

The Rainbow Times

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Your LGBTQ News Connection in Western Mass., Northern Ct. and Southern Vt.

Queer Justice: Atty. Dexter revisits the "Arresting a minor" column **Page 5**

LGBT Health: HIV & HAART ... what you need to know. **Page 4**

Post-Northampton Pride night life ... yes, there is more after Pride! **Page 2**

Freeheld: The Legacy of Laurel Hester, a film you can't miss! **Page 8**

Exxon/Mobilepays to have articles written to de-bunk global warming? Find out more! **Page 9**

Groundbreaking guide 'Coming out as a transgender' helps trans with coping **Page 10**



The best Lesbian & Gay films? Don't miss

Pages 8 & 9

NoHo Pride: The Countdown is on

BY: NICOLE LASHOMB
TRT Editor-in-Chief

The 26th Annual Northampton Pride Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride March & Rally will commence on Saturday May 5th at noon in Lampron Park, according to Northampton Pride officials.

"The march will begin at 12 noon from Lampron Park on Bridge Street (Rt.9). and will proceed through downtown Northampton to the Armory St. Parking lot (behind Thornes Market). The rally will start when the march arrives at the rally site and end at 5pm," said Mark Carmien, Entertainment Committee,

Northampton Pride.

Each year, Northampton Pride relies on the support and help of its incredible volunteers. This year, there has been great success but Northampton Pride is still actively seeking approximately 30 more volunteers according to Lisa Downing, Volunteer Coordinator, Northampton Pride.

"As of right now we have about 60% of the volunteer slots filled with more people coming forward each day," said Downing. "Without volunteers, there would be no Pride. They truly are the life-blood. There is still time to volunteer. We are still looking for people to help with set-up on Friday



Photo courtesy of Chase

from 4-6. We also need help with clean-up after the rally on Saturday between the hours of 5 - 7.

There are lots of other positions still open during the morning and afternoon on Saturday to help with

selling t-shirts and drinks

See Pride Page 3

Wisconsin gay marriage activists warn Bay State

BY KEN MAGUIRE/AP

BOSTON (AP) — Lawmakers and gay rights activists from Wisconsin where voters approved a ban same-sex marriage last year are urging their Massachusetts counterparts to avoid a statewide vote, with one saying it lets "mob rule" dictate on a question of discrimination.

The admonition comes on a video being unveiled

last weekend at house parties across the state, and being sent to Massachusetts lawmakers considering a proposed constitutional amendment outlawing gay marriage.

Created by MassEquality, the DVD is the latest lobbying effort by gay rights groups who are trying to preserve their right to marriage, made possible by the historic

2003 court ruling allowing same-sex marriage in Massachusetts.

"It's a crapshoot sometimes when you take it to the voter," Wisconsin Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison, says on the 11-minute video. "Do you really want mob rule deciding who's going to be discriminated against and who's not going to be discriminated against?"

In Wisconsin, a ban on gay marriage and civil unions passed with 59 percent of the statewide vote in November, after lawmakers sent it to the ballot.

"One thing that Massachusetts could learn from Wisconsin is that you just can't underestimate how difficult it is to beat one of these amendments," activist Chris Ott says on the video.

Kris Mineau of the Massachusetts Family Institute, which collected more than 120,000 signatures in support of the amendment, took issue with Pocan's use of "mob rule."

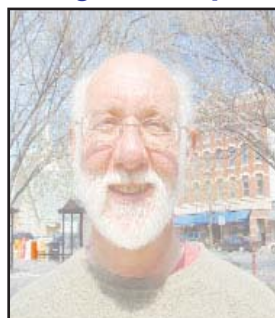
"That's a gross hyperbole, and totally uncalled

See Bay State Page 3

The autopsy of VA Tech gunman pointed to no psychological problem. Why do you think such an act was committed?

"I think he was mentally unstable, I think he was just a deeply angry young man. You can look at all the books you'd like but it's very difficult to diagnose these kinds of things. I have a lot of sympathy for not only his family, but anyone who tried to help him."

- John Sinton, Florence, MA



"I couldn't speculate on why someone would do such a horrible thing. I can only look back to some of the other tragedies that happened and perhaps relate it somehow to feelings of alienation."

- Diane Mitchell, Geneva, NY



"I would say social alienation. I think a lot of kids and young adults are so alienated and angry, and I think that doesn't have to come down to something that's a neurological defect—that's simply, we fail our children all the time."

- Sarah Lalbee, Patterson, NJ



EDITORIALS

Love, Rights and the Rest of It

By: J.M. THE JP*
TRT Columnist

On May 5, 2007, it will be Cinco de Mayo, Kentucky Derby Day, and we will be marching through downtown Northampton to celebrate our lives. A march is defined as "moving steadily" or "making steady progress." As a procession, it may be either to support or protest something.

In 1981, it was all about protesting our lack of rights, and most of our supporters were ourselves. The steady progress made since then has led to what today is a blend of supporting our rights, having more allies than we would have imagined in the 80's, and protesting continued inequality and bigotry. We march forward—with greater diversity and strength—and yet our road continues to be uncertain.

Meanwhile, Europride is in its thirteenth year.

Madrid was chosen for the official Europride march, and they expect up to 2 million people to attend. There will be a week of parties, a conference, and many celebrations. The Europride march is considered significant because of the sheer number of attendees. While same sex marriage and civil rights of some kind are the norm in most



J.M. the JP

western European countries, EU citizens are painfully aware of the fear and violence experienced by their counterparts in many eastern European countries and they know that their own rights are not exactly a done deal. Most of the major cities in western Europe will host smaller events (e.g.,

We should celebrate, love and be kind, and continue to march together as we move along steadily. We should never forget our path to here or take for granted what lies ahead.

800,000 last year in London).

Croatia (Zagreb) is the sole brave eastern European site to host a march. Last year, they had 200 people march. Just five years ago, most of the marchers were beaten up by thugs.

It is distressing that the steady progress theory appears to have failed this year in west Jerusalem. A planned march was cancelled and a small rally took place instead because of threats from ultra-

Orthodox Jews, conservative Muslims, and Christian leaders. How nice that these groups who have hated, judged, and killed each other throughout history have such a lovely way to come together to declare that homosexuals are impure and unwelcome in the holy city. Are self-righteous declarations and threatening harm to peaceful marchers acts of kindness and worthy of spiritual cause? I don't think so. This was the first year since 2002 that there has not been a march in west Jerusalem.

What's my message here? We should celebrate, love and be kind,

and continue to march together as we move along steadily. We should never forget our path to here or take for granted what lies ahead. We are part

of a worldwide community of brave and beautiful sisters and brothers who represent a full spectrum of progress, identities, and contributions.

, J. Mary (JM) Sorrell is a Justice of the Peace. She loves the feeling that millions of us from all over the world are communing, celebrating, and marching together over the next two months. Read about Stonewall (June 28, 1969) and know that our counterparts around the globe share and honor this anniversary every year.*

that others know about this newspaper. I am sure that taking on such an endeavor is not an easy task but I know it is one that is valued tremendously in our community.

Once again, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the LGBTQ community.

Sincerely,
K. Jean Martin
West Springfield, MA

but rather it is a forum that addresses pertinent news related issues in our community.

I moved to the Valley 8 years ago with my partner and since our beginning here, we have searched for the type of information that your newspaper contains. We both feel that we truly have a publication that we can call our own.

My partner and I are on our own mission to be sure

Post Northampton Pride night life

By: NICOLE LASHOMB
TRT Editor-in-Chief

I think by now most people know that Northampton Pride is on May 5th from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. As explained in previous articles, the Northampton Pride Committee has worked especially hard this year to bring you a fantastic March and Rally. I hope that you will all support and attend the events offered that day for pride of yourself as well as the organization that brings the festivities to you.

Several times, I have heard that people want to know what is going on Post-Pride. I would like to thank Mark Carmien from *Pride & Joy* who has outlined the following information about the Post Pride events.

God-Des and She Concert

God-Des and She will be in concert the night of Pride, Sat, May 5, at The Eleven's, 140 Pleasant Street, Northampton (across from Sylvester's, next to Tully O'Reilly's Pub). The concert starts at 9pm, but the doors open at 8pm. *God-Des and She* have been featured on Logo TV and The L Word. This hip-hop lesbian rap star has a style that will get you on your feet and moving! Yes, I'm sure they'll

play the "Lick It" song (which, every time I play it here in the store, gets everyone's attention!).

Tickets are \$20 and available at *Pride & Joy*. 21+ with proper ID. For more info. contact: djthonse@yaho.com

Dance Party with DJ Thonsey

Immediately following the *God-Des and She* concert, starting at 10 p.m. at The Eleven's, there will be a dance party with DJ Thonsey. Thonsey will be spinning the hottest, latest hits and the party will go til the wee hours of Sunday morning. Tickets for the dance are \$10 and available at *Pride & Joy*. 21+ with proper ID. For more info, contact: djthonse@yaho.com

"Boot Camp" Men's Dance Party

The guys over at *Monoho.com* are sponsoring "Boot Camp" dance party on the night of Pride, Sat, May 5, at the WWII Club, 50 Conz Street,

Northampton. The party starts at 8 p.m. and lasts 'til 12 midnight when the club closes. 4 hours of dancing with DJ Lenny from Purgatory in Provincetown! So - I'm guessing a military theme party at the WWII Club will mean lots of camo shorts and perhaps a few dog tags - maybe some camo netting on the walls?

Tickets are \$10 in advance (\$15 at the door) and available at *Pride & Joy*. *Proceeds from the dance will benefit Northampton Pride and Tapestry Health*. Admission will be 21+ with proper ID. For more info. contact: www.monoho.com or philipsongroup@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to drop by TRT's booth the day of Pride. Members of our staff will be present and we would love to meet you. Have a great time at this year's 26th Pride and remember to always be safe and proud. Happy Pride!

Letter to the editor: A Real Need for us

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for such a wonderful newspaper. Our community has needed something like this for such a long time and already it is making a tremendous impact with in it.

I specifically enjoy that this publication truly focuses on LGBTQ issues and is not just a forum for entertainment purposes,

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13 Old South St. • Suite 2C
Northampton, MA 01060

www.therainbowtimesmass.com
editor@therainbowtimesmass.com
Phone: 413-204-8959 • Fax: 866-310-8512

Publisher Grisel M. Ocasio	Viviana Valiente L.J. Cruz
Editor-In-Chief Nicole Lashomb	Jane Hamel
Sales & Distribution Ben Peterson	Writers: Lindsay Wilson (Street Sense) J.M. Sorrell
Columnists: Dr. Renee Lang Atty. Jennifer Dexter	Webmaster: Jarred Johnson

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COVER STORIES

Pride from Page 1

and people to act as rally monitors during the afternoon to make sure that things are running smoothly," said Downing.

As with any large event, there are always last-minute details to tend to in order to ascertain the success of the event. However, all major tasks are set into place and ready for your family and friends to enjoy.

"Most of the details are taken care of at this point, but there are last minute tasks that need to be done such as the distribution of Pride guides, putting up posters in the whole Pioneer Valley area," said Melinda Shaw, Northampton Pride Chair. "On the day-before and day-of Pride, tasks include setting up and organizing the site for the rally. In addition, we are still doing last minute vendor intake and answering contingent questions for the parade."

This year there were approximately eight primary committee members who did most of the pre-planning and organization of the event, with a few others who have had peripheral roles, according to Shaw.

"Pride needs your help! We have a fun group of people, and, we would be less stressed out if we had more help," said Shaw. "Please consider donating some time and energy to help us at this event and in this coming year for Pride 2008! If you can't donate



The crowd gathered together to listen to last years performances at Northampton Pride, 2007.

Photo: Rachel Fagen

time, we'll happily accept money. You can send in a donation directly to us, or give generously on Pride day. Every little bit helps."

This year, featured performing artists include *Ari Gold, Levi Kreis, Julie Loyd, Kristen Gass, Becky Chase, King St. Boiz, AIDS Foundation Drag Performance*, and *Athens Boys Choir*, Katz, who is also the emcee. In addition, there will be sign-language interpreters as well to ensure that all people are experiencing the best that Pride has to offer.

Speakers include *Mayor Clare Higgins, Matt McTighe* (Mass Equality Political Director), *Gunner Scott* (MA Trans Political Caucus), and a Generation Q speaker. State Rep. Cheryl Coakley-Rivera, previously scheduled as one of the speakers, will not make it to the event as scheduled, according to the

Representative's officials.

There will be vendor booths, food, beverages, an expanded kid's area, and much more. All are welcome to this free event.

To volunteer at this year's Pride March and Rally, please contact Northampton Pride's volunteer coordinator, Lisa Downing, at 413-529-1932 or e-mail blissfulsunshine@yahoo.com

The full schedule of events, map of the route and other important details can be found online at www.NorthamptonPride.org and at the Northampton Pride Guide inserted this year in The Rainbow Times (see center pages). This year's Guide is also brought to you free, from the Northampton Pride Committee.

Bay State from Page 1

for," he said. "It was an exercise in democracy."

The video also includes Massachusetts grandparents, saying their lesbian daughter's marriage should be protected, and Lynn native Peter Hams arguing in support of his two mothers. MassEquality hopes the video strikes a chord with the handful of lawmakers who could kill the amendment.

"We're working on a couple-dozen legislators," said Marc Solomon, the group's campaign director. "We have a full-on campaign to encourage legislators to come our way."

The video is expected to be shown at dozens of weekend house parties designed to recruit more supporters.

Traditional marriage supporters are backing a proposed constitutional amendment, which needs

the support of one-quarter of lawmakers—or 50—in two successive legislative sessions before landing on the statewide ballot.

In January, on the last day of their last session, lawmakers voted 62-134 to forward the question on to the new Legislature.

The House and Senate are scheduled to meet in a joint constitutional convention May 9, although both sides expect it will be continued to a later date.

"People want to vote," said Lisa Barstow, spokeswoman for VoteOnMarriage.org, which supports the amendment. "They haven't had the opportunity to vote. You could say the same thing about abortion."

Solomon said there are 57 lawmakers today who he expects would support the amendment, a decrease from 62

because of the November elections and the resignation of Robert Travaglini, the former Senate President.

"Our job is to reduce that number to below 50," he said. "Our side almost always loses. When a majority votes on the rights of a minority, it's almost always the case that the minority group loses, historically."

Massachusetts gay rights activists hoped new Senate President Therese Murray, who will preside over the next joint session May 9, would use any one of a number of parliamentary maneuvers to block a vote.

Murray could call for the vote then or, as has been more typical on Beacon Hill, decide to recess the convention to a later date.

The Plymouth Democrat supports gay marriage but has said that ultimately she wants to give lawmakers a chance to weigh in.

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**NoHo Pride
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LGBT HEALTH

HIV and HAART: What you need to know, part 2

BY: DR. RENEE LANG, ND*
TRT Medical Writer

This week I focus on HIV treatment. The primary treatment of HIV is HAART (highly active retroviral therapy). HAART aims to decrease the number of HIV-infected cells and the rate of replication of HIV. HAART combines three or more medications from multiple classes. Often the combination cocktail includes a protease inhibitor (PI) and two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), or two NRTIs and a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTIs). These cocktail prescriptions require precise dosing and adherence in order to optimize efficacy.

In the case of HIV, the frequent cell reproduction increases the chance of mutation. These mutations

may allow the new cell to avoid the medication, creating a drug resistance. Strict adherence to medication schedules is necessary to decrease the chances of mutation and resistance. The recent introduction of Atripla, a one-a-day HIV treatment, may increase adherence and overall efficacy.

The symptoms of AIDS arise from an increased viral load and subsequent decreased immunity. The HIV attacks T-cells of the immune system, decreasing overall effectiveness of the immune system. As a result, the body becomes susceptible to other viral, bacterial, and fungal infections. These co-infections decrease the quality of life and cause many of the symptoms of AIDS. The symptoms arise only when the virus has depleted the immune system.

This level of immune system depletion can take



Dr. Renee Lang, ND

up to ten years in HIV infected individuals. The use of HAART therapy in individuals with a low viral count and a normal/high T-cell count is not practical in light of extensive side-effects and long-term toxicity. Recent research shows that age plays a role in the body's ability to withstand the development of AIDS. Individuals over 55 have a much higher risk than 25 year olds with the same CD4 count and viral load.

Side Effects

The side effects of HAART include multiple conditions and symptoms, which account for drug failure due to non-compliance. HAART most often causes gastrointestinal side effects including nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, heartburn, diarrhea, and constipation. Liver and renal toxicity commonly arise from specific medications and should be watched closely.

Some individuals suffer from mood fluctuations, dizziness, nightmares, severe depression, and insomnia while on HAART. Others may experience allergic reactions to one or more of the medications in their regimen.

These symptoms and more cause many people to discontinue therapy. Proper counseling and education for each individual is necessary to ensure

compliance.

Drug Interactions

HAART medications interact with multiple medications and drugs including barbiturates, amphetamines, ecstasy, benzodiazepines, and methadone. Always discuss your current and past use of pharmaceuticals with your physician before beginning HAART.

Some of the HAART medications interact with herbal remedies and supplements. In some cases this interaction increases the efficacy of the medication. Sometimes natural remedies interfere with the ability of the medication to work. Seek the advice of a board-certified naturopathic doctor or other trained practitioner before using any herbal or supplemental remedy.

St. John's Wort, an herbal remedy, should not be taken with certain HIV

medications.

Supportive therapies

Naturopathic medicine, herbal medicine, homeopathy, and acupuncture all offer solutions to decrease the side effects from HAART medication. Those on HAART would benefit from working with a trained practitioner to decrease side effects and improve quality of life.

I hope that you have found this article helpful. For those of you engaged in risky behavior, get tested. HIV still exists, and evidence shows that many of those infected don't know their status. Only when you know what's going on with your body can you make a change.

* Please consult your physician when making any changes in your life. This medical column is used for informational purposes only. Send questions to: dr.rlang@thehealingway.net

Bay Area doctors promote Pap tests for gay men to combat cancer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Some Bay Area doctors are promoting Pap tests for gay men to reduce rising rates of anal cancer.

U.S. cases of anal cancer have risen 37 percent in the last 10 years, compared to a 1 percent increase in overall cancer cases. Part of the increase is believed to be because of better reporting.

Anal Pap smears would help doctors detect precancerous lesions before they

turn malignant, said Dr. Joel Palefsky, director of the Anal Neoplasia Clinic at the University of California, San Francisco.

"We haven't proven it yet, but we believe that we are likely to be preventing anal cancer," said Palefsky, who is preparing a report on anal cancer prevention.

Other doctors say there is disagreement over

whether the tests are necessary or effective. The test should be left to the

Clara Medical Center.

The American Cancer Society said there were

Overall, more women than men get anal cancer. But the disease is disproportionately high among gay men and people who are HIV-positive ...

doctor's and patient's discretion, said Dr. Michael Horberg, director of HIV-AIDS for Kaiser Permanente and an HIV specialist at Kaiser Santa

about 4,660 cases of anal cancer in the United States last year, resulting in 660 deaths. Anal cancer accounts for less than 1 percent of cancer cases

and is readily treatable if detected.

Overall, more women than man get anal cancer. But the disease is disproportionately high among gay men and people who are HIV-positive or have other immune-suppressive conditions.

Studies have found rates of anal cancer as high as 35 cases for every 100,000 gay men, similar to rates for cervical cancer before

women began routinely getting Pap tests 60 years ago. Cervical cancer rates have dropped 70 percent since then. Both cancers are caused by the same sexually transmitted virus.

Anal cancer is a silent issue that's been building for at least 10 years, said Jason Riggs, a spokesman for the Stop AIDS Project. And it's sad because it's incredibly preventable.

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Too young to be arrested, revisited

By: ATTORNEY JENNIFER L. DEXTER*
TRT COLUMNIST

In the last issue I promised a reader that I would conduct further research on the question "What age is too young for someone to be arrested?" Research on adolescent brain development has raised questions of a child's ability to fully comprehend the consequences of their actions and about the ability of the adolescent brain to process information. Although this issue has not been litigated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, apparently it is in the forefront in Florida:

On April 9, 2007 *The New York Times* published a story about a six-year-old Avon Park, Florida child who was arrested and carted off by police after having a temper tantrum while in school. The article stated that the child became defiant while in her kindergarten class.

She began to kick and scream and pulled a teacher's hair. It was at this point the school administrators told the child if she continued the behavior they would call the police. (My question would be,



Attorney Jennifer Dexter

would a six-year-old understand that threat?) When the police arrived, the child (understandably) ran from the police and hid under a desk. The police described this behavior as the child was "trying to take flight." The cops pulled her from under the desk and handcuffed her. The officers were not fooling around. In the eyes of the cops the 6-year-old was a criminal, and in Avon Park she would be treated like any other felon. There was a problem, though. The handcuffs were not manufactured with kindergarten kids in mind. The chief explained: "You can't handcuff them on their wrists because their wrists are too small, so you have to handcuff them up by their biceps." The child

was booked, finger printed, a mug shot taken, and placed in jail.

I guess anything can happen in America. Civil Rights activists have taken an interest in situations such as this. As noted above, the age issue has not been litigated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; but this issue raises many Constitutional concerns.

If you are interested in the studies on brain development or more information on the article mentioned herein, e-mail Queer Justice at queerjustice@comcast.net.

**Attorney Jennifer L. Dexter earned a B.A. in Psychology from The University of Central Florida. She moved to Massachusetts to attend law school at The Western New England College of Law in Springfield, Mass. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and has a Solo General Practice in the Pioneer Valley Area.*

The information contained herein is intended for educational purposes only and does not represent legal advice. Should you need legal advice, please contact an attorney.

If you have legal questions that are unanswered, or if you would like to know more about a specific topic, then send your questions to: queerjustice@comcast.net

Jennifer L. Dexter

Attorney at Law & Notary Public



Specializing in: Real Estate, Family Law, Wills, Education Law & Criminal Law
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Springfield, MA 01103
attydexter@comcast.net
413-214-7625

This could be your same-sex marriage announcement

Jeffers Healy-Christopher Cook

Jeffers Healy and Christopher Cook were joined in a holy union ceremony at All Saints' Parish in Beverly Hills, Calif. The Rev. Jimmy Bartz, former state rector of the parish, presided. Their two children, ages 5 and 1, joined the ceremony.

Cook is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Cook of Greenville and Santa Barbara, Calif. He graduated from UCLA and is the director of annual giving for the state of



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TECH NEWS & MORE

He said, she said: Quotes from the first democratic debate

HILLARY CLINTON
She stood behind her vote on the Senate floor earlier Thursday to force a troop withdrawal from Iraq. "The American people have spoken. The Congress has voted, as of today, to end this war. And now we can only hope that the president will listen. I'm very proud of the Congress ... for putting together a piece of legislation which says we will fund our troops and protect them, we will limit the number of days that they can be deployed, and we will start to bring them home."

She wouldn't create a brand-new health care system right away. "We can save money within the existing system. I am not ready to put new money into a system that doesn't work until we've tried to figure out how to get the best outcomes from the money we already have."

JOHN EDWARDS
"On the issue of climate change, we ought to cap carbon emissions in the United

States. We ought to invest in clean alternative sources of energy. We ought to invest in carbon sequestration technology, in coal technology. A billion dollars, at least, into making sure we build the most fuel-efficient vehicles on the planet. We ought to ask Americans to be patriotic about something other than war. To be willing to conserve."

"I was wrong to vote for this war. Unfortunately, I'll have to live with that forever. And the lesson I learned

from it is to put more faith in my own judgment."

CHRIS DODD
"Stateless terrorism is a multinational problem. It's a tactic. It requires a multinational response. This administration has walked away from that. The very institu-

tions we need to build to have us effectively engage and fight back against terrorism, this administration seems to take the other track and move in another direction."

"I believe that civil unions are appropriate and proper. I

don't support same-sex marriage. And the distinction there I think is one of more of what's available, what the traditions are, and the _ over the years. But, basically, that's a distinction I make. Strongly support those civil unions."

IBM to use video-game chips in its signature piece of hardware

ARMONK, New York (AP)—The powerful "Cell" microprocessor that fuels Sony Corp.'s PlayStation 3 video game console will be available in IBM mainframe computers so those high-performance machines can run complex online games and virtual worlds.

Jointly developed by IBM, Sony and Toshiba Corp., Cell is touted as a "super-computer on a chip" because of its design, which includes one central processing unit helped by eight additional

processors working on specific tasks.

Because of that unusual architecture, Cell's use outside of PlayStations has been limited to specialized hardware for graphics-intensive functions such as military or medical applications.

Mainframes are big computers commonly used for transaction processing and other centralized tasks. Despite their old-fashioned reputation, IBM's mainframe sales have been on an upswing, as IBM has

encouraged customers to perform a wider variety of computing functions on them, since mainframes can run multiple processors and operating systems at once.

Adding Cell chips to mainframes to make the machines into hubs for online gaming and simulations could bolster that strategy, analysts said.

It opens up some new potential frontiers," said Charles King of Pund-IT Research.

We want your thoughts on ...

TRT's ownership is considering a shift in the way the news is brought to you. Would a bi-weekly paper continue to be enough for the community? Or, would its readers enjoy a longer lasting monthly? What about a weekly? We want your opinions! At TRT we want your input, and to know your wishes about this, your LGBTQ paper. What are they? Please send your comments to: editor@therainbowtimesmass.com or publisher@therainbowtimesmass.com

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Q ENTERTAINMENT

Freeheld: The Legacy of Laurel Hester, a film not to miss!

By: J.M. THE JP
TRT Columnist

Freeheld: The Legacy of Laurel Hester is a documentary film that tells the story of the retired police detective in New Jersey who sought pension benefits for her partner as she was dying of lung cancer.

In 38 minutes, filmmaker Cynthia Wade has captured a love story that is effective in conveying simple truths about duty, justice, and equality. The film won a Special Jury Prize at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival, and its northeast premiere will be held in Northampton at Pleasant Street Theater on

Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6, 2007.

You do not want to miss this film.

Cynthia Wade lived with Laurel Hester and Stacie Andree during the last eight weeks of Hester's life. She attended the now infamous Ocean County Freeholders' meetings with the couple, and she filmed them at home and at medical visits. Ms. Wade was the only person allowed to film Hester's memorial service.

Some readers may recall the outcome of this case, but for the sake of honoring the film's artful chronology and for those of you who missed the national press surrounding it, suffice it to say that the film moves beautifully through the process as audience members are effortlessly drawn to the struggle and deeply concerned for the plight of both women.

Okay, I'll drop one gem. The sources of support for Hester are varied, surprising in some cases, and uplifting in the face of a world too filled with complacency. It seems hard to dismiss what is fair when someone has earned such respect and admiration.

In a recent phone conversation with Cynthia Wade, I learned more about her as a filmmaker, an educator, and a story teller.

JM: Do you have plans to

make films in the future that address issues of discrimination for LGBT people?

Wade: "I have no specific plans at the moment. Films find me. They say, 'Make me; make me.' For me, this is tantamount to a marriage. The average documentary film takes five years to make from beginning to end. While this film took a shorter amount of time, I fell in love with the subject matter almost immediately, and as with previous films, it consumed me in every way."

Q: What do you think is the single biggest obstacle to full equality for LGBT people?

A: "I'm heterosexual and married, yet I have always lived in places where diversity is embraced and understood. In some parts of the country, LGBT people and issues are 'the other,' and therefore not so embraced. But, when it becomes very personal, equality becomes important. The run-of-the-mill New Jersey police officers [in *Freeheld*] are examples of this. Where I live (Park Slope/Brooklyn), my oldest daughter came home to me one day demanding to know why she didn't have two mommies!"

Q: Your editing of this film is remarkable. Describe the process.

A: "The editing took nearly eight months and had



many incarnations. You see in the credits that there were many people involved. Most documentaries are too long, and audiences sometimes get bored with this. *Freeheld* had to be short for specific reasons, so everyone had to put their egos aside. One person would work on editing, and then it got kicked to a new person, etc."

Q: Is there content you wish you could have shown in the film?

A: "I only knew Laurel for 10 weeks, and just saw Stacie as the caretaker due to Laurel's illness. I would have liked to have known them as a healthy couple. There was old footage of Laurel working with prosecutors that was not kept. Had she been a man, she would have gone beyond lieutenant in her career. On the DVD version of this film (due to be released Fall 2007), you will get to see more footage of family members who supported Laurel and Stacie."

Q: You are an educator. Who do you mostly learn from and how do you mentor film students?

A: "I love working with other women in New York, and I respond best to women filmmakers. At

festivals, women offer support, and there is less posturing than from the men."

"It is important that women learn the craft of filmmaking so they can carry around equipment. Stanford was a techie boot camp for me, so I learned early on. I teach camera work at the New School. Cameras that weigh up to 23 pounds are made for 200 pound men, but I am not a 200 pound man, and I shoot film. Shooting/cinematography is important. Women should not have to rely on men for it."

Q: How do you balance various aspects of your life?

A: "There is no balance. In the case of this film, my husband (Matt) made this possible. I had recently given birth to our second child, and did not intend to make another film so soon. Then I attended a Freeholders' meeting and was hooked. As the mother of two young children, I do draw the line by making domestic films only. Many filmmakers are in Darfur or Iraq these days. I find plenty of stories in this country."

Q: Are you still in touch with Stacie?

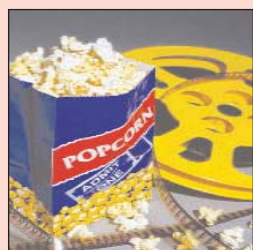
A: "Yes, very much so.

The first screening of this film was a private one with her. We then saw it again with a few of her friends. She hopes to see it publicly in New York or New Jersey when she is ready, but it is still so raw since it has been only 14 months since Laurel's death. I am touched that she and Dane Wells [Hester's first police partner] now have a wonderful friendship, which could have been unlikely. She's a mechanic, and he loves antique cars. They both loved Laurel."

Cynthia Wade is a 1989 Smith College graduate. She majored in theatre, and through exposure to Pleasant Street Theater, she decided to make a documentary film as her senior thesis. This is a coming home for Wade, who credits Pleasant Street Theater as changing her life.

Wade won the "Best of the Fest" award at the Northampton Independent Film Festival in 2003 for her HBO America Undercover film, *Shelter Dogs*. The film won numerous awards around the country. She hopes that *Freeheld* will influence people of all ages and from all backgrounds to feel how important equality is for everyone.

Freeheld will be shown at Pleasant Street Theater on Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6, 2007 at 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. both days. The filmmaker, Cynthia Wade, will be available for Q&A sessions at each showing. Do not miss this one!



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* By wolfevideo.com

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PRIDE ENVIRONMENT

Exxon/Mobile pays to write articles to de-bunk global warming?

Dear EarthTalk: Did Exxon/Mobil really pay scientists and economists to write articles trying to de-bunk global warming?

—Rosemary R., via e-mail

A February 2007 report in the British newspaper, The Guardian, fell like a ton of bricks on efforts by ExxonMobil, the world's largest and most profitable oil company, to repair its damaged environmental reputation. According to the report, the Exxon-financed American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a conservative Washington, D.C. "think tank," offered scientists and economists \$10,000 each, plus expenses, to write articles undercutting the dire findings of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) about the extent and impacts of human-caused global warming.

The ties between ExxonMobil, AEI and the highest levels of government go way back. AEI has received more than \$1.6 million from ExxonMobil over the years, and more than 20 of its staffers have worked as consultants for the Bush administration. Former Exxon head Lee Raymond is still an AEI board member.

A month before the Guardian report, the Boston-based Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) released its own report documenting ExxonMobil's \$16 million

in donations since 1998 to 43 organizations working to discredit the science of human-induced climate change. UCS joins a growing chorus of voices asking the company to turn the corner on global warming and start embracing a transition away from fossil fuels.

"ExxonMobil has manufactured uncertainty about the human causes of global warming just as tobacco companies denied their product caused lung cancer," says Alden Meyer, UCS's Director of Strategy & Policy. "A modest but effective investment has allowed the oil giant to fuel doubt about global warming to delay government action just as Big Tobacco did for over 40 years."

In September 2006, Britain's leading scientific academy, the Royal Society, asked the company to stop supporting groups that "misrepresented the science of climate change." In response, ExxonMobil said that it funded groups that research "significant policy issues and promote informed discussion on issues of direct relevance to the company" but that such groups do not speak for the company.

No doubt feeling some heat, ExxonMobil issued a statement recently in response to an IPCC update: "There is increasing evidence that the Earth's climate has warmed on average about 0.6 C in the last century. Many global ecosystems, especially the polar areas,



According to the Union of concerned Scientists, ExxonMobil has contributed \$16 million since 1998 to 43 organizations working to discredit the science of human-induced climate change.

are showing signs of warming. CO2 emissions have increased during this same time period-and emissions from fossil fuels and land use changes are one source of these emissions." The statement also acknowledged that "the risks to society and ecosystems could prove to be significant...it is prudent now to develop and implement strategies that address the risks..."

Whether the company is really ready to aggressively develop alternative energy sources-like its competitors Shell and BP-is yet to be seen. But environmental leaders share a

guarded optimism that the tide is turning in their favor and that

ExxonMobil will back up its words with action-eventually.

Contacts: The Guardian, www.guardian.co.uk/frontpage/story/0,,2004399,00.html; UCS Report, www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/ExxonMobil-Global-Warming-tobacco.html; ExxonMobil, www.exxonmobil.com/corporate/Citizenship/Corp_citizenship_enviro_policy.asp.

Got an environmental question? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com

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10. 50 Ways of Saying Fabulous

* By wolfevideo.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Groundbreaking guide 'Coming out as a transgender,' helps coping

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign and the National Center for Transgender Equality announced the joint release of the groundbreaking new resource guide, *Coming Out as Transgender*, found at www.hrc.org/Template.cfm?Section=About_HRC&CONTENTID=36457&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm

The new publication, available in print and online, offers step-by-step guidance in talking with friends, co-workers and family about being transgender.

"I wish that a resource like this had been available when I was coming out," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the

National Center for Transgender Equality. "Coming out and talking with the people in your life about being transgender is a deeply personal journey; this resource will help point the way."

"Making the decision to come out and be open about being transgender takes incredible courage," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "Our great hope is that this new tool will empower transgender people to begin a new dialogue with their friends and family about their lives."

A group of transgender leaders, including HRC Board of Directors member Donna Rose, Joanne Herman, Dr. Michele Angello, Jay Smith Brown and NCTE and HRC staff members, consulted on the text for the guide.

"While no one guide can provide anyone with everything they need for coming out as transgender, this resource will be an important starting point for a lot of people," said Keisling.

The *Coming Out as Transgender* guide helps people understand basic terminology and concepts about being transgender, an umbrella term describ-

ing a wide range of people who feel their gender differently from what other people often expect. The guide also outlines the emotional spectrum that many people experience as they begin the coming-out process. It also offers some simple steps to consider when having coming-out conversations.

"Our entire community feels the benefit from each additional GLBT American who chooses to live openly. HRC is proud to partner with NCTE on this resource to help transgender people, who often face some of the biggest challenges in coming out, tell their stories," said Solmonese.

To order a copy of the guide, please visit: www.hrc.org/Template.cfm?Section=Get_informed4&template=/Surveys/SurveyDisplay.cfm&SurveyID=39

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

HRC on Juanita Millender-McDonald's life & passing

WASHINGTON—Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese made the following statement regarding the passing of Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald, D-Calif.

"With the passing of Congresswoman Millender-McDonald, our community has lost a true friend and compassionate ally for equality. Throughout her career in Congress, Representative Millender-McDonald always stood on the side of fairness for the gay, lesbian, bisexual

and transgender community and was a leader in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic," said Solmonese. "She made history as the first African-American woman to chair a House committee. At this difficult time, our community pauses to remember the legacy she left behind and to send our sympathies to her family, friends and staff."



Juanita Millender-McDonald

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC

strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

Out Film CT Receives 2007 Culture & Tourism Award

Out Film CT, producer of the Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival is pleased to announce that the Festival has been selected to receive the 2007 "Outstanding Project Award" by the

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism. This award is in recognition for bringing twenty years of outstanding LGBT Films to Connecticut audiences.

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

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

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

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

industries."

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

In addition, on May 2nd, Shane Engstrom, Secretary of Out Film CT will be given a Culture & Tourism Distinguished Advocate Award. Recipients of the Distinguished Advocate Awards are Connecticut residents who, without monetary compensation, have worked to strengthen, preserve or promote the arts, history, film and tourism in the state and made a significant impact on one or more organizations, or have made important contributions to their communities, regions or the state.

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"FAMILY" NEWS FROM AROUND

US transgender student misses title as prom king

By: Garance Burke/AP

FRESNO, California (AP) —A transgender candidate for prom king made an elegant appearance to the Fresno High School dance in a tuxedo, but missed winning the title, school officials said.

Cinthia Covarrubias, 17, identifies as transgender, an umbrella term that covers all people whose outward appearance and internal sense of being male or female does not match their gender at birth. Gay youth advocates believe it was the first time in the U.S. that an openly transgender student had run for prom royalty.

A prom is a high school dance held in the spring for students who are about to graduate.

School officials added the teen's name to the ballot for prom king Thursday although she is biologically female, reversing a previous district protocol allowing only males to run for king and only females to run for prom queen. The district's lawyers had recommended the change to comply with a state law protecting students' ability to express their gender

identity on campus.

Covarrubias' peers, however, elected one of her six male competitors, Dan Abril, as prom king on Saturday at an outdoor reception hall festooned with Chinese lanterns Saturday night, Fresno Unified School District spokeswoman Susan Bedi said. School officials did not announce runners up, or the number of votes received by any candidate.

Supporters still hailed Covarrubias' campaign as a major victory for gender expression on campus.

"I hope this opens up something new," Covarrubias said before Saturday's crowning. "I've been really excited about it and feeling a lot of hope."

Spitzer to press ahead on gay marriage bill

By: Marc Humbert/AP

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Gov. Eliot Spitzer pledged Monday to introduce legislation in the next few weeks that would legalize gay marriage in New York, even while conceding the state Legislature was not ready to agree with him on the issue.

"I do not think there is a realistic shot that it gets passed, but I will submit it because it's a statement of

principle that I believe in and I want to begin that dynamic," Spitzer said.

Spitzer's move speeds up his timetable for putting the issue in front of state lawmakers. While the New York Democrat had pledged during his campaign for governor last year to propose such legislation, he had subsequently said only that he would do so before the end of his first four-year term.

Spitzer said recently that he had decided it was time to press ahead with the issue.

Spitzer had previously announced his legislative priorities, including an overhaul of New York's campaign finance law, for the remainder of the Legislature's regular 2007 session that is to conclude in late June. He had not included gay marriage among those priorities.

Spitzer explained that his earlier list of priorities was based on "the art of the possible."

Thus far, state Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a Manhattan Democrat, has not taken a position on gay marriage while Joseph Bruno, the state Senate's Republican majority leader, has said he is opposed.

Spitzer had said he

expects a multiyear battle over the gay marriage issue.

Currently, gay marriage is only legal in the United States in Massachusetts.

Spitzer plan to quickly move ahead on the gay marriage issue was first reported in last week's editions of The New York Times.



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TRT Calendar

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Mature Lesbian Support Group;

Group for women 55+ meets monthly at the Northampton Council on Aging at 240 Main St., at 6 p.m., the second Monday of each month. FMI: Jennifer Higgins at 413-587-1226.

DISCUSSION GROUP FOR LESBIANS 40+

meets every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Stonewall Center at UMass. Topics chosen by group consensus the previous week. This is a warm and welcoming group of intelligent women. Information email to: JBGreenize@aol.com

Older Lesbian Discussion Groups-

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May 7, 2007 | 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 West 18th Street, New York, New York. Join Lambda Legal supporters for our annual Liberty Awards. This year's award will honor Gay Men's Health Crisis for its vital role in both the HIV and LGBT movements for the past 25 years and be accepted by Chief Executive Officer Marjorie Hill, PhD. Please contact Koren Manning at 212-809-8585 ext. 231 for more information. To purchase online tickets go to: <http://ga4.org/lambdalegal/events/libertyawards/de tails.tcl>

NORTHAMPTON PRIDE MARCH AND RALLY Sat.

May, 5th in downtown Northampton; 12-5

May 5, Saturday, **Pride&Joy booth** at Northampton, MA Pride. Authors of Courting Equality: A Documentary History of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages will be available to chat and sign books.

LGBT/Queer Catholic

mass, May 13 (Sunday), 4:30 p.m. at the Helen Hills Chapel, Smith College in Northampton MA. Main celebrant will be Fr. Jim Miracky, SJ. Dinner, courtesy of the Smith College Chapel and Office of Institutional Diversity, will follow at 6:00 p.m. at the Bodman Lounge. For questions, comments, and RSVPs, please write to

wuxingqi03@yahoo.com.

Courting Equality Documentary;

A Documentary History of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages; June 28, Thursday, 7-9 p.m. Food for Thought Bookstore, Amherst, MA. Authors will show slides from the book and discuss the ongoing marriage equality struggle in MA. Co-sponsored with the Stonewall Center of UMass.

Blood Pressure Clinic;

Cooley Dickinson Hospital, 30 Locust St., Northampton. Cardiac Rehab area near Main Entrance; Free blood pressure clinic offered the third Thursday of every month. Any community member is welcome, no referral needed; FREE; Contact (413) 582-2251.

WESTERN MASS. YOUTH PRIDE PROM;

May 19th 7p.m. - Midnight; Open Square, 4 Open Square Way Holyoke, MA. FREE. Encouraged to bring a can of food. Schools are encouraged to bring their students. High School age students from all Western Massachusetts high schools are invited. Youth from community organizations throughout the Valley are also encouraged to attend. Support organizations can also sign up to have a table at the prom to distribute materials and information. Call (413) 537-3005 for more information. Monetary donations are being accepted. We hope to provide a safe and fun place for GLBTQ youth and their allies. It will be a great time. Music, food, and fun!

LEGISLATIVE TRAINING AND STRATEGY SESSION;

Hosted by: The Alliance for a Healthy

Tomorrow; Saturday May 5th; 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; Kittredge Center, Holyoke Community College. Event features fun hands-on workshop to learn about the Legislative Process and how a bill becomes a law; information about cutting-edge environmental health legislation pending in the legislature; action steps for a safer and healthier environment; light refreshments. Let's "take back our health" and make sure our elected officials are doing all they can to protect our families, communities and environment. For general inquiries contact Rebecca Lisi: rlisi@cleanwater.org

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Automotive Q&A

By: STEPHEN M. LEWIS

TRT Auto Specialist

Again, thanks for the questions! If you have any auto related questions, no matter how simple, please e-mail them to me at: SteveLewis@Subarumail.com.

Question 1: Are there any problems with the new hybrid cars?

Answer: There are two problems. First, the batteries, which I am told are very expensive, have a life of 60,000 - 100,000 miles. I would say that anything you would gain in fuel consumption savings might be offset by the cost of replacement batteries.

Second, I am told that in an accident, it is conceivable that these batteries may explode and cause a fire. If you are considering a Hybrid, please ask the dealer about these questions. I am not an expert.

Question 2: I bought a car from a friend and now there are some problems with it. Can I make him (or her) fix the problem?

Answer: Massachusetts' law for a private sale is the same as if you purchase the car from a dealer. The car must pass state inspection, no matter what! In this state you cannot sell a car "as is" unless the price of the car is under \$699.00.

Warranties on the car from the seller (private or dealer)



Stephen M. Lewis

President, Steve Lewis Subaru

will vary based on the mileage of the car. However, if one of these warranties is not backed, as Massachusetts' law requires, then the seller must buy the car back.

Lastly, if you like your friends, don't by a car from them. Inevitably, something will come up, and if it does, animosity will abound. Don't lose a friend! There are a lot of cars out there.

Question 3: Living in Massachusetts, is it a good idea to use all season tires year round?

Answer: "All season" tires are fine. Do not confuse them with "mud & snow tires" "Mud & snow tires" are made of a very soft rubber to bond to the ice and snow in winter weather to give you traction. Conversely, on hard roads, they will wear very quickly. Do not put "mud & snow" tires on until December 1st, and remove by April 1st.

Please e-mail me your questions and as always, I hope these answers are helpful to you.

Happy Motoring!

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

POLITICAL NEWS THAT AFFECT US

Momentum for Equality: NH Legislature passes civil unions bill

New Hampshire Becomes Fourth State in the Nation to Recognize Civil Unions for Same-Sex Couples

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign commends New Hampshire legislators for passing a civil unions bill that will permit committed same-sex couples to have the same state-level rights, responsibilities and obligations as married couples. Today, the state Senate passed H.B. 437 by a vote of 14 to 10. A companion bill passed the state House of Representatives with a bipartisan vote of 243 to 129 earlier this month.

"New Hampshire has taken a significant step in giving all families the

equal state rights, responsibilities and protections they need," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "Thanks to the Legislature, Governor John Lynch and countless supporters of fairness across the state, New Hampshire families are significantly more protected today than they were yesterday."

The bill would provide important and much-needed real-world protections, including hospital visitation, medical decision-making and inheritance rights for New Hampshire's same-sex

couples.

Lynch has pledged to sign the bill, which would make New Hampshire the fourth state to recognize civil unions and the ninth to provide some level of protection to committed same-sex couples. Massachusetts provides equal marriage rights; Vermont, Connecticut and New Jersey recognize civil unions; California has domestic partner benefits that provide nearly all the state-level benefits of marriage; Hawaii has a reciprocal beneficiaries law; and Maine, Washington and the

District of Columbia provide registered domestic partners some level of critical protection.

The Human Rights Campaign worked closely with legislators, community groups and local leaders to help elect a fair-minded majority in New Hampshire in 2006, which subsequently voted today to pass the civil unions bill in the Legislature.

"It is my hope that New Hampshire's successful effort will serve as inspiration across the nation that it can be done. This positive result proves that

direct involvement in elections makes a real difference. Were it not for the significant support from HRC, we would not be celebrating today's victory," said Ray Buckley, New Hampshire's Democratic Party chair.

"This is not a state that believes in discrimination. And once people understood that same-gender couples were being denied rights like hospital visitations and the right to inherit the homes they'd shared with their loved ones - stories like that opened our eyes. And once

your eyes are opened, you can't close them again. This is the right thing to do," said Senate President Sylvia Larsen, D-Concord.

Larsen noted that New Hampshire was one of the first states to oppose slavery and, later, to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. New Hampshire also is among the minority of states in amending its constitution (in 1974) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

Los Angeles Times sports columnist: I am a transsexual

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A veteran sports writer for the Los Angeles Times said in his column that he is a transsexual.

Mike Penner told readers Thursday of his struggle to embrace his gender, and said when he returns from vacation in a few weeks he will be known as Christine Daniels. He did not say whether he was having surgery or why he's changing his last name.

"I am a transsexual sports writer," Penner wrote. "It has taken more than 40 years, a million tears and hundreds of hours of soul-wrenching therapy for me to work up the courage to

type those words."

The 49-year-old Penner said his brain has been "wired female" and he's tried to fight off the urge to change sexes. He called writing a story about his sexuality the "most frightening of all the towering mountains of fear I somehow had to confront and struggle to scale."

"How do you go about sharing your most important truth, one you spent a lifetime trying to keep deeply buried, to a world that has grown familiar and comfortable with your facade?" Penner asked.

Penner, who is married to another Los Angeles

Times writer, said he started coming out about two months ago by telling his boss, his barber and a soccer teammate, and that he now feels happier and healthier.

"Mike Penner has been an exemplary contributor to the Los Angeles Times sports pages for over two decades and today's column is no exception," Randy Harvey, the newspaper's sports editor, said in a statement. "The decision to go public cannot have been an easy one and,

See Sports writer Page 16



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EDUCATION & LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

HCC named to NASA Space Grant Consortium

HCC is the only community college from Western Mass. in consortium

HOLYOKE, MA—NASA's Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium this week announced that Holyoke Community College has been accepted as a member institution, a move that will enable eligible HCC students to participate in NASA-sponsored internships and research opportunities.

Formal announcement of the new arrangement was made on April 23 by Jeffrey Hoffman, a former NASA astronaut who currently heads up the Massachusetts consortium from his offices at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in

Cambridge. A crew member on the Discovery, Columbia, Atlantis, and Endeavor space missions, Hoffman now teaches aerospace engineering.

HCC is the only community college in western Massachusetts to join the consortium, which includes 15 educational institutions statewide. The consortium is one of 52 nationally that funds the development and use of space-related educational outreach activities. HCC Dean of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics X. Ran Duan will serve as the campus liaison for the program.

Hoffman said the NASA Space Grant Consortium seeks to stimulate interest in the fields of aeronau-



Jeffrey Hoffman, former NASA astronaut.

tics, engineering, and other scientific fields among college students.

He said the NASA program hopes that the science students of today will join the aeronautics workforce of the future.

"There was a huge spurt of people studying science, engineering and math around the time of the Apollo space mission, but those people are getting ready to retire," he said. "We are interested in community colleges because the major goal of this program is to develop the future aerospace workforce. There's no reason why HCC students shouldn't be a part of that."

Education: From Our House to the Schoolhouse

PFLAG makes schools safer in ways nobody else can. As families, our voices carry tremendous weight in schools. Because PFLAG is in over 500 communities in the nation, our work is localized, reaching some of the smallest schools in rural America.

In 2000, PFLAG launched its multi-year From Our House to the Schoolhouse safe schools campaign because we recognize that schools are "ground zero" in our efforts to stop homophobia in the classroom and create safe learning environments for all students.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) youth, those perceived to be, and even children of GLBT parents, face unspeakable harassment and abuse in schools and are too often effectively denied access to a safe and equal education opportunity. The school culture that fosters and sustains this hostile environment negatively impacts all students.

According to a 2005 survey, nearly two-thirds of GLBT students report being verbally harassed because of their sexual orientation. About half are harassed because of their gender expression, and

nearly 20 percent hear homophobic remarks from staff.

This harassment takes its toll: GLBT students are five times more likely to skip school than the general population. They are also more likely to drop out, suffer from depression or attempt suicide.

This section of the PFLAG website will provide you with tools to learn more about the issues, take action, get assistance from PFLAG, and much more. If you'd like to learn more about any of these topics or get information on how to become a member of PFLAG's Safe Schools listserv, please contact Safe Schools Coordinator, Judy Hoff by e-mailing jhoff@pflag.org.

This article is a courtesy of PFLAG. For more information about this article, please visit: www.pflag.org/from_our_house_to_the_schoolhouse.schools.0.html

**Start your Celebration of Pride Day
At a Pancake and Fruit Breakfast!**

**Hosted by the Unitarian Society of
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In the heart of downtown at 220 Main Street.



**Pancakes, fruit, juice, and coffee will be
served from 8:30 am-11 am.**

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the right of the building. The social hall is downstairs.**

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Northampton Pride March & Rally

Pride Schedule of Events 2007

12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. Pride March

12:30 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. King St. Boiz

12:50 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Welcome (Katz of Athens Boys Choir, Emcee)

1:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m. Proclamation, Mayor Clare Higgins

1:15 p.m. – 1:35 p.m. Becky Chase

1:50 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. Athens Boys Choir

2:10 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Speaker: Gunner Scott, (Mass Transgender Political Caucus)

2:25 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Julie Lloyd

2:45 p.m. – 2:55 p.m. Speaker: Matt McTighe (Political Director, MassEquality)

3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. Kristen Gass

3:20 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Speaker: Generation Q

3:35 p.m. – 3:55 p.m. AIDS Foundation Drag Performance

3:55 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. Levi Kreis

4:20 p.m. – 5:05 p.m. Ari Gold

The March will begin at 12 noon from Lampron Park on Bridge Street (Rt.9). and will proceed through downtown Northampton to the Armory St. Parking lot (behind Thornes Market)

May 5, 2007 • Noon - 5 p.m. • Downtown Northampton

SPORTS

Trans writer from Page 13

while we do not make a habit of commenting on the personal and private lives of our journalists, we do look forward to continuing our relationship into the future."

John Amaechi, the first NBA player to publicly come out of the closet as being gay, said he read Penner's column Thursday after returning from a speaking engagement in Berkeley at the University of California.

"It's incredibly bold and far more courageous than anything I could have done," said Amaechi, who spent five seasons in the NBA. "I commend him."

Gay and lesbian activists praised Penner and the Los Angeles Times.

"Christine's still-unfolding story sends a powerful message about the importance of living openly and honestly as does the Times' public support of her transition," said Neil Giuliano, president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against

Defamation.

Penner has spent more than 20 years at the Los Angeles Times and has covered the Olympics, the

Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and has served as the Times' sports media critic.

Sally M. Masters

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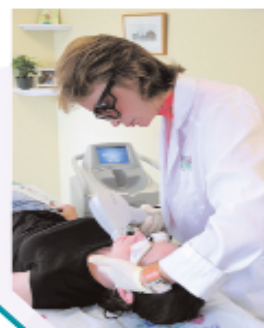
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