

The Rainbow Times

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www.therainbowtimesmass.com

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

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NoHo's LGBTQs and allies show their PRIDE

By: LINDSAY WILSON
TRT Reporter

On Saturday, May 5th, 2007, an estimated 10,000 people filled the Armory St. Parking lot behind Thorn's Market to attend Northampton's 26th annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride March and Rally.

The event, whose main sponsor was The Rainbow Times, showcased booths from many local vendors, and featured entertainment emceed by Katz of Athen Boys Choir, a group that also performed. Other artists performing in the show included: the King St. Boiz, Becky Chase, Julie Llyod, Kristen Gass, AIDS Foundation Drag



Photo courtesy of S.E. Chase

The 26th Annual LGBT Northampton Pride March and Rally drew an estimated record high in attendance, according to Pride Committee members. Northampton Pride's main sponsor, *The Rainbow Times*, will also be sponsoring Connecticut Pride 2007, to be held in Hartford, CT on June 30th. Northampton Pride still continues to accept donations, to make next year's Pride an even larger event.

See Pride Page 3

Coakley warns anti-gay marriage law may be unconstitutional

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Attorney General Martha Coakley warned that a proposed state constitutional referendum seeking to ban gay marriage may be unconstitutional and may trigger protracted litigation if voters endorse the change in the nation's oldest state constitution.

Coakley, in remarks prepared for delivery to the

Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association, reject their calls, the state's chief law enforcement

"The sky has not fallen and life goes on ... the institution of marriage is 'alive and well' in the state, despite predictions that same-sex marriages would wreak havoc."

—Atty. General Martha Coakley

urged the group to press legislators to keep the question off the 2008 ballot. But if the lawmakers

ment official said she would support those challenging the change.

Coakley addressed the

group a day after Gov. Deval Patrick said he was actively lobbying legislators to kill the proposed amendment before it is put on the 2008 ballot.

Lawmakers on Wednesday postponed a vote until at least June 14 after a joint session of the House and Senate convened and quickly recessed without the vote.

Before it can reach the

ballot, the proposed amendment needs the backing of a quarter of the state's legislators—50 lawmakers—in two successive sittings of the Legislature. It won approval in the previous Legislature in January, on the final day of the session.

See Anti-gay Page 3

Which will play more of a detrimental role in determining the 2008 presidential candidates: Religion or Gender?

"I don't know which one. I think [Hillary Clinton] has a chance. ... I think there's time for a change, there could be a lady president ... and she'd make a good president with the experience she's got."

—John Losito, Agawam

"I don't think this country is ready for a woman president, and it's not going to be Barack Obama because they are not ready for that either. ... Most people they just vote White, they don't care whether it's good or not, they just vote Republican and not right."

—James Andrews, Pittsfield

"I think that gender will play a bigger role actually, because it's more visible and people have it more on their minds. I think that there is still a lot more intense sexism than there is prejudices against diversity of religion ..."

—Margaret McLaren, FL

"I think that people want someone who will represent the country so they would want someone the least offensive, and I think a woman, as opposed to a Mormon, that has the values that represent the country, would be less offensive."

—Ani Ellison, Northampton

"The gender issue is more important in a lot of ways, and the religion issue is sort of a very problem or issue, but it's still in debate. Although the outcome of the gender question might create more change."

—Josh Engle, Brattleboro, VT

"I think gender just because we've never had a female president before ... I'd vote for Giuliani just because of some of his stances on issues...right now of the republicans, I think he's the best one."

—Andy White, Monson

EDITORIALS

Thank you for your support and trust

By: NICOLE LASHOMB
TRT Editor-in-Chief

As the day of Northampton Pride drew to closure, I could not help but think of how amazing it was to meet all of you, our readers, advertisers, and friends, who took the time to drop by our booth that eventful day. It was such a pleasure to meet so many of you. Your praise, support and gratitude for

The Rainbow Times were appreciated more than you will ever know. It reminded me of the altruistic reasons about why we started this publication to begin with in February, 2007.

We want our community to be represented in its light for how it is and not the stereotypes that so many claim us to be. In addition, we are here to break through the barriers that exist between our

community and the many other communities in Western MA, Southern VT, and Northern CT. We are here to represent you, your families, your children, your friends and your supporters. We will continue to push forward, through those barriers and can do so with your support and encouragement. Thank you for reminding us of why we are here and the reason why this was

undertaken in the first place.

Several of you have contacted us numerous times and have requested that there is more content, more sections added to the newspaper, and more of TRT as a whole. We have heard you loud and clear. We will honor your requests to do so. To meet such requests successfully, the management of *The Rainbow Times* has made

the decision to transition into a monthly newspaper. Beginning with the June 1st edition, *The Rainbow Times* will be published and distributed on the first Thursday of each month and will contain more of TRT's great coverage.

The Rainbow Times is growing at a pace far greater than we ever expected. Each day, new opportunities arise. We are pleased to announce that

we are now one of the main sponsors of *Connecticut Pride*. As *Connecticut Pride* draws near (June 30th in Hartford, CT) we want to invite you to join us there. However, none of these opportunities would have arisen if it had not been for our supporters—you. We thank you for being an integral part of *The Rainbow Times*' growth.

Is it safe to come out yet? Don't even think about it!

By: JANE HAMEL
TRT Columnist

In a word, NO. I'm going to forego my usual Dave Barry impersonation for this column because there's nothing at all funny about the subject. In fact, I started writing this back in March after reading the following:

"Early in the morning of February 28, two male UMASS Amherst students who were perceived as gay were attacked by another male student in the Southwest Residential Area of campus. One of the victims was seriously hurt, suffering a broken eye socket and other injuries. The attacker has been charged with Aggravated Assault and Battery and with an anti-gay hate crime."

That is how the e-mail that I received a week later via the "tranny cyber grapevine" read. Yes, Virginia, prejudice still exists where you'd least expect it, even on a liberal college campus with a wonderfully diverse student population. I don't know how to feel about this anymore. Outrage? Frustration? Sadness? Or, perhaps just numbness? Only a few months ago I participated in a candlelit march in Northampton on the "Day of Remembrance." The day

that each year we remember those transgendered individuals murdered just for being who they were.

Reading that list of names pretty much numbs me and by the time I have recovered, it's time to read the next year's list. What is the worst part? It is not getting any smaller. To paraphrase Fox Mulder ... "The Hate Is Out There."

It is right here in Michael Savage's hate speech concerning the murder of Ruby Rodriguez in San Francisco on March 16th.

"... And what's this sympathy, constant sym-



Jane Hamel

"... Far left Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers has once again introduced his so-called 'hate crimes' bill to provide special federal protection for homosexuality, cross-dressing and

And the fact is there are people who ... shout yeah, "Kill a fag for Jesus!" even though, if the writings are accurate, Jesus would have been the first to accept me, and all my gay, lesbian and bi-sexual friends into the fold.

pathy for sexually confused people? Why should we have constant sympathy for people who are freaks in every society?" Savage said and, then added "But you know what? You're never gonna make me respect the freak. I don't want to respect the freak."

In addition, it is here in Andrea Lafferty's (of the Traditional Values Coalition) comments regarding the Hate Crimes legislation put forth by Congressman John Conyers.

transsexuals," . . . "The ultimate goal of Conyers' bill is to silence all opposition to the homosexual/transgender political agenda," "So-called 'hate speech' will be suppressed because it supposedly incites individuals to violence against homosexuals/transgenders."

Well, excuuuuuuu me! I do not need "federal protection for transsexualism," which I was born with, I need protection from the likes of Ms. Lafferty and "Grand

Dragon" Savage who want me dead just because I was born with it and they weren't! And the fact is there are millions (I hope I'm wrong here) of people who listen to them and shout yeah, Kill a fag for Jesus!" even though, if the writings are accurate, Jesus would have been the first to accept me, and all my gay, lesbian and bisexual friends into the fold.

How can we (the LGBT community) possibly be so fearsome that we instill in some people the motivation to kill us? Is fear the underlying basis of all hatred? It would seem fear is the cause, but then what causes the fear? Is it the need for one person, one family, one religion, one clan, one race or one country to set itself above all others by means of force, oppression and subjugation? I suspect that the answers to these questions are far more complex than to reducing them to a single theory. I also believe that we learn to fear and hate. When a child learns that fire is "hot" and "burns" by experiencing the hurt firsthand, do they "hate or fear" the fire or rather "understand" it. The parent tries to teach the child to fear it before they get to that decisive moment of experience. I am a parent and of course, I have tried

to use that tactic to protect my children. In addition, the parent teaches the child to hate someone or something it has yet to experience. So, just like finding the source of corruption by "following the money," when we follow the path of teaching hate to expose the likes of Savage, Lafferty, Phelps, Robertson and their minions who inspire others to physically harm "us" for no other reason than being different from "them," then what's next?

The worst idea I can

think of is to "circle the wagons" in a defensive posture. It is the first thing that comes to mind, unfortunately, being the instinctive reaction to feeling threatened. It takes a lot more courage to be aware of that threat, still leave yourself exposed that others might learn to understand rather than fear you, not to imply that you should be a martyr, and not fight back against a physical attacker. No, it is not safe to come out and in fact quite scary.

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COVER STORIES

Wisdom, Compassion, and Peace: The Dalai Lama

By: J.M. SORRELL
TRT Writer

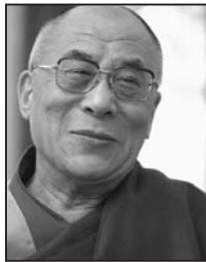
Most readers know His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, was in western Massachusetts last week. On May 9, 2007, he spoke to a rapt audience at Smith College. Among those in attendance were local Tibetan Buddhists, the Smith College and Hampshire College presidents—Carol Christ and Ralph Hexter, Smith students, and local community members.

Several speakers prefaced His Holiness' talk with an emphasis on the Five College Tibetan Studies in India Program,

which began on a smaller scale at Hampshire College in 1992 and is primarily housed at Smith College today.

On the program and biography literature card, there was no mention of Buddhism at all. This is an odd omission given the fundamental spiritual nature of the Dalai Lama. The descriptive language of the program emphasized academic and political points rather than spiritual practice.

The Dalai Lama's speech was "The Role of Education in Transforming Our World." Moments earlier,



HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA
Photo courtesy of: dalailama.com

President Christ had conferred an honorary degree to him. In response, he quipped, "I especially enjoy the privilege of a degree without studying!" "It is clear that education

brings us to a happy and successful life, but it does not necessarily create a happy person. The must be another element—compassion of the heart," he said. "Education gives us the mental faculties, but happiness gives us the use of it all. Our knowledge could be used for destruction, and sometimes more knowledge causes more worry, more visions, and more expectations. Happiness is [the] key to sustaining a peaceful mind. Anger, hatred and jealousy destroy peace of mind. Love, kindness, open-heartedness, and altruism create more peace

of mind."

The Dalai Lama's three primary commitments that he imparted were: to pay more attention to inner qualities (not external gain); to promote religious harmony (all traditions essentially carry the same message); and to support the freedom of Tibet, not just as a political cause, but also as an issue of human value and in respect for the preservation of the land.

Bella Gibson-Luikart (age 8) of Easthampton, summed up this self-described simple monk's philosophy perfectly.

"He spreads wisdom and

he doesn't hate the Chinese even though they banished him," said Bella. "We should be kind to everyone even if they are unkind to us."

What stood out for Jonas Westring (age 45) of Haydenville was the Dalai Lama's statement in addressing the topics of forgiveness and our responsibility to disengage in the continuity of wrongdoing.

"Take action for your enemies out of concern for them and not out of hatred," he explained. "This enemy may become a good friend the next time."

Pride from Page 1

Performance, Levi Kreis and headliner Ari Gold. Northampton Mayor Clare Higgins and Senator Ellen Story were two of the main speakers at this year's rally. According to Higgins, Pride has changed over the years. "I think initially it was a way of bringing attention and recognition to the gay and lesbian folks in the community," she said. "I think now it's a celebration of the contributions of the gay and lesbian, transgender and bisexual people."

Senator Ellen Story, a representative for Amherst and Granby, addressed the marriage amendment in her speech.

"We need eight more votes to make sure that this is not put on the ballot," she said. "I have no doubt that we will prevent that from happening."

Story, a long time advocate for the LGBT community, said she believes Pride benefits the community "enormously."

"Northampton is known as a place where everyone is welcome," she said. "It doesn't matter what color you are. It doesn't matter

who your partner is."

Story said another important part of Pride is the diversity of the crowd.

"There are many many, allies here," she said. "... When you can all gather together supporting the same good cause it's always a good idea to do it."

The rally site was moved from last year's location at Northampton's Veteran's Field, allowing room for an expanded children's area and creating more space for vendors. Northampton Pride Chair Melinda Shaw said she would like to expand again next year. According to Shaw, the parade means different things to different people.

"... For some people it means the rights that we've struggled for since the beginning of the Pride March, where some people had to wear bags on their heads, and I think for other people, it's just a big party," she said. "I think it's a great time for people to network and get together and showcase their wares."

Shaw said the most important thing people should know about Pride is that it costs money.

"We need donations. We

need everybody to just pull a little bit out of their pocket and not walk by that bucket without throwing something in," she said.

Around 60 volunteers took on a variety of roles, including selling T-shirts and drinks as well as collecting the donations that Pride is dependent on.

Pride's volunteer coordinator, Lisa Downing, has been involved with Pride for approximately 4 years. Downing said that she also feels Pride is about not to take things for granted.

"I think it's very important that we recognize that our lives are vulnerable anytime and that there are new people coming out all of the time," she said.

DJ Thonsey of Northampton has attended Pride since 1995. Thonsey, a full time disc jockey, has dj'ed for companies like Sephora, and organizations such as Mass Equality and GLAD. Thonsey, who described Pride as being the "best celebration in town," said that this year's parade had more of a community feel. "There's been a lot more kids, a lot more families,

Anti-gay from Page 1

Coakley said that even though the Supreme Judicial Court ruled last July that the proposed amendment could be placed on the ballot if approved by the Legislature, at least two justices also questioned whether the amendment is constitutional.

She quoted a joint court opinion by Justices John Greaney and Roderick Ireland saying the 2003 SJC decision that legalized same-sex marriage "may be irreversible because of its holding that no rational basis exist, or can be advanced, to support the definition of marriage" as only between a man and a woman. The opinion also noted that the amendment would

discriminate against same-sex couples by removing rights they already had been granted.

Some 8,500 same-sex couples have married in Massachusetts since the state offered the first civil marriage licenses to gay couples three years ago this month, Coakley said.

"The sky has not fallen and life goes on ... the institution of marriage is 'alive and well' in the state, despite predictions that same-sex marriages would wreak havoc," she said.

Neither the Massachusetts nor the U.S. constitution "has ever been an instrument of discrimination and we shouldn't start now," Coakley said.

"I believe it would be a travesty to the oldest con-

stitution in the country, a constitution anchored by John Adams and one which has such a proud tradition of championing and expanding civil rights ... to now be used to take away rights for a segment of the population," she said.

She said she expects "protracted, hard-fought litigation" challenging the constitutionality of the amendment if it were passed.

"If that battle is necessary, you have my support," Coakley said.

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LGBT HEALTH

Weight loss & health: Important for overall health

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

Dear Dr. Lang,
Everyone tells me that I am obese, at least according to my body mass index. I am 5'4 and weigh 175 lbs. I eat well, lift weights regularly, and have lost a lot of fat. But I seem to have reached a plateau. Do you have any suggestions about how to reach my ideal weight?

In understanding ideal weight and overall health, more than just the body mass index (BMI) is needed. The BMI provides an indication of total body fat for both men and women. However, the BMI may overestimate

body fat in athletes and in those with a muscular build. Total body fat may be underestimated in older individuals and in those with decreased muscle mass. According to the BMI calculator, you fall in the obese category. To calculate your BMI go to www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi/.

BMI measurements alone do not tell the whole story of one's health. A more reliable assessment of overall health includes measurements of waist circumference and blood pressure, and tests of fasting glucose and cholesterol. Concerns about obesity arise from obesity-related health risks includ-



Dr. Renee Lang, ND

ing diabetes and cardiovascular disease (stroke and heart attack).

In general, exercise focused on weight lifting builds muscle mass. Muscle tissue weighs more than fat in the body. It's likely that your muscle mass has increased with

your fat loss. Weight loss may plateau or increase slightly with increased muscle mass. To tone your body rather than bulk up, lower weights and higher reps are needed.

Aerobic exercise is a crucial component of any weight loss/fitness plan. Aerobic exercise increases metabolism and fat burning resulting in weight loss. Adding moderate aerobic activity three times per week will help restart your weight loss. Examples of moderate aerobic activity include: walking two miles in 30 minutes, stair walking for 15 minutes, swimming laps for 20 minutes, bicycling 5 miles in 15 min-



utes, and running 1 1/2 miles in 15 minutes.

A healthy weight loss program must include a mental/emotional component. Both stress management and inner personal work are important in losing weight and keeping it off. Stress decreases the ability of the body to lose

weight by increasing blood sugar and slowly decreasing muscle mass. Learning stress management tools will aid in weight loss and overall health promotion.

Finally, look at why you became overweight in the first place. Changing those patterns will help you maintain your weight loss. Most popular diet programs lack this crucial element. As a result, over 90% of those losing weight with these diets gain it back, plus some, in five years or less. In order to be successful, you must do this work, usually the most difficult part. Good luck!

Thin people might be fat on the inside, doctors warn

By: MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP)—If it really is what's on the inside that counts, then a lot of thin people might be in trouble.

Some doctors now think that the internal fat surrounding vital organs like the heart, liver or pancreas—invisible to the naked eye—could be as dangerous as the more obvious external fat that bulges underneath the skin.

"Being thin doesn't automatically mean you're not fat," said Dr. Jimmy Bell, a professor of molecular imaging at Imperial College, London. Since

1994, Bell and his team have scanned nearly 800 people with MRI machines to create "fat maps" showing where people store their fat.

According to their data, people who maintain their weight through diet instead of exercise, are likely to have major deposits of internal fat, even if they are otherwise slim. "The whole concept of being fat needs to be redefined," said Bell, whose research is funded by Britain's Medical Research Council.

Without a clear warning signal—like a rounder middle—doctors worry that thin people may be

lulled into falsely assuming that because they're not overweight, they're healthy.

"... despite their ripples of fat, super-sized Sumo wrestlers probably have a better metabolic profile than some of their slim, seated spectators, Bell said.

Of the women scanned by Bell and his colleagues, as many as 45 percent of those with normal BMI scores (20 to 25) actually had excessive levels of internal fat. Among men, the percentage was nearly 60 percent. Relating the news to what Bell refers to as TOFIs, or people who are "thin outside, fat inside," is rarely unevent-

ful. "The thinner people are, the bigger the surprise," said Dr. Louis Teichholz, chief of cardi-

fatty, sugary foods—and exercise too little to work it off—but they are not eating enough to actually be fat. Scientists believe we naturally accumulate fat around the belly first, but at some point, the body may start storing it elsewhere.

Still, most experts believe that being of normal weight is an indicator of good health, and that BMI is a reliable measurement.

"BMI won't give you the exact indication of where fat is, but it's a useful clinical tool," said Dr. Toni Steer, a nutritionist at Britain's Medical Research Council.

Doctors are unsure about the exact dangers of internal fat, but some suspect it contributes to the risk of heart disease and diabetes. They theorize that internal fat disrupts the body's communication systems. The fat enveloping internal organs might be sending the body mistaken

chemical signals to store fat inside organs like the liver or pancreas. This could ultimately lead to insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, or heart disease.

Experts have long known that fat, active people can be healthier than their skinny, inactive counterparts.

For example, despite their ripples of fat, super-sized Sumo wrestlers probably have a better metabolic profile than some of their slim, seated spectators, Bell said. That's because the wrestlers' fat is primarily stored under the skin, not streaking throughout their vital organs and muscles.

When it comes to being fit, experts say there is no short-cut. "If you just want to look thin, then maybe dieting is enough," Bell said. "But if you want to actually be healthy, then exercise has to be an important component of your lifestyle."

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QUEER JUSTICE

Adult Internet site policing, why are people not being held accountable?

Dear Queer Justice,

I'm writing because I have a serious concern. I am a gay man in my late twenties, part of the first generation to come into adulthood with the internet, which means that I/we have been since "teenage-dom" watching internet adult sites (whether we talk about it openly, or not) like some people enjoy reading tabloids—for that entertaining, mind-numbing, quality.

Something that disturbs the heck out of me though, is when I see the odd image on these pages of people who look like they could not possibly be over 14. It really creeps me out more than I can convey, and obviously I avoid pages that have pictures like that, but they pop up sometimes on pages otherwise containing images of adult men.

I'm sure anyone looking at straight-adult pages has



Attorney Jennifer Dexter

encountered this too. I would email the website to tell them what I think about the underage images, but there isn't an address listed, and I just wonder, how is it that websites that thousands of people access easily daily can have images up like that and no policing force is holding them accountable?

Thanks,

— Reed

Dear Reed:
Pursuant to the Patriot

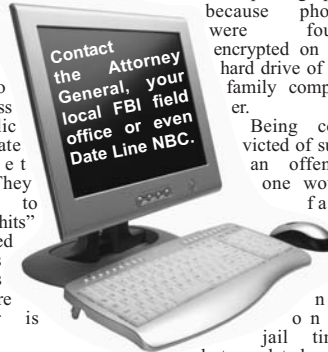
Act, the FBI and other policing agencies are able to gain access to public and private internet usage. They are able to monitor "hits" on tagged sites as well as track where the user is located.

So to answer your question, yes both local and federal agencies monitor most of these types of sites regularly. Your main concern should be protecting yourself though. In this new "internet" world, the FBI can track your "use" of these sites straight to your front door.

Innocent people have been prosecuted for possessing child pornography

because photos were found encrypted on the hard drive of the family computer.

Being convicted of such an offense, one would face



not only jail time,

but mandated registration as a sex offender. If your concern is truly about the purported children being depicted in these photos contact the Attorney General, your local FBI field office or even Date Line NBC. For your own safety, stay away from internet adult sites.

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a lot more diversity," she said.

Michele Hanson, of Waterbury, Conn., represented Pioneer Valley Unity, a group that provides support to transgendered people and their allies. Hanson, who was attending Pride for her second time, said she believes it is "an important public presence." "Northampton is a great place because you don't run into the problems that you'd find in other places," she said. "Everybody here just seems to have a good time,

really—and that's important."

Story, in an interview with TRT on Pride day said that she believes Pride will bring a bigger audience in years to come.

"The community has gotten much more confident as they have realized that they have support in the wider community," she said. "So I think there's much more of a sense of optimism and high expectations for what they can look forward to."

CT Pride

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Q ENTERTAINMENT

here! Networks' Dante's Cove adds Jensen Atwood and Jill Bennett

LOS ANGELES—here!, America's premium gay television network, is pleased to announce that Jensen Atwood and Jill Bennett have been added to the cast of the gothic supernatural soap Dante's Cove, which is now in production on its third season in Hawaii. Season three of the show is scheduled to debut on the network in October 2007. "Our ability to attract notable people from the LGBT entertainment community to Dante's Cove is an exciting testament to the show's success," said Meredith Kadlec, Vice President of Original Programming, here! Networks. "Jensen and Jill are welcome additions to our already talented crew of actors. This

looks to be our best season yet."

Openly gay actor Bennett joins out actors Charlie David, Michelle Wolff, Gabriel Romero, Jenny Shimizu and Reichen Lehmkuhl in the cast of Dante's Cove. The show now features a total of six out actors with favorites Tracy Scoggins, Thea Gill, William Gregory Lee and Greg Michael also returning for another season of America's sexiest guilty pleasure.

Dante's Cove, lauded by leading gay publication The Advocate as Best Soap Opera in 2006, follows a cast of mostly gay and lesbian characters who all live together at the Hotel Dante in the sleepy beachside commu-

nity of Dante's Cove. When a dark, supernatural force is accidentally released from the basement of the Hotel Dante, the residents are plunged into a world of intrigue, secrets and shifting romantic ties.

Atwood joins the cast as Griff, a sexually fluid playboy with ties to the mysterious powers of Tresum and desired by both male and female residents of Dante's Cove. One of television's first lesbian love triangles, featuring characters played by three out actors, also develops in season three as Bennett takes on the role of Michelle, whose sudden return to Dante's Cove tests the budding relationship of Brit (Wolff), the

island's sexy bartender/oceanographer, and Elena (Shimizu), a newcomer to Dante's Cove.

Season two of Dante's Cove will be available on DVD on June 5th.

Atwood may be best known for his work on the original Logo series Noah's Arc.

Dante's Cove, which recently became the first series to be picked up by a gay network for a third season, continues here!'s commitment to provide quality original programming for its discerning LGBT audience. For a sampling of provocative and innovative here! content, visit the here! Video Player found at www.here!tv.com/video-player.

10th Year Anniversary of Perugia Press

By: J.M. THE JP*
TRT Writer

Susan Kan, publisher of Perugia Press, is pleased to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of this unique non-profit poetry publishing company. You may have heard that just one book per year is published. It creates a buzz, and the publishing process is handled well since there is just one person doing most of the work.

One collection that stands out is the 2004 selection, Kettle Bottom, by Diane Gilliam Fisher. It has outsold the others by thousands and has received numerous awards. The poems are about the West Virginia coal mining wars of the 1920's.

Over 18 months ago, Kan asked Kate Clinton to support the anniversary benefit, and she was pleasantly surprised at how quickly Clinton said, "Yes, I'll be there."

The connection makes sense since Clinton has taught poetry and continues to write about it and appreciate it as an art form so similar to comedy.

For information about the June 10, 2007 Kate Clinton benefit performance and other Perugia Press anniversary events, please visit the Internet website www.perugiapress.com or call Susan Kan at (413) 587-2646. A reunion and free poetry craft classes will be held at Smith College.

Talk is cheap and I've got plenty to say

By: JACK/IE KENNEDY
TRT Columnist

Well folks, Happy Pride and let's get ready for June's Pride events as well. Here I start my column with The Rainbow Times and it's got me excited. I decided to use a name that carries no sexual orientation, for I think we're too genderized in America. I am tired of pink for women and blue for men. What if a guy likes pink and a woman likes blue. I played with all types of toys, meaning kid toys my readers. I had cars and dolls

and no, I'm not a trannie, but I too love my trans friends. What about lezzies who like guy underpants, but are just lezzies. Why does it all have to be either, or, why can't it be "whatever we want it to be?" But, this isn't a column about my sexual orientation, but about anything new and "out" there that rings my bell. So, this time it'll be about a bunch of things that are on my mind.

As I was online, I found it interesting that in OurChart.com they now have scenes in which ordinary people play some of

the L Word Scenes while the actors of the show rate the particular scenes to finally and obviously find a winner. I found myself interested in watching the scenes and the reaction from the judges (the actresses). You can check it all out at www.our-chart.com/l_word_insider

Now, I miss watching a regular gay show, other than Noah's Arc. I'm talking I want something as provocative as Queer as Folk. I think the series ended way too soon. I can't get enough of the reruns from LOGO, but do they have to be edited so

Big Dreams in Little Hope...a fun cliché

By: VIVIANA VALIENTE
TRT Reviewer & Writer

Big Dreams in Little Hope is a light comedy of errors with a splash of gayness, but above all it is about not being satisfied with your life.

But how do you turn such a dense topic into a comedy? Well, you bring together two women whose personalities are diametrically and sexually opposites in an Odd Couple sort of way.

Kelly, an uptight research marketer with hopes of becoming a television reporter, and Linda, a rambunctious camerawoman and aspiring tattoo artist are sent on a research assignment that takes them



to the town of Little Hope.

All right, so the name is somewhat cliché, but that doesn't take away from the hilarious and almost documentary-like scenes that take place at the hostel where they end up staying after all the hotels in town are booked.

For Kelly staying in a hostel and dealing with all the characters that dwell

there represent her failure to succeed in life. The hostel is a reminder of her underachievement as a TV reporter. Linda, on the other hand, fits perfectly in the hostel scene because for her everyday is an adventure. While in Little Hope Linda occupies her free time frolicking with her now married ex girlfriend and tattooing oranges.

This movie feels like a hybrid between a low-budget movie and a documentary, this being said as a compliment to director and writer Erin Greenwell's approach to the cinematography.

Greenwell has a background video editing documentaries, a fact that is reflected both in the plot and the cinematography. If you enjoy light comedies that feel and look different, then this film is for you.

To buy this movie, please visit <http://wolfe-video.com/>.

Jennifer L. Dexter Attorney at Law & Notary Public

Specializing in: Real Estate, Family Law, Wills, Education Law & Criminal Law
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See Cheap Page 13

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. James Barz, former director of the parish, presided over the ceremony. Cook is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Cook of Greenville and Santa Barbara, Calif. He graduated from UCLA and is the director of annual giving for the film.



For a small fee, you also can have your same-sex wedding photo, marriage or anniversary announcement/s published at The Rainbow Times. **YOU HAVE THE OCCASION, WE HAVE THE TIME!** 413-204-8959
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BOOK REVIEWS WITH PRIDE

Courting Equality: A Documentary History of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages

By: J.M. Sorrell*
TRT Writer

[*Courting Equality*: A Documentary of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages Text by Patricia A. Gozemba and Karen Kahn Photographs by Marilyn Humphries (2007 Beacon Press, \$34.95)]

Other coffee table books will not mind moving to the end table or the bottom shelf of the coffee table to make room for this photographic journey through the joys and struggles of LGBT civil rights in Massachusetts.

Courting Equality may be read in various ways. Flipping through photos and captions is a quick and compelling jaunt, but reading the text is a must at some point. How else will you know what Barney Frank was up to in 1972 when he was in the state legislature, in the closet, and working for the cause?

I spoke with one of the authors, Pat Gozemba, about the development and collaboration for this book. In March 2005, Pat and Karen Kahn (who are also life partners) were motivated after seeing the amazing collection of Marilyn Humphries' photographs. Humphries is an independent photo journalist who has chronicled much of Massachusetts' LGBT rights struggles for 25 years, mostly in the eastern part of the Commonwealth.

Too busy to create the book herself, it seemed ideal that Gozemba and Kahn would create the text around the photos to tell the story. Humphries and Gozemba have been friends for over 30 years, and they have collaborated

on other projects.

From the dedication to the final pages, this book shines in historical significance, poignancy, and story telling. While the price tag is steep for some readers, Gozemba explained to me that they are indebted to the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) for supporting this project with Beacon Press. A book such as this typically sells for \$60 or more since the costs are high to

leading up to Goodrich were important to share. They did not want to short-change the evolution of civil rights in Massachusetts, and they felt it was important for young people to learn about the chronology of these decisions.

According to Gozemba, *Courting Equality* is for members of the LGBT community "to recharge our batteries" and for allies so they will under-

her home base. There is notable mention (and at least two beautiful photos) of Gina and Heidi Nortonsmith—our local plaintiff heroes in the case.

"The photographs should carry the meaning of the book. Karen and I conceptualized the text around the photos," Gozemba stated.

She also wanted TRT readers to know that her experience at Northampton Pride was thrilling.

"So many people came out and they were right on target with our book," she said. "My spirits were buoyed."

When I asked her how her life was changed most since Goodrich, Gozemba stated that she and Kahn had no intention of marrying after being together for 15 years. Gozemba had once been married to a man and was divorced.

Everything changed when they conducted their research for *Courting Equality*. When they learned more about what the religious right was saying, they realized it was important to get legally married. Pat and Karen were married on September 1, 2005. Despite already having the legal protections of paper-



KAREN KAHN & PAT GOZEMBA

work, they felt more protected when they married, and they also felt the enormity of announcing to people who their family is and how they define it.

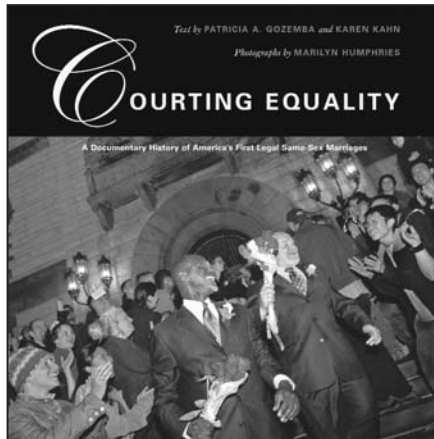
Gozemba has been an activist since the 1970's. She used to facilitate coming out groups. She believes that we come out over and over again throughout our lifetimes, and she and Kahn are proving it.

Kahn and Gozemba will be showing slides, reading and signing their books at Pride and Joy Bookstore, 20 Crafts Avenue, Northampton on Saturday, June 2, 12-2 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by the ACLU. If Humphries can make it, she may be there, too, but you never know with the life of a photo journalist.

If you are unable to

make the reading, the authors will be back on Thursday, June 28, 7-9 p.m. at Food for Thought Books at 106 N. Pleasant Street in Amherst. This event is co-sponsored by the UMass Stonewall Center and it marks the 28th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in New York City.

* J. Mary (JM) Sorrell is a lesbian and Justice of the Peace. She retains vivid memories of May 17, 2004 in Northampton, including the distinct honor of solemnizing the first same-sex marriage at 11:10 a.m. No one knew waivers would be granted, and J.M. is grateful she had her JP robe with her "just in case." She officiated for five couples on May 17, 2004, and many more in the days, weeks, months, and years following that brilliant day.



produce it. The ACLU helped to fund it to keep the costs lower because they are committed to as wide a distribution as possible. If you can skip a meal out or get a cheaper haircut just once, you will find this purchase a worthwhile investment.

The original intention was to add text to photos and have very little text throughout the book; however, after the authors sent a sample chapter to Beacon, they realized that the struggles and victories

stand that "we are the civil rights movement of this century."

As a proud long-time member of the western Massachusetts community, I asked Gozemba why the book is primarily focused on the Boston/Cambridge area. Simply explained, it is where Humphries works. She was in Cambridge all day and night on May 17, 2004, she covered the constitutional conventions of the last several years, and eastern Massachusetts is

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10. Open Cam

* By wolfevideo.com

stage for a historical musical event- Cyndi Lauper, Erasure, Rufus Wainwright, Debbie Harry, The Dresden Dolls, The Gossip, The Indigo Girls and The Misshapes with host Margaret Cho join in celebration of the inaugural True Colors concert tour in support of the Human Rights Campaign. This 15 city nationwide tour, presented by Logo, kicks off Gay & Lesbian Pride Month on June 8th at Las Vegas' MGM Grand Garden Arena!

The concerts, presented by LOGO from June 8-30,

2007, will feature five hours of nonstop music with other exciting special guests appearing on select dates throughout the tour including Rufus Wainwright, Rosie O'Donnell and Indigo Girls with additional guests to be announced.

The True Colors Tour was conceived by Cyndi Lauper stemming from her desire to give back to the community for the love and support they have given her throughout her career.

Through a joint program with the Human Rights



Campaign-the nation's largest organization work-

ing for GLBT equality—as well as PFLAG and The Matthew Shepard Foundation, the True Colors Tour will bring together Americans across the country to voice their solidarity against discrimination and for equality and raise public awareness about the issues facing the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. One dollar of every ticket sold will benefit the work of the Human Rights Campaign.

In addition, you can also visit the MySpace! True Colors page for details on

the rest of the 15 cities across the U.S. that will feature this event. On Sat, 06/16/07 at 6:00 PM True Colors Tour: Cyndi Lauper, Erasure, Debbie Harry, & Dresden Dolls will be at the Bank of America Pavilion, Boston, MA.

The Artists scheduled to appear: Cyndi Lauper, Erasure, Debbie Harry, The Dresden Dolls, The Gossip, and special guest Rufus Wainwright. Hosted by Margaret Cho. This event takes place rain or shine.

20 Years: CT Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

By: JEN TATE, CTGLFF
Special to TRT

Hartford, CT—This June 1st, the Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (CTGLFF) will be

celebrating its 20th year—a rare and significant milestone for the LGBT community. So, if you've never been to the festival, or if you have, make it a

point to get to this one (and one of the parties).

For the last 20 years the CTGLFF has worked continually to represent the queer community by shin-

ing a spotlight on our artistry, our activism, and our essentialness as human beings through film and video. This year topics include everything from the birth of disco, queer parenting: what happens when mommy becomes daddy?, British-Chinese gays to the crisis of femme identity—all serving to document our ever-emerging queer space.

And how does this great work get done? Each year, volunteer committee members sort through a mind numbing quantity of prospective films. Luckily, the audience sees only the culmination, this year's best in queer films. Continuing with their tradition of eclectic programming...including a late night gay zombie flick and two afternoon mati-

nees...each show delights with a full-length feature and one or more short films.

Festival organizers at OutFilmCT pride themselves on the programs they put together that include an international potpourri, for example the opening night feature is Nina's Heavenly Delights: a Bollywood meets Glasgow romance where prodigal daughter and restaurant heir Nina enters a cooking competition with Lisa and more than the curry is hot. June 9th closes the festival with Boy Culture, which satisfies with its story of "x" a successful male escort who dares to try something really dangerous...love. In between are the compelling Spider Lillies,

Another Woman and Itty Bitty Titty Committee.

For the full film details, party info, outdoor café schedule, tickets, and directions visit www.OutFilmCT.org.

Get yourself to Hartford, a short drive that will be really worth it. Don't miss the 20th anniversary of Connecticut's longest running film festival, a queer one at that!

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9. That Tender Touch
10. The L Word: Season 3

* By wolfevideo.com

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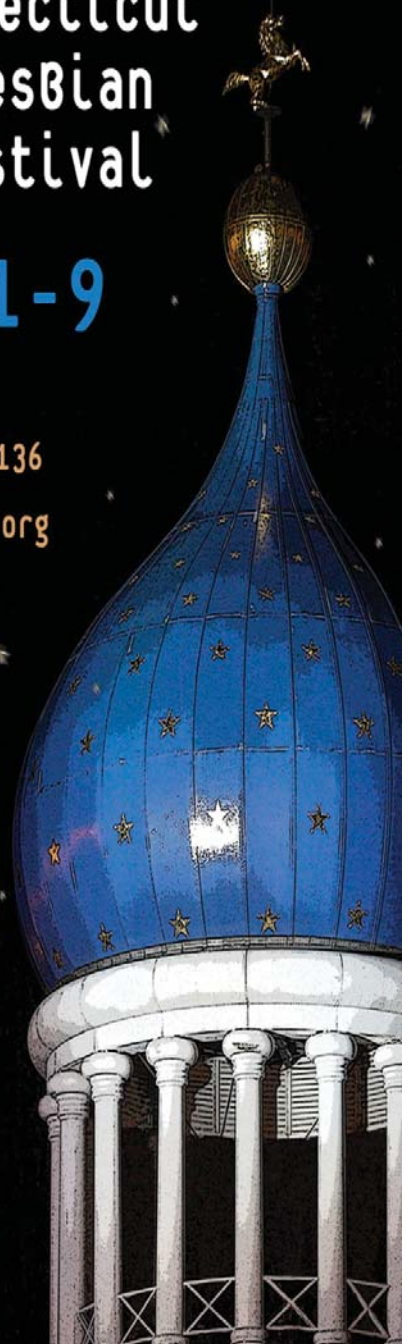
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Photography: Bill Nordan



PRIDE ENVIRONMENT

Who addresses the environmental challenges faced by the poor and minorities?

Dear EarthTalk: Are there organizations that specifically address the environmental challenges faced by poor and minority communities?

—Bill Macomber, Ann Arbor, MI

When sociologist Robert Bullard began uncovering the proximity of hazardous waste sites to minority neighborhoods across the American South during the course of his graduate research in the 1980s, the “environmental justice” movement was born. In the intervening two decades, environmental and human rights advocates around the U.S. and the world have launched thousands of nonprofit community groups to battle so-called “environmental racism”—whereby otherwise distressed and poor minority communities are disproportionately exposed to the brunt of industrial pollution in their own backyards.

Environmental justice is fundamentally a local issue, but several national

groups have devoted considerable resources to righting wrongs and helping communities defend their rights to clean air and water. Perhaps the best known is the Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ), founded by Lois Gibbs, the mom-turned-activist who in the early 1980s got authorities to shut down and remediate the Love Canal district of Niagara, New York, where buried industrial waste was causing serious health problems. CHEJ has since fought alongside thousands of communities to get toxic sites cleaned up and obtain restitution.

In other ongoing efforts, Environmental Defense’s “Living Cities” program pairs teams of scientists, lawyers and economists with local groups working to resolve environmental health issues in minority population centers. And the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) conducts studies, produces reports and policy analyses and mounts campaigns

and lawsuits on various environmental justice issues, with a recent focus on helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Another big player is the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, a nonprofit public interest law firm that has championed several high-profile environmental justice cases since it began as the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in 1971. Protecting farm worker communities from dangerous pesticides is a current focus area.

Those with environmental justice issues needing attention can contact one of these groups or a regional one that can help size up potential toxic threats and provide assistance on what to do. The Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, the Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest and the San Francisco Urban Institute



Photo by: Getty Images.

Poor minority communities, usually in urban areas, are disproportionately exposed to the brunt of industrial pollution. A number of local, regional and national environmental groups are working to change that.

are all great resources, as are Robert Bullard’s Environmental Justice Resource Center, based at Clark Atlanta University, and the Environmental Research Foundation, located in New Jersey.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also begun to take these issues seriously and

in 1992 created its Office of Environmental Justice to integrate environmental justice into EPA policies and programs. Community groups can apply for EPA grants, and an EPA internship program places students directly into communities to assist local groups in addressing local environmental and public

health issues.

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

TRT New Wedding Section

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"FAMILY" NEWS FROM AROUND

CT Lawmakers pull gay marriage bill days before high court case

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—The leaders of the legislature's Judiciary Committee announced recently they want to pull the same-sex marriage bill from consideration this session.

The move comes on the eve of the recent landmark state Supreme Court hearing on whether the constitutional rights of Connecticut's gay and lesbian couples are being violated by not being allowed to enter into marriage. Connecticut does allow civil unions.

Lawmakers said they don't have enough votes at this point in the session to pass the legislation, even though they said the count is close.

Last month, the Judiciary Committee approved the bill on a 27-15 vote, but its fate in the House of Representatives was uncertain.

"A significant number of legislators have told us that they are currently in favor of same-sex marriage personally, but feel the state will be ready for it in another year or two," Rep. Michael Lawlor, D-East Haven, the committee co-chairman, said in a written statement.

Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell, who signed the civil unions bill into law in 2005, has said she would veto a gay marriage bill. Rell said she believes marriage is between one man and one woman.

VT Police say damage to community center a hate crime

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—Burlington police say vandalism to the R-U-1-2? Community Center is being investigated as a hate crime against gays and lesbians.

Police say sometime overnight Wednesday, someone threw bricks

through some of the windows of the center.

Several windows were broken, scattering glass all over the inside of the building. Damages are estimated around several hundred dollars. The group's executive director Kara DeLeonardis said the organization had been working to pass a gender identity discrimination bill, which has upset some people.

"We are saddened and outraged that someone would commit such an act of hate. At the same time this is exactly why we need to continue working for equality, and why we need anti-discrimination protection like the Gender Identity Non-discrimination bill that is on its way to the Governors desk," she said.

Patrick warns of 'circus' atmosphere if gay marriage is on ballot

By KEN MAGUIRE/AP
BOSTON (AP)—Gov. Deval Patrick warned last week that Massachusetts will be crippled by a "political circus" if a proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage makes it to the state ballot.

The Democratic governor, speaking to reporters a day after lawmakers delayed a vote on the proposed amendment, said he was actively lobbying legislators to kill it.

"If this does get to a popular ballot, there is very little other business that will get done in Massachusetts politics and policy making while that is pending," Patrick said.

Lawmakers last week postponed a vote until at least June 14. As expected, a joint session of the House and Senate convened, but quickly recessed without the vote.

Before it can reach the 2008 ballot, the proposed amendment needs the backing of a quarter of the

state's legislators—50 lawmakers—in two successive sittings of the Legislature. It won approval in the previous Legislature in January, on the final day of the session.

A 2003 Supreme Judicial

"Rather than turn Massachusetts into a political circus for a national debate over something which is largely settled here, my own view is that we ought to resolve this on the merits so that it stays off the ballot, and to do so at the constitutional convention."

—Ma. Gov. Deval Patrick

Court ruling had legalized gay marriage in Massachusetts.

"Rather than turn Massachusetts into a political circus for a national debate over something which is largely settled here, my own view is that we ought to resolve this on the merits so that it stays off the ballot, and to do so at the constitutional convention," Patrick said.

Last week about 57 lawmakers support the amendment, advocates on both sides of the issue agree. There are 200 lawmakers in the House and Senate.

When asked if he's offering jobs or other opportunities to lawmakers to get them to switch their votes, as suggested in a published report Thursday, Patrick replied "No."

Kris Mineau, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute, which collected more than 120,000 signatures for the proposed amendment, called Patrick's comments "over the top."

"I can't imagine having a ballot question that would turn the state into a circus and have lawmakers unable to do their job," he said.

Gay marriage supporters are in overdrive trying to prevent passage of the amendment. Recent history shows that voters usually reject gay marriage when given the chance.

Last fall, eight states

voted on amendments to ban gay marriage: Colorado, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin approved them. Arizona bucked a strong national trend by refusing to change its constitution

to define marriage as a one-man, one-woman institution.

Similar amendments had passed previously in all 20 states to consider them.

Mineau said lawmakers opposing gay marriage were "very solid" in their position.

"We're very confident that the votes will hold," he said.

But Patrick said he would keep lobbying.

"We're working very hard to make the case to members in both houses that the ballot initiative ought not to be used as a means to take away people's civil rights," the governor said.

Marc Solomon, the campaign director for gay-rights group MassEquality, agreed with Patrick that a ballot vote would bring national fervor.

"There's nothing that the nation's right wing wants more than to take away the right of same-sex couples to marry," he said.

Unisex Restroom starts debate on what to call new restroom

By: JOHN MILLER/AP
BOISE, Idaho (AP)—A conservative group has criticized an Idaho university administrator for saying a planned new unisex restroom in her school's student center will accommodate transgender people.

Boise State University,

with more than 12,000 students in the state capital, is adding 66,000 square feet in a \$35 million student union building revamp beginning this month. It will add one unisex restroom that anyone can use; the restroom will afford users more privacy than traditional restrooms labeled "Men" and "Women."

Leah Barrett, the BSU student union's director, said she told a group of student lawmakers the new restroom would be suitable for people with disabilities, for families—and for transgender students. Transgender is an umbrella term that covers all people whose outward appearance and internal identity don't match their gender at birth.

Transgender people may fear harassment, violence and arrest when using traditional restrooms. Universities in Georgia, Arizona and Massachusetts have adopted restroom policies to address those concerns.

But this is conservative Idaho, which last year joined 25 other states in passing a constitutional ban on gay marriage.

The school officially calls the restroom "unisex," but Barrett's transgender reference prompted the BSU College Republicans to call for clarification.

"We don't want the university to label this a transgender bathroom," said Jonathan Sawmiller, 22, a BSU student senator and president of the school's College Republicans. He

raised the issue in an April radio broadcast on a Boise AM station. "Since the media got hold of it, the university was told to stop referring to it as a 'transgender bathroom,' and to start calling it 'unisex,'" he said.

Sawmiller, who in early 2007 confronted BSU President Bob Kustra with a claim that the school invited mostly liberal speakers, has enlisted the assistance of the Idaho Values Alliance, a conservative Christian group.

"Our view is, gender is assigned at birth," said Bryan Fischer, the Idaho Values Alliance leader. "There's no third or fourth or fifth option."

Late last year, the University of Georgia in Athens designated two "gender neutral" restrooms, a change borne of concern for transgender students but which will benefit students with disabilities and medical conditions. The University of Arizona, Harvard and other schools have adopted or are considering "restroom-access policies."

Michael Silverman, director of the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York City, said creating restrooms where transgender people—and everyone else—feel comfortable is an important role of a public university.

"It says, 'We value all different life experiences,'" Silverman said.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TRT PRIDE Calendar

HA-HA SISTERHOOD presents an evening of comedy to benefit the 6th grade class at Hadley Elementary School, 21 River Drive (Route 47), Hadley; Friday May 18th at 7 p.m.; \$5 suggested donation (\$10 for families). A Silent Auction and bake sale start off the evening at 6:30. FMI: 413-549-2080 or thehahasisterhood.com

SENIOR CITIZEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE; Mondays at 12:30 p.m. - Canal Lanes, Route 5, Southampton.

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

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

CAFE & CONVERSATION; Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.; at the Northampton Council on Aging, NCOA; 240 Main St., Suite 1 Northampton Phone: 587-1228

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; Amherst/NoHo Area. New

members accepted on space-available basis. If enough interest, new groups may form. FMI: 413-247-3257 or 413-253-3049.

NORTHAMPTON COUNCIL ON AGING'S MATURE LESBIAN GROUP; May 14th at 6 p.m. Meetings are held at the NCOA offices in Memorial Hall on Main St. (between the Unitarian Church and the Academy of Music); phone: 413-587-1228. J.M Sorrell of Highland Valley Elder Services will be presenting an overview of the Independent Travel Network (ITN) model of providing transportation services to seniors and visually impaired individuals who cannot drive.

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.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND Provincetown's first Women of Color and Allies Weekend is set for May 18-20. The jam packed weekend includes everything from workshops to dancing to performances by comedians Karen Williams and Mimi Gonzales. Registration is just \$25 in advance. Info: womenofcolorweekend.com

MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP; Any male 18 or older; an opportunity for men to share their experiences, thoughts, and feelings about life's journey. Support group not a therapy group. Free. Every Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brattleboro, VT. FMI: 802-258-3914.

BOOK CLUB; May 17; 7 p.m.; at the Menspace; May's book is Dry, by Augusten Burroughs. Please note that even if you have not finished the book, you are still welcome to attend the discussion. FMI: 802-254-2400.

BEAR GROUP POTLUCK; May 18; 7 p.m. at the Menspace. Open potluck for bears and fanciers. You do not need to have attended before that event to come to this regular get together! FMI: Howie or Alex, 802-254-4444.

20th ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE; May 19; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; meet at Centre Congregational, Brattleboro. This is the AIDS Project's largest fundraiser of the year. FMI: Howie or Alex, 802-254-4444.

NH GAY MEN'S CHORUS; May 20; 4 p.m.; Keene State College, Keene, NH. It looks great - Night and Day The Songs of Cole Porter; FMI: 802-254-4444 to become part of this trip, or make your own arrangements to see this performance; www.nhgmc.com

GATHERING FOR JUSTICE; May 20; 1 p.m.; gather with the group Socializing for Justice for an outdoor gathering on the Boston Common. Bring your blankets, snacks, games, and instruments for an afternoon of fun in the sun! There will be lots of friendly and engaging conversation and cross-issue alliance building! FMI: www.sojust.org to RSVP. Free and open to all!

SPIRITUALITY; May 25; 7 p.m. at the Menspace. Open discussion of men's spirituality/practice of techniques. Come with an open mind and willingness to share. FMI: Howie or Alex, 802-254-4444.

MOVIE NIGHT; May 29; 7 p.m.; at the Menspace. This month's movie is SHORT-BUS, from 2006. FMI: Howie or Alex, 802-254-4444.

OPENING NIGHT OF VT GLBT FILM FEST! Friday, June 22; FMI: 802-254-4444.

LATINO PRIDE OF NEW ENGLAND 2007: May 10 - 20 2007; For more information on all Latino Pride event listed below contact: latinopride07@gmail.com

PROCLAMATION OF LATINO PRIDE by Honorable Felix Arroyo and the Boston City Council; ; May 16 @ Noon; Boston City Council Chambers, Boston City Hall.

LATINO TRANSGENDER ISSUES in the law panel discussion from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Harvard University Law School, 1563 Massachusetts Ave.; Cambridge Room Hauser 102. Free and open to the public. Speakers: Rep. Carl Sciortino, Jr., Alex Solange, Diego Sanchez, Jennifer Levi and Jesse "Boquita" Tavarez.

GLBT LATINO HEALTH & IMMIGRATION PANEL DISCUSSION; May 17; from 6 to 8 p.m. at the MALE Center of the AIDS Action Committee, Columbus Avenue (corner of Mass. Ave). Panelists include: Giovanna Negretti from Oiste, Ana Maldonado from Fenway Community Health, Lawyer, & Community Activist. Free and open to the public.

LATINO GLBT COMMUNITY FAIR; May 19; Free & Open to all from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

PRIDE DANCE PARTY!; Sunday, June 24, 7 p.m. - 11 p.m., American Legion, DJ Thonsey CELEBRATE JUNE PRIDE MONTH!



Photo by: Grisel M. Ocasio/TRT

After over 12 years, KidSports has finally closed its doors. Melinda Shaw, owner, and former employees, friends, family and community members gathered to say their final goodbyes and celebrate.

KidSports celebrates 12 years of family fun

By: NICOLE LASHOMB
TRT Editor-in-Chief

HADLEY, MA—On May 11th, approximately 75 community members gathered together at KidSports for a festive celebration to bid farewell to the 12+ year run of the Hadley family fitness center.

"We wanted to have this reunion to say goodbye to the business," said Melinda Shaw, Owner, KidSports, Hadley, Mass. "After today, this will be stripped and broken down. Everything that is here will be given away to people who really need it. We wanted to celebrate it before it's all gone."

Attendees included family members, friends, patrons and supporters of KidSports throughout its longevity, many of whom shared stories and fond memories of their time at the facility and what it meant to them. A slide show with pictures of KidSports through the years, from 1994-2007, delighted the crowd who reminisced about the good times and the promising future ahead of everyone.

"I cleaned out my office today—that just got to me," said Kim Storjohann, employee of KidSports. "I raised my daughter here, got divorced here. This place has been my life."

Others reminisced about



Meg Merrigan & Melinda Shaw, life partners, share a moment with the attendees at KidSports' closing celebration.

Photo courtesy of: S. E. Chase

not only how the fitness center had impacted their lives, but how Melinda had impacted them as well.

"When I met Melinda, I was penniless," said an anonymous former employee. "There were several nights that I was homeless and my kids and I stayed here. Melinda gave me a job and a way to keep my kids safe. She didn't need to do that, but she took care of us."

The remaining staff at KidSports presented Shaw with a plaque, honoring her dedication and commitment to them and the community for a business that started back in 1994.

As guests danced the night away, Shaw reminded those present of the meaning of it all.

"Tonight is a party, not a time to look at this place and to be saddened by it," she said. "It is a time to celebrate it. This place wouldn't be here right now if it weren't for you. Thank you all for being here."

Submit your non-profit calendar event* to calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com

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

PRIDE NEWS

The rebirth of Connecticut Pride 2007

BY: NICOLE LASHOMB
TRT Editor-in-Chief

HARTFORD, CT—As a completely reestablished organization, Connecticut Pride will hold its 26th Annual Pride Rally and Festival on June 30th in Bushnell Park, according to CT Pride officials.

"The Connecticut Pride Committee has reorganized and incorporated under its new name, Connecticut Pride Hartford Rally and Festival, Inc. dba Connecticut Pride, Inc.," said Billy Urlich, Connecticut Pride Vice President. "In addition to undergoing a complete restructuring, Connecticut Pride, Inc., will also return this year's Pride Celebration to the June

GLBTI Pride month and relocate back to the steps of the State Capital at Bushnell Park."

As a newly-found organization, Connecticut Pride is starting with a clean slate and is working diligently to provide the best possible Rally and Festival. This year, Connecticut Pride, Inc. has had to begin with a zero balance and has had to rebuild their finances.

"We're starting over and from scratch," said Urlich.

As a result, the reconstruction of Connecticut Pride relies on the help of community members, vendors, volunteers and allies to contribute to the continual growth and success of the event.

"We hope to be bigger next year, possibly bring-

ing back the March [which is] not unlike those led by Dr. King and others," he said. "It's about rights, fairness and equality."

In the meantime, planning is underway and the

year's festivities.

"I have always had a strong commitment to showcasing local talent from the community. Political speakers are lined up and we have the neces-

"Pride is about visibility, being who you are and being proud of it. But we need to remember that there are places in this world where our brothers and sisters are not able to enjoy this same freedom and whose very lives are in danger just because of who they are."

—CT Pride VP, Billy Urlich

organization is making progress.

"We're moving along, trying to get sponsorship and entertainers," said Urlich.

Currently, local talents have confirmed that they will be performing at this

sary permits," said Urlich. "In addition, we are working on advertising the event, [getting] a beer tent and [creating] a Pride Guide ... and keeping our sanity," he said.

This year's celebration will have the usual festival fare such as food, vendor

booths, an active stage and a Children's Garden sponsored by True Colors.

Despite the hardships faced, as with any start-up organization, people are reminded of why this celebration and rally are so significant to the community, according to Urlich.

"We celebrate Pride because we can," he said. "It reminds us of who we are, where we've come from, and how far we still need to go. Pride is about visibility, being who you are and being proud of it. But we need to remember that there are places in this world where our brothers and sisters are not able to enjoy this same freedom and whose very lives are in danger just because of who they are."

Connecticut Pride will take place on June 30th,

2007 to celebrate 26 years of Pride in the Nutmeg State, the advances in GLBTI rights and to participate in the rebirth of Connecticut Pride.

Connecticut Pride is actively searching for any and all volunteers to aid in the preparation of the festivity as well as the day of the rally and festival.

For information on this year's GLBTI Pride Festival or how you can volunteer for, become a vendor, and/or donate to this year's Pride effort, please go to www.connecticutpride.org or call 860-225-5122.

Please send all donations to: Connecticut PRIDE, Inc. 458 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114.

Cheap from page 6

much? For Pete's sake, they show these at 2 a.m. and editing gets annoying when there are so many ways these days to keep/monitor children from watching it. What's with that?!

Even when we see that there's openness in NoHo, let's face it, things aren't always what they seem. The issue makes me want to remind you that even in Northampton, there are people who are not so open. If it doesn't feel right, be careful for it might not be right. Even in America ... well, even in Northampton too.

And what's the idiotic Bible citation that Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is now pulling? In a recent interview with Mike Wallace, according to an excerpt CBS released recently, he claims that "this isn't just some temporary convenience here on Earth, but we're people that are designed to live together as male and

female, and we're gonna have families ..." I ask Romney, what about the heterosexual people who get married and do not desire to have a family and children, are they acting out of temporary convenience too? If Romney would just get it right, but right on everything, perhaps he would not sound so ignorant. I can't wait to hear what he has to say about religion not being an issue ... "and a woman, and a woman, and a woman." Amen!

Now, did you hear about the Latino Pride of New England. Well, if you haven't, then check out the Calendar of Events, 'cause it's CALIENTE, HOT, HOT, and HOT!

The True Colors Concert Tour 2007 also promises to be a great concert to be at 15 different cities throughout the U.S. The great thing about this tour is that its mission is to raise awareness towards issues faced by the LGBT community and to bring Americans together to unite in solidarity against

discrimination. I don't know about you, but I'm going to the Boston on June 16 or to the NY concert on June 18. See you there!

You know, I do watch Logo TV. We don't care where we live or where we go, we always watch Logo. One thing I'll say, there is a great documentary from LOGO that it is worth watching. Elephant in the Room focuses on the rejection that gay Republicans face by both the gay community and the Republican Party. How do Gay Republicans cope with the conflicts within their identity? In The Elephant in the Room, three Gay Republicans struggle to achieve love, acceptance, and victory without compromising who they are. Part of Real Momentum's documentary series. You should watch this, especially if you're a Republican.

I think I've rambled enough and given you enough of my gossip and info for now. 'Till next time!

Help re-build CT Pride

Under new leadership, CT Pride has undergone major reconstruction. Everything is being re-established from scratch! Please donate or volunteer to help CT Pride celebrate its new beginning.

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EDUCATION & LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Kate Clinton: An Interview with the Goddess

By: J.M. SORRELL
TRT Writer

If you have never heard of Kate Clinton, you are at least one of the following: very young, very not-a-lesbian, unappreciative of comedy as a vehicle for social change, or narcissistic in your delusional insistence that you are the best comedian on the planet.

Everyone else, listen up! Kate has not performed in Northampton in a very long time. What a blessing for us that she will be here in a great venue with lots of parking and for a good cause, too (see below for details).

It was my extreme pleasure to speak with Kate Clinton by phone last week. After deep breathing and wiping the sweat off of my palms, I called, and the experience was surprisingly comfortable because after 26 years of fame and fortune (sort of) on the road, Clinton is still approachable, inquisitive and kind.

JM: Please describe your history with poetry (I remember that you taught English). Do you have a favorite poet? Have you read the Perugia Press books?

KC: My favorite poetry was early on, poems from

MOM (the pleasure of the rhyme and something that is remembered and told). Later I learned that my mother plagiarized what I thought were her best expressions. They were from Shakespeare!

His work is absolutely divinely inspired. It has everything in it and continues to be relevant. They can talk about the bible all they want; just give me Shakespeare. One time I took students to see Romeo and Juliet. A couple behind us who clearly did not know the story were so involved in the plot that they yelled out to the actor playing Romeo, "She's not dead yet!" I loved it.

After studying the boys, with conscious feminism came exposure to Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, June Jordan, and Muriel Rukeyser. These are my favorite poets now. I had the honor and pleasure of attending a reading by Rukeyser. I can't even remember what she read or all of the words, but what stood out was that she said, "Don't be afraid."

I believe that poetry and comedy are very similar. In both cases, one good line is important. Both forms require compacted

language.

Yes, I have read the Perugia Press books. They are wonderful. My brother has read them, too! I love that he is a man who loves poetry.

Q: In "Climate Change," are you imparting warnings about global warming? What themes do you feel are most important today as you perform comedy?

KC: My idea is more prescriptive than directive: Change the climate, people! We can change things; we are a part of history. Finally, the political climate is changing again, so there is hope. I now talk about the insane speed of glacial melting. Remember when that was a reference to

something that was slow-moving?!

The current president has given me so much material and he is too easy to make fun of. Does anyone else think it's odd that this oil man has said, "We're addicted to oil?" He's the drug dealer asking us to consider drug use.

Q: Forget the state of the world. What would you fix about the state of the lesbian community today if you could?

KC: Potlucks. I have lots of friends, and my partner and I lament that we are all so busy doing what I don't know, so on International Women's Day we had a potluck. On our friend's 50th birthday, we had a potluck. This is how we get people to gather.

With 9/11, everyone was at our door. Can you believe that it takes something so horrific for people to show up? It's just good practice to stay connected.

Maggie Kuhn is my role model.

Also, this drive towards marriage. Now we simply go off as couples. This is devastating to what makes us unique. We're 84 but we're adopting children! Nothing will change with this atomizing. It adds to the perfect divide of capitalism.

We are apathetic about class. There was a time when people were out on the streets; now we want to be like the robber barons. Whoever is in charge of PR (public relations) is very good for the robber barons. Did you know that Carnegie hired PR people to make the barons less hateful and to help with the dismantling of unions?

Q: How are you inspired to keep doing what you do? Is it more in reaction to what is wrong or do you also get material from those who transcend the madness?

KC: Why is it that we feel compelled to try to change the world? I think it's genetic. The gay gene gets a little tag. Some get the Abercrombie and Fitch tag, but my partner and I have this other tag. For me, it's feminism; it's being raised a Catholic girl with three brothers. This gave me an early sense of "this is not fair." This gene keeps me going, and it's not pleasant all the time. These last years, it has been gut busting to

transform what is going on in the world into "funny".

Q: Finally, did you know that His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, visited and spoke in Northampton in May? Is this a hard act to follow?

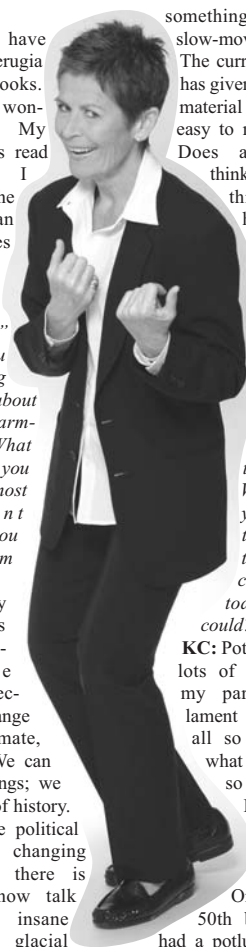
KC: He was in the Beacon Theatre in New York for nearly a week, and it is around the corner from where I live. I would go to work out and tell my friends, "Guess what? He's at Starbucks!" or "I saw him hanging out at the store." They believed me. I love the Dalai Lama. He has a great laugh.

I am happy to return to Northampton. I call it a critical mass place, and I am here to make amends. Seriously, you guys are informed. You get it.

My favorite performance in Northampton was years ago at the Academy of Music. There was a movie playing while I was in town, so the marquee read, "Kate Clinton. Woman on the Edge of a Nervous Breakdown." I had to take a photo. It was perfect.

Kate Clinton will give her benefit performance on Sunday, June 10, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northampton High School auditorium. Tickets are \$35/advance, \$40/door, and \$75 for VIP seating and a gift. Her CDs and books will be on sale following the show. Tickets are available at Food for Thought Books, Pride & Joy, Broadside, Odyssey Bookshop, World Eye Books, KW Home/Easthampton and online at www.perugiapress.com. The event is co-sponsored by Food for Thought Books.

Learn more about Kate Clinton at www.kateclinton.com.



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SPORTS

Amaechi: 'I underestimated America'

BY: ARNIE STAPLETON/AP

DENVER (AP)—When John Amaechi told the world he was gay, he steeled himself for a torrent of negativity that never really materialized, the former pro basketball player told the GOP's largest gay organization Saturday.

"I underestimated America. I braced myself for the wrath of a nation under God," Amaechi said at the Log Cabin Republicans' annual convention. "I imagined that it would be a firestorm, that it would be some insane number of letters demanding my deportation or my death.

"And in fact, 95 percent of the correspondence I've had have been overwhelmingly supportive and positive," Amaechi said. "But I will say that the 5 percent that I've had have been unbelievably, viscerally, frighteningly negative."

Amaechi is a psychologist who works with corporations and also with children, "and I worried what America would make of that," he said. "And it is not an issue."

Among the most vitriolic of critics was former NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway, whose anti-gay remarks led to his disassociation with the league.

Amaechi, who was

raised in England, played in 301 NBA games over five seasons with stops in Cleveland, Orlando, Utah, Houston and New York.

The 36-year-old former player said that while he's heard from everyone he played with at Penn State, he has yet to hear from a single former NBA teammate since coming out in February.

"Probably 30 of my former (NBA) teammates have my e-mail and my telephone contacts and probably 16 or so of those I was in regular touch with and there are probably 10 people who I have (on instant messenger). And zero—nobody—who's active in the NBA has been in touch with me since the day I came out, despite the fact that most of them knew I was gay in the first place," Amaechi said.

He also wondered why nba.com has never mentioned his homosexuality when it was such a huge sports story everywhere else.

Amaechi said he thinks the sports world is slowly accepting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender athletes but he wasn't sure if that was indicative of society's acceptance or even whether sports was an appropriate barometer.

"They are our gladiators,

our heroes. On the other hand, there's not many of you would trust them with your children, with your car keys or to do your accounting," he said. "Let's face it, for the most part, the stereotype is that they—we—are dumb as rocks. So, I don't know if they are a terribly good group to be looked at as kind of indicative of societal change or as leaders in that respect."

At times, Amaechi said he finds himself a little out of place as a gay sports ambassador.

"I've spent a lot of time in this country and I do adore it on many levels, but we live in a country where a man can be lured to a parking lot, beaten and chased to his death on a freeway," Amaechi said. "We live in a country where a shoeless child can be strapped to a fence post and left to die. ... And yet somehow we expect that

the general public will sit up and pay attention when they can focus on 'Gay Shaq.'

"I don't understand that. What happens to human empathy when the death of children, of innocents, do not inspire the kind of change we're looking for? But an athlete potentially sacrificing an endorsement here or there or the chiding of his teammates, that would cause this kind of change?"

In his speech titled "Is Pro Sports Changing?" Amaechi said not all change is relevant, a point he illustrated with a story about doing plyometric training in Phoenix with other elite athletes during his playing days. A young football player begged to be allowed to jump onto the highest of three boxes. He almost made it but clipped the edge and fell to the floor, skinning his shins.

"Until he grew up, until he got the strength that he needed, until he got the size he needed, until his physical ability and his experiences matched his will, he is indistinguishable from those who could jump on the middle box," Amaechi said. "All he has to show for his attempt at this top box is shins with no skin.

"Sometimes change has a threshold, and until you reach it, there is not really any progress."

As for politics, Amaechi chided Democrats and Republicans alike.

"It's hard for me to hide the fact that I am no fan of this administration, as much for their foreign policy as for their stance on (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) issues," he said. "However, I am no fan of the Democratic candidates who take four days before they decide that Gen. Pace's comments

were not very nice."

Gen. Peter Pace is the Pentagon's top general who two months ago called homosexuality immoral and said the military should not condone it by allowing gays to serve openly in the armed forces. He later expressed regret but did not apologize.

Amaechi surprised many in the audience by declaring he's not a sports fan and that he has no desire to pick up a basketball again, although he is intrigued by the thought of playing for a gay team.

"I haven't watched a professional basketball game in three, maybe four years," he said. "And it's not because I hate the NBA or I harbor any kind of (resentment). None of that. It's just that Saturday afternoon, I can think of something better to do."



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