can't have it both ways. Or is that too bi to say?

** Suzan Ambrose is often seen rollerblading near ball fields while softball season is underway and watching Jillian Michaels on Tuesday evenings when she's not writing diligently for The Rainbow Times.*

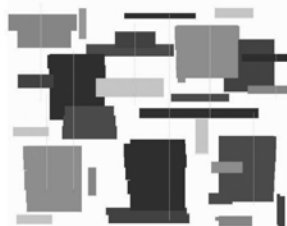
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THE TOPP TWINS Are Coming! Performing Live In Concert in Northampton

The latest LGBT buzz around New England is about The Topp Twins performing live in concert in Northampton on Saturday, June 12, 8 p.m., at the Academy of Music Theatre. Presented by Out! For Reel, this concert will be The Topp Twins' first in the U.S. as they tour around the country promoting their award-winning documentary at major film festivals. On Friday, May 21, their film, "The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls", will be screened by Out! For Reel at 8:15 p.m., at the Academy of Music Theatre, Northampton, Mass. "The Topp Twins are truly amazing. People absolutely loved this film when we premiered it in February. We want to give folks one more chance to see it before The Topp Twins come in June," states Jaime Michaels, executive producer of Out! For Reel. "When you see the film, you instantly want to see them perform in person."

The Topp Twins are lesbian twin sisters whose popularity in their native New Zealand has won them the best Country Western Music Album award, their own television variety show, and inducted into NZ's Music Hall of Fame.

Famous for their laugh out loud character sketches, beautiful harmonies, and amazing yodeling, The Topp Twins' distinctive brand of entertainment includes interactive comedy theatre and a wide range of musical styles throughout their show.

"We're not comedians," Lynda Topp says. "We're singers who are funny." But their comedy sketches, filled with a cast of lovable, quirky characters, have been making audiences from coal miners to anti-nuke activists double over with laughter for years.

The Topp Twins re-invent themselves on stage, changing character and gender with ease, and deliver visually funny humor often through song. Spontaneity is a vital ingredient of the Topp Twins magic on stage and audience participation a trademark. As the Topp Twins maxim is "we send up rather than put down", their "guests" always feel safe on stage while

unpredictable fun breaks loose.

"The Topp Twins are truly a phenomenon. They have an extraordinary effect on people, from all walks of life," states producer Arani Cuthbert.

The Topp Twins are loved by their entire nation both LGBT and straight, young and older. They have the uncanny ability to build bridges between the LGBT and straight communities through their music and humor.

Their documentary, The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls, takes audiences on a delightful journey of the twins' lives and highlights Lynda and Jools top-rated television show, their work on behalf of gay rights in New Zealand, Jool's triumph over cancer and the Topp

Twins induction into New Zealand's Music Hall of Fame. Variety magazine says that The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls is a film "has you falling in love with two of the crazier people you never met ... pure fun, very musical, and a can of mixed nuts. What we see are transformations worthy of world-class actresses."

"We are thrilled and honored that Out! For Reel will be the first to present The Topp Twins in the U.S. The Topp Twins are really excited to perform in Northampton. It's going to be a fantastic night," says Michaels.

Concert tickets for June 12 are \$25 Advance / \$30 Door. Film tickets for May 21 are \$8.50. Advance tickets can be purchased online at www.OutForReel.org or at the Academy of Music Box Office.

For more information, to watch the trailer, and to buy tickets, visit www.OutForReel.org.

Out! For Reel is the largest LGBT film series in the USA. Based in Northampton, Massachusetts, Out! For Reel screens the best in award-winning lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender films from around the world on a monthly basis during a ten month season, beginning each year in September. The dates for 2010-2011 Season Three can be found on the OFR website.



PHOTO: SALLY TAGG

Jools and Lynda Topp perform in *Camp Mother and Camp Leader*

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Toni Braxton finds her *Pulse*: Soulstress un-breaks hearts with first album in five years – and opens her own to gays

By: Chris Azzopardi

Toni Braxton's loving the ladies. Regardless of lesbian rumors that swirled around years ago, the R&B singer who rode a massive wave to superstardom with the ubiquitous mid-'90s ballad "Un-Break My Heart" isn't ashamed to mack on fly females. Or dish on her dramatic family, which we'll see more of during her upcoming *Bravo* reality show. Or tell you that her sultry voice – one of robust power that's nabbed her numerous Grammys – tinkers with Auto-Tune on her first album in five years, *Pulse*.

Whatever it is, Braxton's not one to hide it – and in our interview, the singer was very vocal about the gays making her a better woman, the fresh batch of female artists and Ellen DeGeneres being man enough for her.

Chris Azzopardi: Would you call this a comeback?

Toni Braxton: I'd call it anything you want to call it! I'm just really glad to be back at work again, because I didn't think I'd ever be. For me, it's a really great moment.

CA: Do you feel like you have to find your place again because of all the female artists dominating the charts in recent years, like Lady Gaga and Rihanna?

TB: No, I don't really feel that. Though, they're two of my favorite artists. Huge fan

of theirs. But my counterparts are people like Mariah and Mary J. Blige, and artists like that have kept it to where artists from the '90s can still maintain and be a part of the group as well. I'm very grateful for them for keeping it going for me.

CA: It was all about the voice in the '90s. Less so now, when everything is so digitally enhanced.

TB: I use a little bit of it. It has helped me here and there. Thank goodness for technology!

CA: How do you feel the female artist pool has changed since that decade?

TB: The industry's pretty much still the same. It's always about the bottom line, which is unfortunate and can sometimes take away from the creativity. What's great is the newer artists get to be a little bit more creative. Like Gaga, she doesn't care. She does what she wants and I love that, especially being a girl. A lot of times people want to put you in a box

if you're a girl, and she's like, "I'm a girl, but I can look sexy, I can wear what I want, I can think for myself. I don't need you to think for me." I love that about the newer artists.

CA: The video for the second single, "Make My Heart," is so gay. How conscious were you of your gay fans when you made *Pulse*?

TB: I love my boys because my boys help me be a better girl. My choreographer and my video director are gay, and they've been my best friends since I started in the industry. They tell me, "No, no, no, girl. You don't walk like that anymore. Girls walk like this." I'm like, "We do?! What else do we do?" They're my favorite part of the whole industry.

CA: When did you first know you had a gay following?

TB: "Un-Break My Heart." I guess that's when we recognized all the support. And it was really wonderful. So when we did "Make My Heart" we had

no idea that was the audience that was going to love it most.

CA: Have you seen drag queens do "Un-Break My Heart?"

TB: Oh yes! I definitely have (laughs). And "He Wasn't Man Enough," which is wonderful.

CA: What should drag queens keep in mind when they're doing "Un-Break My Heart?"

TB: Keep the hips really tight and to the side. Gyrate a little more. But I love the lip service that they give, so I have incorporated some of that in my live performances.

CA: You've been dealt some hardships recently with your heart condition, your son's autism and your separation late last year.

TB: Everything!

CA: Will that be reflected on *Pulse*?

TB: A little bit of my health with the song "Pulse." I made it, of course, about love. Sometimes you think love's dead and that one little heartbeat gives you that spark to go for it again. There's also a song called "Woman" where I'm talking to guys, telling them what women want, and that's personal with me going through a separation. There's "Why Won't You Love Me" and I think everyone knows the feeling of when they're in a relationship and you're the one who gives a little more than the other person: "Why won't you love? I make love to you, I cook for you, what else can I do to make you love me?" It's more of a purging moment.

CA: You grew up in a strict, religious household, where your father was a clergyman. How did that shape your feelings on gay people?

TB: Oh gosh, when I was younger everything was about the Bible. They believed that women shouldn't wear pants, so I never wore pants until I was 14. I didn't listen to secular music. It was very old school. But when I got older, I learned things for myself.

CA: How are you raising your kids then?

TB: There's one little kid in one of my son's classes and my son said, "Mommy, he acts like a girl. Will I act like a girl?" I'm like, "It's not that he acts like a girl; he acts like himself. It's not something you can become. You're born a way, and it's OK because people are born different ways."

I teach them that there's nothing wrong with that. Kids are different nowadays. They aren't close-minded like my parents' generation was or how I was initially taught to be.

CA: Will your *Bravo* reality show that's set to air in the fall be more *Being Bobby Brown* or Kathy Griffin's *My Life on the D-List*?

TB: I don't know. I've never done a show like this before. It's called *Braxton Family Values*, like *Addams Family Values*, and it's about myself and my entire family. It's so much drama because there are so many different opinions.



PHOTO: MARKUS KLINKO & INDRANI

Toni Braxton

I'm the person in my family who's most successful and I don't like to say head butting, but some of my sisters are like, "I wish I had that!" And some of my sisters are like, "I'm fine with my life being this way."

Everyone wants them to be Toni Braxton's sister, and when I'm hot, they're hot and when I'm not, they're not. It's about how I feel being an artist, being the most successful person in my family and how it affects the other family members. It's going to be a very animated show to say the least.

CA: Early in your career there were lesbian rumors that you denied. Remember that?

TB: I do remember that!

CA: Now that you've gone through a couple of men, have you changed your mind?

TB: (Laughs) I have a few girl crushes, like, "Mmm, she's kind of cute" or "Gosh, I love her body." I have a terrible crush on Ellen (DeGeneres) and everyone around me knows it. She makes me laugh, and she's girl enough and dude enough at the same time. And I love Salma Hayek.

CA: You're such a tease in the "Hands Tied" video. Are you one in real life?

TB: When I was younger I was probably a tease because sex before marriage was a bad thing. I had to let that go, too! (Laughs) Not as much being older, but I can be a tease when I need to be. But I haven't been practicing because I'm separated.

CA: Your Twitter page lists you as a cake-maker. Would you consider opening up a bakery?

TB: I love cooking and baking cakes, but oh god, *Ace of Cakes*? Not for me! I'm not *that* good. However, I do like to bake a lot, so I can make a guy – whomever I'm with – very, very happy.

CA: Hear that guys?

TB: Or girls even!

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AIDS Action Committee President and CEO Honored by the National Association of People With AIDS

BOSTON, MA—The National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) honored AIDS Action Committee President and CEO Rebecca Haag with a Positive Leadership Award April 26. It is the group's highest recognition of service for those advocating on behalf of people with HIV and AIDS.

Haag is being recognized for her role in spearheading the Coalition for a National AIDS Strategy. David Munar of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Naina Khanna of Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Disease, and Chris Collins of amfAR are also being recognized for their Coalition work.

In an email to Haag, Michelle Lopez, Chair of the Board of Trustees of NAPWA and Frank Oldham, Jr., President and CEO of NAPWA praised Haag for her "unparalleled leadership in support of development of a national AIDS strategy and contributions to ending the pandemic and human suffering caused by HIV/AIDS."

The United States has long required countries receiving funds through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which has channeled millions of dollars in HIV/AIDS funding to African nations, to have national guidelines outlining how they will use U.S. funds to combat HIV/AIDS. For the first 27 years of the AIDS epidemic — until 2008 — the United States did not have a national AIDS strategy in place to coordinate the deployment of resources to reduce HIV infections; increase access to care for people with HIV and AIDS; or close the racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes and infection rates.

"It just makes sense to coordinate our efforts

in combating HIV and AIDS and have established goals," said Haag. "We're already seeing the results with President Obama's 'Act Against AIDS' campaign, which is raising awareness of the disease among a complacent public."

Other Positive Leadership Award honorees this year include President Barack Obama, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

About the AIDS Action Committee: AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Inc., (AAC), New England's first and largest AIDS organization, is dedicated to stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS by preventing new infections and optimizing the health of those already infected. For more about the AIDS Action Committee please visit www.aac.org and at AAC's blog atblog.aac.org.

About NAPWA: Founded in 1983, NAPWA is the world's oldest coalition of people living with AIDS, as well as the oldest national AIDS organization. For more information, please visit www.napwa.org.



PHOTO: AAC

Rebecca Haag

25th Anniversary of AIDS Walk Boston on June 6th

By: Elizabeth Gormley/TRT Reporter

On Sunday, June 6th, the 25th Annual AIDS Walk Boston will take place to benefit the AIDS Action Committee of Mass. (AAC), New England's first and largest AIDS service organization.

The Walk starts at the DRC Hatch Memorial Shell, through the city's Back Bay to Brookline, before turning along the Charles River, following the esplanade back to the start line with a distance of 6.2 miles.

In 1986, the Walk, named From All Walks of Life, began with 4,000 people who raised \$325,000 for the relatively new, fatal disease according to the AAC website. Today, their message is the same—to remember those we have lost to AIDS, to spread awareness, give support, and continue to expand the services provided by AIDS Action Committee. In twenty-five years, the Walk has raised over \$35 million.

According to the AAC's website, since the disease began, 30,537 Massachusetts residents have been identified as having HIV. There are roughly 600 new infections annually. Every year, the AIDS Action Committee serves over 2,500 men, woman and children with the virus. However, it is still gay and bi men who are most likely to contract HIV/AIDS. The Center for Disease Control released new information in March 2010, indicating that men who have sex with men are 44 times more likely to contract the virus than other men, and 40 times more likely to contract it than all women.

The 25th Anniversary of AIDS Walk Boston will honor twenty-five individuals who have "made invaluable contributions to the fight against

AIDS over the last twenty-five years," said Paul Twitchell, the AIDS Action Committee's Director of Marketing and Communications. Those individuals were not confirmed by press time. However, Twitchell said that The Rainbow Times readers can go to www.aac.org to learn more about these early pioneers, advocates, and caregivers.

One of these caregivers is Larry Kessler, AIDS Action Committee's founding Director and whom the 5K run is named after. The Larry Kessler 5K Run also takes place on June 6th, for those who prefer to show their support moving faster through streets of Boston. The fee to participate in the Run is \$25 before May 14th, and \$30 after.

Registration for both the Walk and the 5K starts at 7:30 a.m., at the DRC Hatch Memorial Shell located at 10 Storrow Dr., Boston, Mass. The 5K Run begins at 9 a.m. and the Walk's opening ceremony takes place at 9:30 a.m. The Walk itself starts at 10 a.m. The Run's top finishers will receive awards at the Hatch Memorial Shell according to gender and age group, commencing at noon. The closing ceremony will launch at 1:30 p.m.

While water and snacks will be provided at three rest stops along the route, the AIDS Action Committee recommends walkers bring along additional fuel, as well as sunscreen, rain gear, and of course, comfortable walking shoes, according to their website. Additionally, the AIDS Action Committee urges participants to bring any donation, cash or check, to help support their cause in fighting HIV/AIDS.

To learn more about AIDS Walk Boston, please visit the official site at www.aidswalkboston.org.



PHOTO: MARILYN HUMPHRIES

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Kathys' Group provides support for lesbians with cancer and other life-threatening diseases

Rhode Island News

By Lisa A. Eramo/TRT Reporter

Being diagnosed with a serious illness can be overwhelming to say the least. For lesbians and their partners, a diagnosis of this magnitude brings with it a whole host of other challenges as well, particularly when trying to find a support group.

"When someone is reeling from a cancer diagnosis, the last thing they need to deal with in a support group is homophobia or lack of equal status/respect," says Maureen A. Egan Walsh, MA, MSW, LMHC.

Walsh serves as the facilitator for Kathys' Group—a program of the Rhode Island Breast Cancer Coalition (RIBCC) that provides support for lesbians with cancer or a life-threatening disease and their partners.

"Being a part of providing an opportunity for lesbians to be themselves and share their pain, love, strength, vulnerability, and experience is a gift for all involved," says Walsh, whose private practice (Unidividual, Inc.) is located in Providence.

Kathys' Group was originally founded in 1995 when Narragansett residents Dorrie McCaffrey and her late partner Lorry Garvin realized there were no lesbian-specific support groups in Rhode Island. They founded the group in honor of their close friend Kathy who had been diagnosed with breast cancer as well as her partner (also named Kathy).

"At that time, a lot of older lesbians were so closeted, they wouldn't even give their name

to me on the phone. Now it's so different, it's amazing," says McCaffrey.

To date, Kathys' Group is the only support group in Rhode Island that focuses solely on lesbians.

The group meets twice a month in Providence, and meetings typically draw between three and eight women, says Egan Walsh.

"Members each take time sharing their experience. Oftentimes, it's cancer/illness-related, and other times, it's just life-related. The group is very informal," she adds.

Egan Walsh, who has facilitated the group for the last 10 years, says participants value being able to share insights and experiences.

"For folks involved with cancer or life threatening illnesses or their partners, this can be a time in life much like a roller coaster with many ups and downs. To have other women who are going through it or who have been through it is a tremendous source of support," she adds.

In addition to holding bimonthly meetings, Kathys' Group also occasionally hosts events. In November 2009, Kathys' Group and the RIBCC sponsored an event titled "Lesbians and the Law," which featured a panel of lawyers and physicians to address lesbian-specific topics.

Marlene McCarthy, cofounder and volunteer chair of the RIBCC, says the number and type of events the group can sponsor depends on the donations it receives.

"We do not separate donations that come to the RIBCC. They fit the needs of women. However, there are many women who target their donations specifically for Kathys' Group, and when we receive those, they are held separately, and that's how we're able to support the program," she says. "Our goal is to have



PHOTO:

From left to right, Marlene McCarthy, Chair, RIBCC, Lorry Garvin and Dorrie McCaffrey, co-founders of Kathys' Group, Dr. Susan Love. The photo was taken at the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) Annual Advocacy Meeting in Washington, DC, in May, 1997, shortly after the group was organized.

sufficient funding to be able to put on specific programs for lesbians on an annual basis. We welcome small business and corporation sponsorships specifically for Kathys' Group as well."

To donate specifically to Kathys' Group, make your donation payable to the RIBCC and write 'Kathys' Group' in the memo line. You

may also include a note specifying that you'd like to target your funds directly to the group. Mail all donations to the RIBCC, Two Shoppers Park, Coventry, RI 02816.

For more information about Kathys' Group, including when and where meetings are held, call 888-5-KATHYS.

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7. Half-Life
8. Eating Out 3: All You Can Eat
9. Homewrecker
10. 8: The Mormon Proposition

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD: The first Gay kiss in Bollywood

Entertainment News

By: Romeo San Vicente*

Robert Downey Jr. circles Oz

In a way, Robert Downey Jr. is currently best known for playing the most indestructible Tin Man of all time. So if the *Iron Man* star decides to make a journey to Oz as the Wizard in an upcoming adaptation, who'd be surprised? Sam Mendes is already on board to direct *Oz The Great and Powerful*, based on the L. Frank Baum books that spawned one of the most gay-loved films of all time, *The Wizard of Oz*. And now Downey is in talks to play the man behind the curtain. Nothing's set in yellow brick just yet, but this could turn out to be really cool. Romeo's just glad that the go-to guy for this sort of thing, Johnny Depp, wasn't first on the list and risking over-saturating his career popularity sponge. Meanwhile, wouldn't *Kick-Ass* star Chloe Moretz be a great already-against-type choice to play Dorothy? You know, as long as she didn't have to say that C-word again.

Mulligan inks up for *Dragon Tattoo*

Already a cult hit in art house cinemas stateside, the Swedish thriller *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* is set to invade America's movie consciousness with an English version of its sinister brand of suspense. And it's appropriate that nifty director David Fincher (*Fight Club*, *Zodiac*) is taking on the remake; it's that kind of convoluted, unset-



Romeo San Vicente

too cute for the part. But that's why they call it acting, folks. A little jet-black hair dye, a nose ring and some kick-boxing lessons and Mulligan will probably do the role plenty proud. Look for this one to get all dark and moody sometime in 2011.

The first gay kiss in Bollywood

For a country where, until just recently, even a heterosexual smooch was considered taboo, the news that a new Bollywood film will feature Indian cinema's first gay kiss is almost downright shocking. The film in question, titled *Dunno Y... Na Jaane Kyun*, is a drama about a gay relationship and is already being talked about as India's own *Brokeback Mountain*. Now, this news would be a blip on America's culture screen if it weren't for the fact that Bollywood films have developed an increasingly strong presence in the American market, with more titles than ever coming to the U.S., several of them outgrossing the English language competition. So when *Dunno Y* opens in India in a few weeks, don't

ting mystery. So far, so good. But now comes the news that Carey Mulligan, the Oscar-nominated star of *An Education*, may take on the central role of troubled, surly, bisexual, violent, dragon-tattoo-sporting computer hacker Lisabeth. Some are already declaring Mulligan

be surprised if it winds up in a multiplex near you sooner rather than later. The best part: there's usually always at least one big song and dance number in Bollywood films. Dunno Y that is but Romeo likes it.

Hopelessly devoted to *Grease*

Over 30 years ago, the film version of a pretty cheesy stage musical hit screens. And it was pretty cheesy itself. And immensely popular. *Grease* spawned millions of album sales, posters and T-shirts, a bad sequel, an even worse re-teaming of its stars John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John in the weird flop *Two of a Kind* and countless drag queen impersonations of Stockard Channing singing *There Are Worse Things I Could Do*. Now, buoyed by the popularity of both karaoke and the success of special event screenings where audiences sing along with the film as lyrics are subtitled on screen, here comes your chance to see and participate in *Grease Sing-Along* when it opens in theaters later this summer. Will it play near you? That depends on how heavy a concentration of homosexuals your city has. In other words, sorry small towns but you kind



PHOTO: PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Robert Downey Jr.

of brought this situation on yourselves.

*Romeo San Vicente always liked Marty Maraschino best. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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Mohegan Sun a world at play

Harris hits the road for RI marriage equality, promotes change

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

For the fourth consecutive year, Rick Harris has been traveling the roads of Rhode Island for a worthy cause—promoting marriage equality.

Harris, the 59 year-old Executive Director of the Rhode Island chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, has rode his bicycle over 4500 miles and visited 12 states and Washington, D.C. in an effort to win support for equal rights for same-sex couples. Harris has also been to State Houses in New York, New Jersey, and throughout New England.

In addition, Harris has collected 2600 signatures on a Traveling Proclamation for Civil Marriage. On April 13, he went to Rhode Island College and the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) to win support. Other stops include the University of Rhode Island, Brown University, and Bryant University in Smithfield.

And in May, Harris plans to deliver "Marriage Equality O-Grads" to every single state legislator.

Harris' bike ride has the backing of NASW as well as Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI).

Rhode Island is the only New England state which has failed to recognize same-sex marriages.

The Iowa native has always been a strong believer in equal rights for all people.

"I can't remember a time when it wasn't important to me," said Harris, who has been a longtime ally of the GLBT community.

Securing marriage equality for same-sex couples has been one of NASW's top priorities, noted Harris, who has testified in favor of legislation granting same-sex couples equal rights at the Rhode Island State House.

Harris reports getting a mixed response from the people he encounters during his travels. Some are very supportive of the concept of civil marriage for gay and lesbian couples. A purple banner which reads "Support Civil Marriage" with the words "Same Gender Marriage" underneath is something Harris displays outside his tent when he stays at campgrounds for some much-needed rest.

"The main reason I do it is the conversations I have with people," Harris explained.

Harris reports getting a friendly reception from CCRI students, who told him the topic of marriage equality was "personally relevant" to them.

Others are hostile toward the concept of same-sex marriage and don't hold back from showing their feelings. Harris has been screamed and yelled at by a few of the people he has come into contact with. These are the ones who tend to use their religious beliefs as motivation to oppose same-sex marriage, Harris noted.

Harris targets his message toward a third group of people, the "fence-sitters", who don't have a lot of knowledge about the issue. The use of the words "civil marriage" is meant to inform the uneducated that marriage is a civil procedure, Harris explained.



PHOTO: NEWPORT DAILY NEWS

Rick Harris



PHOTO: RICK HARRIS

Harris' sign, bicycle and conversation has swayed people in favor of RI marriage equality.

Harris hopes people will come around on the issue of marriage equality for same-sex couples by thinking about what he has to say on the subject. Some people are what Harris calls "turnarounds" – they read the sign and then turn around, come back and tell Harris the sign, bicycle and conversation enabled them to

change their mind toward supporting marriage equality.

Harris remains humble about the role he plays in the fight for equal rights: "This is my little individual effort. This is a little tiny thing I can do on my vacation."

C'mon Out from page 2

Up until very recently we viewed gender as male or female. These were the only lenses available. It has been a binary perspective whereby up until recently there were only two choices. As the transgender movement continues there are many people for whom this view is very limiting. More and more people are identifying not as strictly male or female, but as something else. You may ask, "well, what is this something else," and BCT, I can not say. The reason for this is because more people are defining gender in a way that is unique to them. The concept of gender from this perspective is beyond definition.

For these reasons we are seeing more people who might go by their birth pronoun but express themselves more similar to the opposite gender. There may be people who go the pronoun of the opposite sex but chose to keep some or all features of their biological sex. You see, for some, gender is fluid and not necessarily fixed in one camp or the other, but a combination of the two. Actually, if you think about it, most of us who do not consider ourselves transgender have physical features, tastes and interests that fall outside the strict definition of our gender.

If there are limitless ways a person can be; in how they look, how they express themselves, what their values and preferences are, then perhaps there are limitless ways that a person might experience gender. If we are free to experience ourselves devoid of limitations of appearances, sex roles, and gender expression, then a person may take on any one of a limitless number of "male" or "female" qualities.

This is precisely what I think you encountered at the party you recently attended. You met someone who is taking the risk and living in a way that feels true to that person. Each person, each family and each society constructs norms, values, rules and expectations. These are arbitrary. The way we do things as a society in the U.S., for example, is definitely

not the way things are done in other parts of the world. If we construct our realities, then who is to say what gender should look like?

Some of you probably think that I'm getting a bit too far "out there" with all this. But think about it. We base our most important relationships, for example, in part on surrounding ourselves with people who think like we do. And usually we think we are right. The power in surrounding ourselves with others is that it carries weight and it seems to support our view. There are people all over the world doing the same thing. Sometimes these views are opposing. They certainly are diverse. But who is right? Is there a right?

If we're making it up as we go, why don't we just let everyone do their own thing as long as it doesn't cause harm? Is this not what the gay and lesbian movement has asked? Shouldn't all beings have the right to love and live in peace?

The gender movement is showing us again, that we have another opportunity to open our hearts and make the world big enough for all.

Best BCT, Tetty

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

Tetty has also been a psychotherapist since 1980. She has worked extensively with LGBTQ individuals, couples and groups and has supervised both clinicians and therapists in training. Her vision and leadership spirited nearly all of LifeCourse Counseling Center's programs. Tetty has also been on numerous radio talk shows and television programs. She has presented at professional conferences on topics pertinent to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

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Imperial Court of RI 2010 crowns newest Monarchs

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

The Imperial Court of Rhode Island dressed to the nines and crowned their new Monarchs on April 17 for their 18th Annual Coronation at the Providence Biltmore.

Jacqueline DiMera and "Big Daddy" Austen Daniels will serve as the new Empress and Emperor, succeeding outgoing Monarchs Regent Empress 17 Lee Daniels and Regent Emperor 17 Scott Connery.

The theme for the event was Gangsters, Girdles, and Glitter – which paid tribute to the fashions and motifs of the 1920s. Participants dressed as flappers and gangsters, toting plastic machine guns and other props.

The President's Award was presented to photographer Jack Hartwein-Sanchez, who was honored for his continued support of the organization.

The splashy opening production was a performance of "He Had It Coming" from the smash musical "Chicago."

"It's all about having fun," Connery said.

Connery and Daniels were joined on stage by their predecessors, including Rafaelle Martino and BB Hayes, who served as the Court's first Emperor and Empress, along with Stephen Hartley, Kenneth Cote, LaDivaJonz, Jazzmine Taylor, Todd Warren, Michael Souza, Taya Houston, Raymond Quinn, Mahogany Lite, Jade Love, Earl Taylor, Vi'let, Ray Fay, Gabriel, Gingah Rale, Belle Pellegrino, and Diana Prince.

Special tribute was paid to Empress 8 Candy Wills duBarry by Jazzmine Taylor. DuBarry passed away in 2009.

DiMera read a proclamation from Providence Mayor David Cicilline, who praised the Imperial Court for its "outstanding legacy and dedicated service" to the state's LGBT community.

Monarchs from several out of town courts, including Toronto, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and Kentucky were in attendance to share in the festivities and pay tribute

to the court members.

Diva Jackie Collins, wearing a glittering red gown, gave a show stopping performance, doing a medley of Supremes songs, including "You Keep Me Hanging On", "Baby Love," and "Stop In the Name of Love."

There were also exciting performances from Whitney Spears; Justinus Phoenix, Michael LaValley, Austen Daniels, who wore black leather and strutted down the runway to Adam Lambert's "What Do You Want From Me?", and DiMera, who danced to the Sister Sledge classic, "We Are Family."

The beneficiaries for the Ball were Facts Nursery/Aids Care Ocean State and RI Pride.

The evening concluded with the final walks/performance by Connery and Daniels, the Coronation Ceremony, and a receiving line in the ballroom atrium.

A Victory Brunch was held the following morning as a way to cap off a weekend of tears, laughs, and glamour.

The Imperial Court System was founded in San Francisco in 1965 by José Sarria, also known as Absolute Empress I, The Widow Norton. Around 1971, this structure was replicated in Vancouver, Canada. In the United States, the first court outside of San Francisco was Portland, Oregon, followed closely by Los Angeles.

Members purchase their own clothes and jewelry and attend several social and charitable functions throughout the year.

Rhode Island formed its chapter in 1992. Some of the organizations which benefit from the work of the Imperial Court are the Rhode Island Breast Cancer Coalition, Sojourner House, A.I.D.S., Inc., Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts, Helping Hands Healing Hearts, and the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

For more information about the Imperial Court of Rhode Island, visit www.icriprov.org.



PHOTO: BILL BERGGREN

Jacqueline DiMera and "Big Daddy" Austen Daniels are crowned the new Empress and Emperor



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Friday, June 4

Pride Flag Raising over City Hall
12 noon
City Hall Plaza, Boston, MA

Saturday, June 5

Pride Day @ Faneuil Hall
10 am – 5 pm
Faneuil Hall, Boston, MA

Sunday, June 6

The LGBT Aging Project's Annual Pride
Tea-Dance for LGBT Seniors and Friends
3:30 pm to 7 pm
Holiday Inn, Brookline

Monday, June 7

2nd Annual King & Queen of Boston
Pride Pageant
8 pm @ Machine Nightclub

Wednesday, June 9

Pride Idol Finale
7 pm @ Club Cafe

Pride Kick Off @ Latino Night
10 pm @ Rumor Nightclub

Thursday, June 10

Riots to Rights Rally: A Community
Event to Commemorate 40 Years of the
LGBT Rights Movement
7 pm @ Boston Common Bandstand

Optionz Party with QWOC+ Friends and
MadFemmePride
10 pm @ Underbar

Friday June 11

Boston Dyke March
6 pm @ Boston Common Bandstand

Saturday, June 12

Pride Parade
Kicks off at 12 noon (Rain or Shine)
South End, Boston

Pride Festival
12 noon
City Hall Plaza, Boston

Esme Women's
Block Party
2 pm
Boylston Place

Saturday, June 12 (cont'd)

Club SIZZLE!
21 & under dance party
7 pm @ Back Bay Events Center

Boston Pride @ Night Main Event
10 pm @ House of Blues, Boston, MA

Sunday, June 13

JP Block Party
12 noon - 7 pm
Perkins Street, Jamaica Plain

Stuart Street Block Party
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Creep of the Week:

Steve King, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act



D'Anne Witkowski

By: D'Anne Witkowski*

Some fools from Michigan have filed a federal law suit over last year's Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which became federal law last year.

The group is made up of three Michigan ministers and Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association's Michigan

division and the Mitten State's No. 1 anti-gay creep.

Their complaint? The Hate Crimes Prevention Act violates their first amendment right to speak out against homosexuality.

They allege that the act has the "effect of deterring, inhibiting, and chilling the exercise of fundamental rights by persons ... who publicly oppose homosexual activism, the homosexual lifestyle and the homosexual agenda."

Wow, air tight argument, right? I mean, as long as you ignore the part of the act that reads, "Nothing in this division shall be construed to prohibit any constitutionally protected speech, expressive conduct or activities (regardless of whether compelled by, or central to, a system of religious belief), including the exercise of religion protected by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States and peaceful picketing or demonstration."

Minor detail. Maybe this is why U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder has called for the lawsuit to be dismissed.

Still, I can't help but wonder, if the Hate Crimes Act already safeguards the constitutional rights of homophobes and only prohibits violent acts, what are the "fundamental rights" Glenn and his band of ministers claim are being violated? The right to punch a homo in the name of God?

But hey, the suit's convoluted argument is good enough for U.S. Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa), who sent the group a letter giving them props.

"As a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, I worked hard to stop this legislation," King writes. "Like you, I believe this 'Hate Crimes' Act is unconstitutional and marks an unprecedented move to regulate and criminalize our thoughts."

That's right. King thinks the Hate Crimes Act constitutes thought control. It doesn't, of course, but even if it did, everybody knows that thought control can be easily thwarted with a helmet made of aluminum foil.

King continues, "Not only will this act create a class of people that are 'more equal than others,' it will hinder your ability to preach the gospel and openly teach biblical principles."

Unless folks are preaching the gospel using a tire iron and steel-toe boots and "teaching biblical principles" means beating some fags up outside of a gay club, it's hard to see what King's problem is.

But logic has never stopped anti-gay folks in the past. When King says the Hate Crimes Act creates "a class of people that are 'more equal than others,'" what he means is that strengthening laws regarding brutality against LGBT folks not only exist but that they are at an increased risk of violence. Not only that, but that they deserve protection from said violence.

The Hate Crimes Act doesn't make hating gays illegal. What it does is tell folks that the United States, at the highest level of government, doesn't tolerate violence against LGBT people. Apparently that's not the kind of country King and the plaintiffs he praises want to live in.

**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 and roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister.*

The right to punch a homo in the name of God?

Local Theatre Company plants Little Shop of Horrors in Noho

NORTHAMPTON, MA—Greene Room Productions' (GRP) Little Shop of Horrors is set to perform at the Academy of Music in Northampton, Mass. on May 13-15th.

Little Shop of Horrors is a comedic, horror, sci-fi, musical that centers on a skid row florist shop that is taken over by a giant, man-eating, blood-thirsty fly-trap from outer space. Humorous characters such as the sadistic dentist, played by Steve Pierce of Monson, Mass. and the "greek chorus" of the show, written to be played by women who sing, move, and have the spunk of The Supremes, who are better known as Meghan Allen and Laura Lites of Springfield, Mass. and Renee Gibson of Monson, make the show a truly original and fun musical masterpiece for all to enjoy.

Luis Manzi, a powerful tenor from Springfield who is playing the lead role of junior-florist Seymore who allows the fly-trap to first thrive on blood from a pin-prick to his finger, laughed last night as he remarked that this would be his fourth time playing this role. He arrived at the first read-thru with all of his

songs already beautifully rendered and most of his lines memorized. Director, David Wallace from Monson, Mass. said if all rehearsals go as well as the first, GRP's rendition of "Little Shop of Horrors" is really going to be a magnificent visual and musical work of art.

From the spine chilling finale with a 25-foot long man-eating plant, developed by Greene Room Productions Creature Team, chomping over the heads of the audience, playful costumes, and humorous melodies, the actors and production of "Little Shop of Horrors" will be something to indulge in this May.

"Little Shop of Horrors" will be performed at the Academy of Music located at 274 Main Street, Northampton, Mass. Groups and advance purchase buyers get a great deal on tickets. For more information about "Little Shop of Horrors", tickets, or Greene Room Productions please visit www.greeneroom-productions.com, www.academyofmusictheatre.com or call GRP at 413-668-7284, or the Academy of Music at 413-584-9032.

MassEquality lauds passage of comprehensive Anti-Bullying Bill

BOSTON, MA—Last week, the legislature sent the long-awaited Anti-Bullying Bill to Governor Deval Patrick. MassEquality strongly supports this comprehensive legislation and urges the governor to quickly sign the bill into law.

"After more than ten years of starts and stops educators will now have the tools to prevent bullying so that students can learn and grow in a safe environment," said Executive Director Scott Gortikov. "We're grateful to the legisla-

ture for overwhelmingly supporting the Anti-Bullying Bill and we urge Governor Patrick to quickly sign it."

The House passed the Anti-Bullying Bill by a vote of 159-0 and the Senate by a vote of 38-0. Governor Patrick has previously stated he would sign the bill into law.

The bill focuses on both stopping and preventing bullying. Under the bill, schools must include bullying prevention in their curricula and develop and implement anti-bullying plans. School staff will also be required to report bullying incidents to their principal, who

must then investigate and take appropriate disciplinary action. Additionally, principals must notify the parents of both victim and perpetrator of reported bullying incidents.

"This legislation will save lives if it is implemented and enforced correctly," said Political Director DeeDee Edmondson. "Research shows that LGBT students, or those perceived to be, are disproportionately targeted for school bullying. We look forward to working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

to ensure that this research is taken into consideration during the development of anti-bullying curricula and training programs."

MassEquality was part of a coalition of LGBT and other civil rights organizations that helped shape and shepherd the Anti-Bullying Bill through the legislative process over the past year.

MassEquality works to achieve full equality for the LGBT Community. We're protecting marriage equality and promoting a full Equality Agenda in Massachusetts and supporting other states in winning marriage equality.

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¡El municipio más abierto a la comunidad gay en Puerto Rico!

Visión Latina



Wilfred Labiosa

Por: Wilfred Labiosa*

Estoy de regreso en mi Puerto Rico, mi patria. Decimos tomar una avioneta para visitar uno de los municipios de la isla de PR. En el terminal noto tantas parejas gays y lesbianas. Veo cuatro parejas de hombres abrazados y dándose cariños; veo a una familia de dos mujeres con su hijo/as; y noto a una pareja de lesbianas. ¿A dónde vamos? "Me parece que no estaremos solos", le dije a mi pareja. Me parece que vamos a un sitio frecuentado por nuestra comunidad LGBT.

Cuando aterrizamos, vamos a alquilar un auto. Cuando llegamos al establecimiento, veo la bandera gay (con el arco iris) colgando de la reja y en el rótulo del negocio. Comenzamos a manejar a nuestro aposento y veo dos balcones con banderas gay. Llegamos a la casa donde nos vamos a quedar, que de hecho es de una pareja gay, y decidimos ir al mercado y veo a otra pareja gay; estos dos son de alta edad y están vestidos con colores llamativos que incluye el emblema de igualdad. Nos vamos, después de guardar la compra, a caminar. Durante la caminata, al centro del pueblo, veo a las parejas que vimos en el aeropuerto tomándose un trago en la plaza del pueblo y nos acercamos a ellos. Nos presentamos y le pregunto cómo encontraron este sitio, al ellos no ser de Puerto Rico, y simplemente nos contestaron, "este es el P-Town del Caribe". ¿De Verdad? ¡Wow, estoy asombrado! Estoy de viaje en Vieques, le llaman la isla municipio de Puerto Rico y algunos en la comunidad GLBT la consideran como el nuevo destino gay en el Caribe.

Vieques es un municipio, a unas 7 millas de la isla de Puerto Rico y unas 52 millas cuadradas de grande. Este municipio tiene una historia mixta de tainos, esclavos, españoles y americanos. Este pueblo es más conocido por los argumentos y alto número de arrestos de personas demostrando en contra del gobierno de E.U. y la marina. Por muchos años, cientos de personas fueron arrestado/as por hacer demostraciones en contra de la marina. La marina

de los E.U. usó por muchos años esta isla para prácticas de combate, para aprender a usar armas y entre este tiempo mataron a ciudadanos inocentes mas se adueñaron de más del 80% del municipio, incluyendo de las playas más hermosas de Puerto Rico.

La armada salió de esta isla en el 2003 pero todavía quedan reminiscencias por toda la isla. Algunos de estos ejemplos incluyen: el alto porcentaje de cáncer entre los habitantes, de enfermedades de la piel y de un turismo sin desarrollar. La agencia Federal para Sustancias Tóxicas y Registro de Enfermedades (ATSDR, por sus siglas en ingles) confirmó que los problemas de salud en este municipio han ocurrido debido a las actividades que la armada/marina de E.U. tuvo en esta isla. A pesar de estos recuerdos que no podemos palpar al visitar este municipio, sólo quedan pocos que se pueden ver como las cruces de los fallecidos y rótulos que prohíben el paso en áreas que la armada no ha limpiado todavía (se estima que es un 30% de la isla la cuál todavía sigue contaminada y sin limpiar). A pesar de esto queda una isla con playas solitarias y cristalinas, y una comunidad abierta a la diversidad.

A Vieques la comunidad LGBT le ha llamado diferentes nombres como el San Francisco del Caribe, la isla exótica de Puerto Rico y la Islita Bella de la Isla Bella, entre otros. Lo llaman así por que hay mucho/as dueño/as de casas que son de la comunidad gay; acaba de abrir un hotel W; hay muchas casas de alojamiento que son manejadas o son de gente gay y lesbianas; hay una compañía de alquiler de autos de una lesbiana y su esposa; hay cocineros gays y lesbianas que han hecho de este pueblo su aposento y demuestran su arte culinario; y hay dos agencias de bienes raíces cuyos propietarios son gente LGBT.

Las riquezas de Vieques son muchas. La bahía fosforescente en Vieques es una de las mejores en el Caribe (más grande y brillante que la de Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, ya que no se pueden usar motores de gasolina dentro de la misma); esta bahía es una de cinco en el mundo entero. La vida marítima incluye especies en peligro de extinción y también especies autóctonas y únicas del Mar Caribe y del Océano Atlántico. Hay unas playas con arenas blancas, caballos silvestres, aguas azules cristalinas, cavernas naturales submarinas, gente amigable, comida excelente, el Fuerte Girasol, recuerdos históricos y una isla llena de cultura



PHOTO: WILFRED LABIOSA

Latina. No hay restaurantes de comida rápida, ni hay semáforos, y no hay estrés para nadie que la visita. No estoy diciendo que hay una vida nocturna llena de clubes gays, pero por lo menos hay un club donde bailar y disfrutar. Es una isla que permite unas vacaciones sin estrés. Cabe decir que hay otros municipios de Puerto Rico que son islas, mucho más pequeños que Vieques como Culebra, pero no les puedo decir que abiertos son a la comunidad GLBT ya que hace tiempo que no las visito. Lo que le puedo decir es que lo que yo viví es una comunidad abierta a la diversidad.

Sugiero que vayan y visiten a Vieques en su próximo viaje a Puerto Rico. La gente de Vieques necesita de nosotros y nosotros necesitamos de unas vacaciones con comidas/restaurantes excelentes, historia increíble, playas maravillosas y gente del ambiente LGBT. Ayuda mientras te ayudas a ti mismo en una isla llena de encanto. Visita Vieques para que puedas decir, "¡Wow estoy asombrado/a!"

*Escrito en ambos idiomas por Wilfred W. Labiosa; editado por Grisel Martínez Ocasio.

To read the English version of this story, please visit: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/latinvision_may6.

Transgender Children from page 5

increase teen trans-gender's living expenses. This compels them to find ways to earn transformation sustaining incomes; even though their education and job opportunities are not sufficient.


Trans-gender love life: normally people find love within their same gender in society: straight men with straight women, gay men with gay men, lesbians with lesbians, but this is not true of trans-genders. Transgender women are considered a part of LGBT, but many date straight men—discreetly. However, love and sex across gender lines is taboo; straight men always hide their relationship with trans-genders from the public, citing that their friends and family won't accept this type of relationship.

Once, a straight man who regularly hired transgender escorts for discreet sex revealed sadly to me one day—"my parents want me to marry (a woman) but I like trans-genders better." Another married man said—"I never knew anything about trans-genders before my marriage, until I traveled to Europe and encountered some. I knew ever since that I was attracted to trans-genders, they are why I think everyday about getting a divorce—but because I have kids, divorce is a problem. However, that's okay—if my life can't make a U-turn, I prefer to continue hiring trans-genders for discreet sex."

In the past, there were only a few straight men who had sexual experience with trans-genders; today their numbers have grown exponentially. Straight men (single, married & divorced), now understand and appreciate the transgender lifestyle, but they still prefer not to discuss this touchy subject publicly. Why do men have to hire women for sex, when they can publicly date and marry them? However, in the case of straight men who hire transgender escorts, their paying and keeping their liaisons secret is the norm.

Does the no-child-left-behind law include or exclude transgender children? The conflict created by the trans-gender teen lifestyle within their family and at school still exists today. All the problems that occur within a transgender's lifestyle create a domino-like effect; pushing them further down the ladder of life, until they reach the bottom rung, ending up in prostitution; this might be their last choice in life to help themselves survive economically, especially during these bad economic times. Life must go on—no matter what fate awaits them—especially when society doesn't seriously fight for the trans-gender minority.

*Half-Lady Lisa is the author of 'The Psychological & Social Barriers Behind the Sexual Secrets of Straight Men' and 'Midnight Life in Chinatown'.



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Research Reveals both the Strengths and Challenges of Gay and Lesbian Families

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

When she was working on her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at UMass Amherst, Dr. Abbie Goldberg was surprised to discover there was very little research about gay and lesbian experiences of the transition to parenthood.

"There are hundreds and hundreds of articles about heterosexual parents," Goldberg says. At the time, though, there were virtually none about same-sex parents. Since then, Goldberg's research has helped fill that void.

Now a professor of psychology at Clark University and author of *Lesbian and gay parents and their children: Research on the family life cycle*, Goldberg returned to the area to present about her work at Springfield Technical Community College, STCC, on April 27. To mark the event, Dominic Sarno, Mayor of Springfield, issued a proclamation naming Thursday, April 27, 2010, "Dr. Abbie Goldberg Day" in honor of her work.

"I was drawn to something that was understudied and had potential benefit for people's lives," Goldberg says of her research on gay and lesbian families.

She knew that studies showed that the transition to parenthood is both exciting and stressful. Research had documented that new parents suffer from lack of sleep, have less time for their relationship as a couple and have virtually no personal time for themselves. Women, in particular, have less time for themselves as they tend to take on more childcare and household responsibilities. Yet all these studies applied exclusively to heterosexual couples.

Goldberg has found there is plenty of interest in her work, as her numerous publications and

collaborations attest. Her research has even been used in a California court case challenging Proposition 8, which prohibits gay marriage. The timing of her research couldn't be better, as focus on gay and lesbian families has increased dramatically in recent years.

"Gay parents are increasingly choosing to be out," Goldberg says.

There are also simply more gay and lesbian parents.

"In 1990, 1 in 20 gay couples and 1 in 5 lesbian couples were raising children. By 2000, 1 in 5 gay couples and 1 in 3 lesbian couples had children," Goldberg explains.

According to Goldberg, there are three primary ways that gay and lesbian couples become parents: through previous heterosexual relationships, through insemination and through adoptive or foster parenting. Once they become parents, Goldberg's research suggests that gay and lesbian parents experience a similar transition to parenthood.

"Everybody is stressed out," Goldberg says of the early stage of parenting. "New gay, lesbian and straight parents all show a mild decline in mental health."

Mental health figures improve when parents have the support of family and friends, when couples are satisfied with their relationship and when they start parenting with a younger child.

Similarly, studies show that gay and lesbian parents share important traits with heterosexual parents.

"As parents, they are just as skilled, just as warm and involved. They are just as committed. They love their children just as much," Goldberg says. She adds that they have similar mental health and similar levels of happiness in their relationships, with lesbian couples reporting the highest relationship satisfaction rate of all couples studied.

The children of gay and lesbian couples are also similar to children raised by heterosexual parents, according to Goldberg. She says children from gay, lesbian and heterosexual families have simi-

lar overall well-being, social skills, cognitive abilities, and family function.

There are also some important differences in the experiences of gay and lesbian families.

For example, factors that contribute to well-being for gay and lesbian couples may not matter to heterosexual couples. Living in a gay-friendly neighborhood and in a state with laws that support adoption by same-sex couples are factors that have a positive impact on the transition to parenthood for gay and lesbian couples, Goldberg says. Another is having a gay-friendly employer.

There are other differences in gay and lesbian families, as well.

"Lesbian and gay couples share childcare and housework more equally," Goldberg says. She says same-sex couples don't fall into traditional divisions of labor. "Traditional gender roles go out the window."

However, that's not the only reason Goldberg has found for more equitable divisions of labor.

"Gay and lesbian couples value equality in their



PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

Myra Smith, STCC Vice President of Human Resources and Multicultural Affairs at STCC, Dr. Abbie Goldberg, and Ira H. Rubenzahl, STCC President

that does occur is more likely to be about their families or sexuality.

Children of gays and lesbians are more sensitive to homophobia, according to Goldberg. This awareness may lead them to activism. Others may hide their families to avoid having to come out

repeatedly to people who simply assume that all kids have straight parents.

"They tend to be more tolerant of differences and have more empathy for other stigmatized minority groups," she says. They also may be more flexible about gender roles, such as in career aspirations and hobbies.

Ultimately, Goldberg says, gay and lesbian parents and their children are developing well.

"Being gay itself is not the problem for parents or their children," Goldberg says. "Institutionalized heterosexism is."

More information about Dr. Abbie Goldberg's work can be found at: <http://www.clarku.edu/faculty/goldberg>. One current projects seeks participants who are adopting for the first time; another is open to youth aged 14-26 who have gay, lesbian or bisexual parents.

"Being gay itself is not the problem for parents or their children," Goldberg says. "Institutionalized heterosexism is."

relationships more than heterosexual couples do," Goldberg says.

Gay and lesbian couples do face unique challenges, according to Goldberg. For example, they may have less support from family, initially, but some report that support increases after children enter the picture.

"A cute little baby is really different from the idea of a possible child," Goldberg says.

The children of gays and lesbians do have some experiences that differ from those of their peers with straight parents. While they are not more likely to be teased, according to Goldberg, teasing

Out of Town: A glimpse at some of the beautiful National Parks of the Southwest

By: Andrew Collins*

Visitation at America's best-known national parks has skyrocketed in recent years, so it's no surprise that these monuments to natural scenery and wide-open spaces have become increasingly popular with gays and lesbians. Whether you're into camping, serious hiking and off-road trekking, or you're more likely to stay in a romantic lodge, check out the park museums and spend most of your time in your car, you'll be happy to know that most national parks offer a balance of both mellow and rigorous diversions.

The southwestern United States, from the sweeping deserts of interior Southern California to the spectacular rock formations, deep canyons and craggy cliffs of Arizona and Utah, contains several of the nation's most celebrated national parks. Here's a look at some of the most impressive.

Death Valley National Park, California
(www.nps.gov/deva)

Covering an astounding 5,200 square miles (making it just slightly smaller than the state of Connecticut), Death Valley National Park is immense in scope - it contains the lowest point in the United States, Badwater Basin, a salty, mud-caked spot that you can walk to easily from the road. And it claims the hottest summer temperatures in the country (late fall through early spring are mild and comfortable, however). But the park's extreme aspects

sometimes take away from the tremendous diversity of its terrain, from the cooler high mountains peaks (some with elevations above 10,000 feet) that overlook the valley to the undulating sand dunes near Stovepipe Wells.

You could explore Death Valley for a full week and never come close to seeing all of the park's notable sites - the remains of historic borax works, hikes through the dramatically colored rock formations of Mosaic Canyon, costumed tours of the remote and eccentric 1920s mansion known as Scotty's Castle. This is one park, because of its enormity, where it can be very helpful to book a guided excursion - Pink Jeep Tours offers informative trips around the park in modern, comfortable, fully enclosed vehicles.

Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona
(www.nps.gov/grca)

It's fair to say that enough has been written and said about the Grand Canyon that even

those who've never been often feel they have a good sense of it. Still, it's nearly impossible to comprehend the full splendor of this massive chasm that's 18 miles across, 300 miles long, and over a mile deep - it must be seen to be believed.



PHOTO: ANDREW COLLINS

Mosaic Canyon, in Death Valley National Park

South Rim, you'll stay at one of the several lodging options inside the park (book many months in advance if you're planning a summer visit), hike at least part of the way into the canyon, and ride the park shuttle bus along the rim, stopping at the many noteworthy viewing areas. If you have extra time, consider riding the scenic Grand Canyon Railway from the town of Williams, about 60 miles south.

Joshua Tree National Park, California
(www.nps.gov/jotr)

A short drive from the world-famous gay resort Palm Springs, this 800,000-acre park at the convergence of the deathly hot Colorado and slightly cooler Mojave deserts feels miles away from civilization. It looks almost lunar like in places. Of course, it's famous for the thousands of curious-looking Joshua trees for which the park is named. These distinctive members of the lily family grow about an inch a year and bloom winsome white flowers ever so rarely.

This aside, seeing a Joshua tree is but a minor reason to visit. There are several scenic drives - the 6-mile spur out to 5,100-foot Keys View affords breathtaking vistas over the entire Coachella Valley. Several short but fascinating trails penetrate the park's myriad ecosystems: a brief scramble through the Cholla Cactus Garden will introduce you to the regional flora, while the 1.3-mile High View Nature Trail entails a 300-foot ascent to magnificent Summit Peak. Longer trails past piles of massive boulders and by oasis like hot springs offer the possibility of spying bighorn sheep and golden eagles.

**Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.*



NoHo Pride 2010: On fire this year!

Approximately 15,000 people attended NoHo Pride 2010 last Saturday to celebrate Pride in Northampton, MA. This year, the number of patrons, floats and booths were at an all time high. Some vendors, according to NoHo Pride officials, were not able to secure a booth due to the fact that they were sold out, despite having re-arranged the site to accommodate for more spaces.

NoHo Pride 2010 secured hundreds of vendors, fantastic entertainment, and perhaps the largest parade ever. It was also memorable because of the diversity of its entertainment line-up, Emcees and the crowd in general. Attendance was abundant and the summer-like weather produced what appears to be a record turnout for the day's festivities. Main St. in downtown Northampton was packed with onlookers for the 29th Annual NoHo Pride Parade. In

contrast to past years, the Northampton Pride march was transformed into NoHo Pride's Parade and the celebratory ambiance reflected such a change. Congratulations to Bear, Cid White, NoHo Pride Director and Treasurer respectively, and the NoHo Pride Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers for their outstanding work in this year's festivities.

NoHo Pride will be producing various events throughout the year to prepare and raise funds for NoHo Pride's 30th Anniversary, which will be a weekend-long celebration. Stay tuned to The Rainbow Times to learn more about NoHo Pride's 30th Anniversary, upcoming events and updated information. To become involved in NoHo Pride visit: <http://www.site.nohopride.org/>

All photos by Bill Berggren except vehicle photo below, by Melinda Shaw.



The Postwoman at the Boston LGBT Film Festival

BOSTON—Written, edited, filmed, and directed by J.D. Walker, "The Postwoman" is a short, LGBT romantic comedy, which will screen at The Boston LGBT Film Festival during the "Women's Shorts" Program on Friday, May 14, 2010 at 6:30pm. The film will screen at The Boston Museum of Fine Arts. "The Postwoman" centers around the life of Nia (Mahasin Munir), a 30s graphic designer, who is unhappy in her current relationship. Seeking affirmation and purpose, Nia develops a steamy crush on her neighborhood Postwoman (Tish MacCullough) who shows her the true meaning of unconditional love. With the help of The Postwoman, Nia is able to confront her painful past and learn how to finally love the God within her.

Filmed on location in Oakland, California, "The Postwoman" was shot in 10 days. The project began during Fall 2009 in a Queer Women of Color Film class, offered by the Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project, which is located in San Francisco, California, that Walker was registered for. Walker decided to direct the film because she saw a lack of films in the industry for Queer Women of Color, particularly Wolfe Video. "I love the Wolfe video catalogue," says, J.D. Walker, "but I can't recall many films featuring an all queer women of color cast or all African American woman cast. I wrote this film to help close that

gap. I wanted to humanize queer women of color on screen and enable them to see images of themselves on screen." The production of "The Postwoman" was fully funded by Walker with a total budget of \$2500.00. Those funds were used to purchase the GL-1 camera, which was used to film the shoot, as well as lightening equipment and software to the edit the film. Walker's first film is an ambitious one, as she served as writer, director, cinematographer, and editor of her short piece. Currently, Walker is trying to raise funds/capital, as well as sponsors, in order to turn her short film into a Feature film. She has sent up a page on Indiegogo.com to draw sponsors and support for her film, as well as a Twitter page (@PostwomanMovie) and Facebook Group for fans of the short film. Indeed, many feature length films originally started out as shorts, and Walker aims to bring "The Postwoman" to the big screen.

For more details about the origins of this piece, please visit us on the web at: www.imdb.com/title/tt1578770/.

"The Postwoman" premiered at The Black

Hollywood and Education Resource Center's Sistas are Doin' it For Themselves Film Festival on Friday, April 17, 2010. It will also screen at Black Pride festivals throughout the country. Walker's film is just starting out on the film festival circuit. So far, it will also be featured at The Queer Women of Color Film Festival in SF, CA on Friday June 11, 2010, and will also be featured at the 1st Annual SF Pride Comedy Festival, and the Queer Women of Color Weekend Conference in Provincetown, MA. The film will screen at The Boston LGBT Film Festival on Friday, May, 14, 2010. Walker will find out which other film festivals her film has been accepted to in June.

Originally, from Oakland, California, Walker graduated magna cum laude from San Francisco State University, where she studied Theater Arts and Black Studies. She received both her Masters and Ph.D. with distinction in African American and Caribbean Literature from Howard University. Walker has published two books of her own, 101 Ways Black Women

Can Learn to Love Themselves and Signifyin' Me: New and Selected Poems. Although she freelances for a number of different magazines and newspapers, she considers filmmaking her true passion. Walker's desire is to direct and write more feature-length films. She aims to turn "THE POSTWOMAN" into a TV series or feature length film. Walker is currently seeking distribution and funding. "It would be nice to see our film make it into the Wolfe Video catalogue," says Walker. "It would also be nice to finally give this audience a film that they can identify with and relate to. I think that's important because it helps to build community."

Walker decided to direct the short film because she feels as though the complex and myriad stories of women of color, who are in the life, have yet to be told. While the short centers around an affair the main character, Nia, has with her neighborhood Postwoman, the feature version of the short, which was complete by Walker in March, chronicles Nia's journey to find self-love. In the longer version of the film, Nia does not end up with The Postwoman. She delves deeper into herself and realizes that the true love she is seeking must come from within.

Walker may be contacted directly through her email: jdpublishinginfo@gmail.com



J.D. Walker

and Black Studies. She received both her Masters and Ph.D. with distinction in African American and Caribbean Literature from Howard University. Walker has published two books of her own, 101 Ways Black Women



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Pink Adult Entertainment: Juicy Pink Box glams up Lesbian adult films

By: **Lara Connelly**

The adult entertainment industry hasn't changed much in its long history. For years, films were made by-men-for-men, with little consideration for the needs of women. Finally, that is about to change. Jincey Lumpkin, Esq. and her brand, Juicy Pink Box, are introducing a new form of adult entertainment: high quality, stylish and immensely sensual product by-ladies-for-ladies who love ladies. Juicy Pink Box is glamorizing lesbian sex by presenting erotic encounters in an uptown chic way. It may just change the way the world views lesbians.

"Our films are seductive and beautifully crafted cinema," says Jincey, a two time Georgia debutante who landed a job in New York City as a fashion attorney but gained fame writing an anonymous sex blog. The blog lead to Jincey ditching law and launching Digiromp.com, the popular social networking site where women share their erotic lesbian experiences. It was through Digiromp.com that Jincey learned she wasn't the only lesbian who found the girl-on-girl porn being sold in stores unappealing.

"The only films available at the time were the rough dyke porn coming out of San Francisco

and the vulgar gay-for-pay porn made to fulfill the fantasies of straight men," explains Jincey. "The women of Digiromp.com hungered for ambience and atmosphere. We craved to see ladies in gorgeous wardrobes and styling that highlighted their shapes and curves. We wanted to experience the power of a true connection, and enjoy multi-sensory stimulation that slowly guided us to climax."

She also realized the internet offered a new convenience for women. "There is nothing less sexy to a woman than walking into a seedy sex shop with creepy guys ogling at you while you buy porn," she says. "It's easier to log on and watch in the privacy and comfort of your home."

As the Boss Lady and Chief Sexy Officer of Juicy Pink Box, Jincey Lumpkin, Esq. oversees

all facets of her films' production and makes sure that the women stars in them are always in control and empowered.

Juicy Pink Box released its first feature film, *Taxi*, earlier this year. It was the first to take stars from the dyke porn genre and style them into something more classically beautiful. Jincey describes the film as "like Bertolucci ... except with fisting."

The next feature, releasing this summer, will

be "Therapy," a series of ten self-pleasure scenes that take place in a therapist's office. It's a fascinating journey inside the women's minds as each visit to talk about her individual connection to sex. Viewers learn what excites the women, scares them, and what makes them wet.

According to Jincey, today's women are more liberated about discussing their sexual practices. As evidenced in the popularization of hit TV series like *Sex and the City* and *The L Word*, "Women love being sexy and they are embracing all things related to sex."

That is why Juicy Pink Box is more than its adult film offerings. "Juicy Pink Box is a lifestyle," Jincey continues. "It's about living the fantasy of an exclusive world that features glamorous ladies who love ladies."

It's being compared to Hugh Hefner's Playboy. As Hef in his smoking jacket once represented the quintessential bachelor, Jincey in her cocktail dress and Gucci heels represents the modern day femme on top of the world.

"The glamorous world of Juicy Pink Box is not for everyone," Jincey cautions. "We



PHOTO: JUICYPINKBOX.COM

Jincey

are for women who crave intense sensuality, soft caresses, and gentle seduction. If you are a woman who finds women super sexy and you fantasize about their curves or their lips on your lips, then we're here and we welcome you to explore a new frontier."

For more information, visit juicypinkbox.com.

Bi now Gay later? Is there a defining line? A dividing moment?

By: **Max Jiminez**

When "Real World DC's" Mike Manning came under attack for his bisexuality last month, he responded to AfterElton.com that "For whatever reason, God made me attracted to both sexes. That's just how it is. I'm more attracted to guys, and I'll admit that. I'll admit that to you in an interview, and I'll admit that on national television. I don't know where people get the impression that I'm too insecure to admit that I'm gay."

The "people" Manning is referring to is the LGBT community. Why do so many in the community — especially gay men — have a hard time buying bi? Is it because too many mo's have used bisexuality as a way to dip their toe before diving head first into gaydom? Or, do most gay men fervently believe that once guys go gay, they stay? We polled an assortment of prominent members of the community, representing all the letters of the LGBT community (and even a fag hag for good measure), for their position on bisexuality.



PHOTO: PETER URBAN

Jonathan Crutchley
Manhunt Founder

"Whenever I'm single, I'm looking to date straight married men or guys with girlfriends. In fact, my current boyfriend of ten years had a girlfriend when we met. He left her and moved in with me and is now fully gay — or so I hope. I believe bisexuality is real."

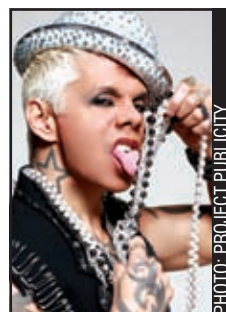


PHOTO: PROJECT PUBLICITY

Raven O
Androgynous
Superstar

"A hole is a hole when the lights are off. I'm sure 'his holiness' the Pope has the answer to whether or not bisexuality is real. I don't. I believe after a few drinks, anything's possible."



PHOTO: JUICYPINKBOX.COM

Jincey Lumpkin
Juicy Pink Box

"I once called myself bisexual, but that was before I had ever had a serious girlfriend. Once I fell in love, I realized that I never had that deep kind of connection with a man, and I knew I was gay. But it took me 25 years to find out. A lot

of people think they are bisexual when they might truly be gay because they have been conditioned to believe that being gay is wrong. I grew up in a very small town in Georgia, and there was not a single gay or lesbian living openly out of the closet. Not one. It was pre-Ellen, so I had absolutely no idea that there were other women in the world who had feelings for women. I didn't know what a lesbian was! I learned about lesbians from the Howard Stern Show.

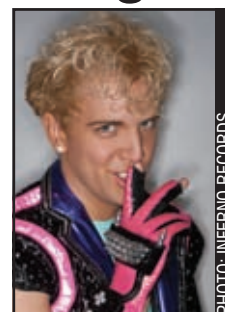


PHOTO: INFERNO RECORDS

Killian Wells
Bi Pop Star

"I find it hypocritical when one of my gay friends will say bisexuality doesn't exist and in the next breath say how they want to 'convert' someone because nobody is completely straight. Aren't they basically saying everyone is bisexual? I

may be considered bisexual by society's standards but I prefer no label. I'm simply attracted to people, not their gender. I don't think bisexuality is a transitional sexual orientation."

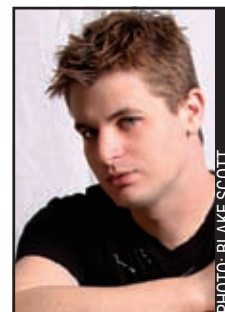


PHOTO: BLAKE SCOTT

DJ Seth Gold
Gay Spinner

"I think if you talk to a man who has been partnered with another man for 20 years, he's going to tell you 'there's only gay.' On the other hand, if you talk to a 20-year-old in college who has a girlfriend and a male hookup on

the side, he'll swear up and down that bisexuality is absolutely possible. Beliefs are based on one's own experience. I think most guys don't believe in bisexuality because they feel so strongly and proud about being gay. I, however, believe bisexuality is real."

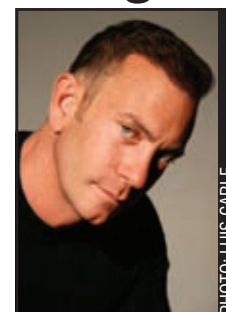


PHOTO: LUIS CARLE

Ron Perkov
Out Singer

"There are so many different types of love. Instead of labeling, just be. As the title of my new dance single says, 'It Doesn't Matter.'"



PHOTO: SEAN ROBERT ENTERTAINMENT LLC

Leah Driscoll
Pop Star/
Hetero Fag Hag

"It seems most people who call themselves bisexual tend to lean towards gay over time. People don't want to believe in bisexuality. We want clear cut, black and white answers to everything. Bisexuality leaves a lot of people

seeing gray. We also have a need to label people — you against me, us against them. I think the idea of bisexuality makes people uncomfortable. In the end, I don't think it's really anyone's job to judge the feelings of others."

TRT's DJ Top 10
therainbowtimesnews.com

The OutField: Fighting homophobia in the sports world



By: Dan Woog*

Justin Fashanu is known for several things. In 1981 he became Britain's first million-pound black soccer player. In 1990 he became the first professional soccer player to come out as gay.

And in 1998 he killed himself.

In 2010, English soccer is filled with black stars. But Justin Fashanu stands alone

Dan Woog

as "the gay professional."

Little has changed in 20 years – and prospects look dim for the next 20. International soccer is a tough place, both physically and mentally. In hopes of speeding things along – or at least making the soccer world less homophobic – a group called The Justin Campaign went to work.

Their goal is to "challenge the stereotypes and misconceptions that exist around gay men in (soccer) and work toward a future where the visibility of gay and bisexual men in professional (soccer) are both accepted and celebrated."

During the past two years they sponsored two tournaments, for players of all sexual orientations. The Justin Campaign hosted an evening talk in Brighton, around the topic of homophobia in soccer. They played a prominent role in the first-ever Pride Festival in Nor-

wich – Fashanu's hometown. They met with officials of the Football Association, Britain's governing body.

Then, with a website (www.thejustincampaign.com) and some committed volunteers, they targeted a day in the middle of the soccer season (and Britain's LGBT History Month). They hoped clubs, players and fans around the world would unite on Feb. 19, bringing communities together "in opposing hate and intolerance in the world's favorite sport."

The day kicked off in Norwich. The Justin Campaign's own soccer team was there, along with Fashanu's niece and the president of the Norwich club. Two members of Parliament blew whistles to start the matches.

In Liverpool, the Merseyside Marauders – a gay club – celebrated. So did Edinburgh's gay HotScots.

There was a flashmob-style photo op in Manchester, organized by PrideSports and Queer Youth Network. Other events took place in Sussex and Exeter.

Internationally, the Justin Campaign spurred a match in Barcelona (with speeches from local politicians), while in Mexico City the Tri Gay Mexico team played the semifinal of their city's gay soccer tournament under the "Football vs. Homophobia" banner.

The Justin Campaign suggested that professional clubs display the Justin Campaign logo with a message of support on their websites, put the logo on scoreboards during games, include the logo and information in match-day programs, and post signs condemning the use

of homophobic language. But despite their efforts, the response from top teams was a pronounced silence. Not one player volunteered to appear in a planned video campaign against homophobia.

Gordon Taylor, president of the 4,000-member Professional Footballers' Association (the British players' union), responded to newspaper reports that players feared being ridiculed by opponents – as well as fans – if they participated in the video.

Taylor said: "Everybody assumes (soccer players) are full of confidence, but it is not easy on issues like this. Remember, there was a time when even black players did not feel they could talk about race."

English soccer is "a beacon of diversity with players from many backgrounds, countries and continents," Taylor added: "It is unacceptable for them to be subjected to abusive chanting, be it racist or homophobic whilst they play. I applaud the ongoing work in this area."

Peter Clayton, chair of the FA's Homophobia in Football advisory group – and openly gay – placed the blame on agents and clubs. "A player coming forward to appear in it would feel he might ignite more vitriol," he said.

Closer to home, a similar campaign is gathering steam. Canadian-based "Speaking About Silence: Homophobia in the Sports World" is part of a broader-based International Day Against Homophobia, set for May 17.

Its bilingual website (www.homophobie.org) lists a number of activities across the country – but only a few involve athletics.

In New Westminster, British Columbia, the Douglas Students' Union will speak to college sports science classes. Members will also hand out brochures, water bottle stickers and pins to raise awareness of sexuality and athletics.

Across the nation in Burlington, Ontario, the Halton Organization for PRIDE and Education has involved local sports figures to attend their International Day festivities. Manitoba's Civil Service Commission will host a lunch-and-learn session on homophobia – and transphobia.

Many of the International Day efforts are non-sport-specific. Gay-Straight Alliances will hand out information, hang posters and conduct seminars. The Alberta Teachers' Association plans to distribute posters and pamphlets to educators. Edmonton's Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services is screening "Beyond Gay: The Politics of Pride." Information will be displayed on the main floor lobby of the Winnipeg Tax Centre.

Individually, all this may not sound like much. But that's not the point. Knowledge is power.

And who knows what Justin Fashanu's life might have been like if – back in the day – he'd come across just one of those posters, information tables or presentations?

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

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