

# The Rainbow Times

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

Year 1, Vol. 17 • Nov. 1 - Dec. 5, 2007

[www.therainbowtimesnews.com](http://www.therainbowtimesnews.com)

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campus employee

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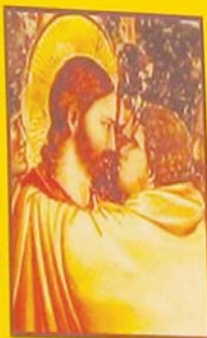
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# BETRAYED...

**FRIEND:**

**Judas**  
**Iscaariot**



**COUNTRY:**

**Benedict**  
**Arnold**



**MARRIAGE:**

**Angelo**  
**Puppolo**



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## Opinions

## In the name of God: Missionary murderers?

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

Although divided on the issue of religious/moral beliefs, most people in the commonwealth have been known to promote change and union. Believing something else should not equate being against other communities. Embracing differences does not mean adopting them, but simply understanding that we are all different in some form. Just because we share different views and live our lives differently does not make us (members of the LGBT community) bad people, and should not make us the target of hatred, bigotry, discrimination, and even murder.

Many people consider themselves Christians, followers of Christ's teachings, or even religious. I still have not read anything from the Bible that showed that Christ hated others, or hurt anyone, especially those who were different. He purely loved people (all people) for who they were: Children of God. Why is it then that we are the targets of hatred, judgments, attacks, etc., all "in the name of God?" I am here to tell you that love is

The Rainbow Times' unspoken and unpublished slogan. We will stand and say it out loud: We love you in spite of the fact that you are different and have different views about life. We love you even when you love someone from the opposite sex, or even if you have erred in the past. We love you because you are just as human as we are, and as capable of making mistakes as we are. It is not our place to judge you, to intimidate you, or to hurt you. We are beyond that, and we remain strong with our commitment of love. It is not about "converting" anyone, but about love and acceptance. After all, who do you know that is, thinks and feels exactly as you do in every single way? I think that if your answer is as mine—one no one—then there is only one way to look at this. We are all different and all deserve love, rights and protections. It should be that simple.

In the name of God has become a TRT section that will highlight the good news about what others do in the name of God to help other communities, or people who

See Love on Page 3

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

By: JM Sorrell/TRT Columnist

Last month, I wrote about community and proposed ways we could create and sustain it. In conjunction with this theme and in response to personal pain I have experienced, I would like to ask readers to consider the harm of gossip. According to the dictionary, gossip is "a rumor or report of an intimate nature" or "a person who habitually reveals personal or sensational facts about others." The verb version is simply putting to practice the noun.

Who amongst us has not engaged in gossip? Many spiritual practices consider gossip as offensive as major crimes, but its insidious nature and the disguises we use make it challenging to own and therefore to accept that we should not participate in it—either as an executor or as a listener. For instance, a piece of gossip may be prefaced with, "I'm really worried about so-and-so; did you hear that she...?"

Some sociologists say that using gossip may be a form of communication that denotes belonging to a group, and it may create some form of bonding. The problem is that it is always at the expense of someone else. To profit from harm is wrong, no? Feeling self-important for a moment of information-sharing can hardly nurture the heart and soul. So why do we do it?

To speak for myself, I was tempted to use this column to engage in self-righteous gossip about some (from the inside)



J.M. the JP

who have caused harm to our community as of late. I wrote it out, and then reconsidered my motive.

Recently, I received reliable word that I have been the source of gossip in circles of people who know nothing about my character, my history, or my heart.

The characterizations of me were hurtful. As a conscious activist for nearly 26 years, I understand the risk of speaking out for social justice, but it saddens me greatly that the very people I support (and directly or indirectly work on behalf of), would find satisfaction in creating harmful gossip that simply maligns my character. Who benefits from this careless behavior?

What does this hard lesson mean to me? I myself must cease the endless temptation to be any part of gossip. I would love to be joined by some form of a larger moratorium that would contribute to a healthy and life-affirming LGBT community. It seems to be the way to love.

\* J.M. Sorrell is a Justice of the Peace. She bleeds and feels deeply. She will keep you posted as to how her experiment to refrain from gossip works. She welcomes all feedback and suggestions.

## The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. then get up and do something

By: Suzan Ambrose  
TRT Columnist

When Senator Larry Craig (R-Idaho) was arrested a few months ago at the Minneapolis airport men's bathroom for lewd conduct, it conjured up a whole new meaning for the phrase "dirty politics".

And we know how clean public restrooms can be.

No, the Senator got his hands dirty all right—not for voting against gay rights time and time again, as his voting record seems to show—but for continuing to deny who he really seems to be.

At time of this writing, Sen. Craig has: 1. Announced his resignation from Congress, as well as his hesitation to actually go through with that. 2. Rallied against his guilty plea, saying he didn't know what he was signing, and is now appealing the court's decision to let his plea stand. 3. Has chosen to stay in office until the remainder of his term (Jan. 09), having recently accepting Idaho's Hall of Fame award (he was nominated before this debacle broke), and stand firm on his {stance-----} denial that he is, indeed, gay.

Craig's continuing denials of what he did & didn't do, isn't (gay) & and is (in love with his wife) is true entertainment for comedians and those who love to 'poke fun' at politics as usual.

The hypocrisy is palpable.

But as the laughter dies down, we are forced to re-examine once again in our



GLBT history why this struggle is still going on. The struggle we continue to have as loving, committed (and yes, even sexual) people

in having open and honest, societal-accepted relationships. How many of us live in the shadows? Are forced to hide or be closeted? How many of us, as recently out-ed former New Jersey Governor James McGreevey remarked, "Settle for the detached anonymity of bookstores and rest stops"? For too many of our community, being out is a lot like chocolate ... just oh-so forbidden.

Yes, Larry Craig is a hypocrite and much of his anti-gay voting legislation has hurt LGBT causes over the years. But at the same time, my heart feels for someone who would cling with such desperation to remaining closeted. As much as I don't care for the "he protest-eth way too much-eth" Senator, I just have to beg the question—what crime is he really guilty of committing?

He touched another man's foot. His hand went under the stall. His extremely wide stance isn't made for public bathrooms.

No money was exchanged, and no one engaged in public acts of lewdness. He only wanted an intimate something-something with another man.

Andrew Sullivan nails it on the head in his post in *The Atlantic*:

See Couch on Page 17

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This is in regards to the Transgender Pride March 2008 Informational that is in the latest issue.

I want to start off by saying that I am a huge fan of TRT, it's a wonderful, great publication that has been long over due! So, Thank you!

In the latest issue, I saw the informational about the Transgender Pride March for 2008. I found this a little disappointing, not only the explanation of why, "because it's not enough to be included in the Gay Pride Parades," but because I think that the concept of it is very segregating to what's left of our gay community.

Growing up in the Midwest, I know that the struggle for GLBT(rangender) community is not the same as here in the valley. I'm not saying that there aren't struggles, because we all damn-well-know, we struggle anywhere we are! That being said, when I was growing up in Indiana, I struggled with the community that I was to reach out to, not

See More Letters to the Editor on Page 4

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# Lesbian Notions: A Family Affair

By: Libby Post \*

No good deed goes unpunished.

That is certainly the case for Michael Gregg Valdez and Michael Oberg, who took in the four young children of Valdez's niece. The niece asked the couple to take care of her children while she dealt with some drug-related criminal matters.

Already parenting Valdez's biological daughter, Michael and Gregg, as Valdez in known, are more than happy to provide a stable, loving home until the children's mother is ready to do the same. The problem is they live in Utah, where two unmarried people cohabitating cannot serve as foster or adoptive parents.

The state's Division of Children and Family Services asked the courts to take the children away from the two men so they could be placed in foster homes more to the state's liking - married, heterosexual households. Instead of handing custody to the state, the court took custody of the kids and then turned around and granted Gregg temporary custody. For now, the four will stay together.

This is just the type of situation that fuels the passion of Jennifer Chrisler, the executive director of the Family Equality Council. You may have known the organization as Family Pride - the name was recently changed to reflect their purpose of achieving family equality for all loving families.

"Mike and Gregg's willingness to open their homes and hearts highlights what is best about families—love, commitment, strength, and support," Chrisler told me



recently. "Utah's law regarding placement of foster care children is not good public policy, nor is it good for children."

Ballot initiatives banning gay adoption and fostering may well raise their ugly heads in the 2008 presidential race - although when that tactic was used in 2004, it didn't gain much traction. However, according to Chrisler, Arkansas is likely to mount a ballot initiative that in the long run will just hurt kids in need of loving homes.

And in Texas, the state is proposing spending close to \$3 million to investigate current foster parents. If any of the parents are found to be LGBT, the kids will be yanked from the homes.

Chrisler has been working to protect those kids and their LGBT families since April of 2005, when she came to the Council, then located in Washington, D.C., after serving as a fundraising consultant for political campaigns and LGBT organizations in Massachusetts. She and her spouse, Cheryl Jacques (yes, the same Cheryl Jacques who helmed the Human Rights Campaign for a brief and shining moment) recently moved back to the Bay State with their 5-year-old fraternal twins, Tim and Tom. The organization moved with them, and is now headquartered in Boston.

"I'm a mother. I'm raising my kids in a world where our families don't have what they need to keep each other strong and protected," she noted. "Kids spend a lot of time explaining who their families are, and I'd like that to stop."

In the little more than two years that Chrisler has been at FEC, she has transformed the organization into a political powerhouse.

Remember the Easter Egg Roll at the White House, where LGBT families

wore rainbow leis and received national media attention? That was thanks to FEC.

When James Dobson from Focus on the Family wrote a hateful op-ed in *Time Magazine* about Mary Cheney's pregnancy, FEC pressured the conservative weekly to run a counterpoint piece entitled "Two Mommies or Two Daddies Will Do Fine, Thanks," authored by Chrisler. The piece focused on the inequity of Virginia state law—where Cheney and her partner, Heather Poe, live with their son—and how Poe is without any legal parental rights.

"Some of the pressing issues we face are marriage equality and uniform parenting laws," said Chrisler. "We need laws that recognize the complicated and creative ways our families are created. Issues such as surrogacy, sperm donors, and divorce create legal complications. It would be nice to have a uniform law to protect our families."

A community organizer at heart, Chrisler understands that she can't be the only one out there speaking on behalf of family equality. Through OUTspoken Families, the organization's national speakers bureau, more than 1,000 people in 39 states, D.C., one U.S. territory, and

three foreign countries have been trained to speak out on family equality issues.

"We're training people to be advocates for themselves, their families, friends, and people they care about at every level of their life, from responding to a comment in an elevator to speaking to the PTA," said Chrisler. "We have a lot of people raising the issue of family equality at lots of different levels...we're working to change the hearts and minds of straight people we come into contact with."

Changing those hearts and minds means changing the way LGBT families live. Many of us no longer have to live in the shadows, afraid that someone will find out that our kids have two mommies or two daddies. But for those who do, FEC and Chrisler work to change laws, make schools safer, and create a national LGBT family movement that can no longer be ignored.

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

## Love from Page 2

who are different than what they are. It will also emphasize the heights that some people will go through to show their fear, hatred and ignorance and the results and consequences of such prejudice. Let's not forget the names of ignorance and the carnage they have committed just because they felt that others were different. They can fall into the category of missionary murderers who, according to Wikipedia.com, believe that their "acts are justified on the basis that they are getting rid of a certain type of person" (often members of a certain race, ethnicity, different set of values, etc.), and thus feel

that they are doing society a "favor." From such ignorance I still remember the following "missionary murderers:" Timothy McVeigh (Oklahoma City), Osama Bin Laden (911), Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold (Columbine High School Massacre), and many others who attack others because they are different. I ask myself, "What their hatred accomplished?" The answer comes to me quickly: "Nothing but pain, fear and suffering to their victims." This is how we, members of the LGBT community, feel when we are the target of such malicious acts. Can you relate?

## Did you know that?

**Gender Expression:** Refers to all external characteristics and behaviors that are socially defined as either masculine or feminine, such as dress, mannerisms, physical characteristics and speech patterns.

TRT

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## In 'The Name of God'

# Billboard Assault Spreads Hatred (BASH)?

By: J.M. Sorrell/TRT Columnist & Writer

The billboard on southbound I-91 (see photo) near the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts depicts State Representative Angelo J. Puppulo, Jr. (D) as a "traitor" to the New Jersey-based National Organization for Marriage's (NOM) definition of marriage.

According to their web site, NOM intends to target each of the 11 Massachusetts legislators who had previously supported a ballot measure to consider reversing the SJC decision of November 18, 2003 that put into law equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

After perusing nationformarriage.org, I contacted NOM's executive director, Brian Brown, to give him an opportunity to explain his billboard campaign and to ask questions about the statements on the web site's "Why Marriage Matters" pages as addressed to Catholics, Protestants, and Jews.

Mr. Brown said, "The billboard speaks for itself." At first, Brown was open to an interview, but when I told him I was writing an article for TRT, he abruptly ended the conversation: "I make it a policy not to do interviews with more extreme magazines."

It is interesting to note that organizations such as NOM and the Coalition for Marriage & Family purport so-called principled stances while refusing opportunities to explain themselves clearly. From what I know, MassEquality, on the other hand, offers dialogue and reiteration opportunities to all forms of media. What is it that NOM fears?

I spoke with Representative Angelo J. Puppulo, Jr. in a telephone interview last week. After nearly 45 minutes, I felt moved by the depth, honesty and intention of service that Puppulo brings to office. Readers should go to [www.puppulo.com](http://www.puppulo.com) to learn more about this man, to offer financial support and/or for volunteer opportunities. His district includes East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and bordering areas of Springfield such as East

Forest Park.

**JM/Q:** On June 14, 2007, you joined with your peers to vote against taking away the civil right of marriage to same-gender couples. Today, do you stand by this decision?

**Representative Puppulo/A:** Yes. Certainly when I came to the decision to keep the question off the ballot, I came to it with a lot of discussion and meetings in my home area—with a broad base I came to the conclusion it is wrong to take away rights. I feel stronger as each day goes by. I have received hundreds of emails supporting this decision and each day, more and more compelling stories reinforce my decision. I stand by it and I am proud of it. Just yesterday, I received an email from a man who was denied access to his partner in the hospital four years ago, and he wanted to thank me for ensuring that would not happen again.

**Q:** What would you like to say about the "National Organization for Marriage" and their billboard campaign to demonize you as a traitor?

**A:** I think it is unfortunate that an out of state group would come into the Commonwealth to spin a mean-spirited, divisive message. It simply confirms my belief that, had this been on the ballot, mean-spirited behavior would have been perpetuated for a long period of time. If they [NOM] want to help families, they should spend their resources to work with families and children in need.

**Q:** What is your most important guiding principle in legislative work?

**A:** Prior to elected seat, I served on the City Council for nine years in Springfield. I have an ability to listen and to show the compassion needed

when representing a group or individuals. I take long-term outcomes into consideration. I will sit down with any group and I engage in a thoughtful process to get to decision making.

**Q:** Most western countries have federal protections for same-sex couples. They may be called marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships. Do you believe that our federal government should offer this protection? Why or why not?

**A:** Massachusetts is groundbreaking and a role model for other states. States are following, and that is the process and stronghold of our country.

**Q:** Any final words?

**A:** I would like to thank the community for continued support, politically and financially, and for your well-wishing. It has been overwhelming for me. Those of us who do the right thing are doing well. Call or write if you want to work with me. We're in this business to help people—and not just the majority and not to take things away. My legal background assisted me in this decision.

### Other opinions

In western Massachusetts, Senator Gale D. Candaras (D) is also on the billboard "hit list" as someone who changed her vote from favoring a ballot measure that may have led to a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. I spoke with her Chief of Staff, Aaron Saunders, about Candaras' thoughts on NOM and the billboard campaign.

**JM:** Does Senator Candaras stand by her decision today?

**AS:** Yes, she has received overwhelming support from her constituency. Her entire district, not just LGBT families, but also neighbors of these families who

originally opposed same-sex marriage, urged her to support their lesbian and gay neighbors.

A pivotal point [prior to June 14] was when dozens of LGBT families attended a community forum at Springfield College where religion was discussed. It became clear that many families are affected by this.

This billboard serves as a reminder that we want to put this behind us. A ballot measure would have waged a campaign of hate with an inundation of out of state money.

Senator Candaras works in the best interest of the Springfield area [her district also includes Wilbraham, East Longmeadow, Ludlow, Belchertown and Granby], and important issues such as the poverty rate in Springfield drive her agenda.

Candaras' statement to the Boston Globe on June 14, 2007 included this passage: "I also want to address directly one of the more contentious issues in this debate. Same gender couples have been adopting children and building families here in the Commonwealth for about twenty years. In many instances, same gendered couples have adopted children with severe challenges, children no one else wanted, and they have worked miracles with them. These children would have lived lives of despair without these families. This underscores how we cannot afford to marginalize any of our people; make anyone second-class citizens. We are all precious resources to each other, and to generations yet to come."

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only accepted gays but also bisexuals and transgender people. I didn't want to be categorized in the same group with them, thinking that in some way, it would reflect me, that people would think that I wanted to be a woman, or something. (young ignorance!)

However, as I needed my community more and more, through the beating from my brother, through the loss of communication with my parents, I realized why these wonderful people were included in my community! They understood me, accepted me and celebrated me because they knew where I was in my life! This is why in Indiana, we call people in our GLBT community, "FAMILY"! We are ALL family.

With the amazing progression out here in Massachusetts, it is sometimes easy to forget about the connecting links that we have as a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender FAMILY! With the constant segregation of our vibrant, small community; Men only dances, unaccepting lesbians, and Transgender Pride; We will have no reason to accept, educate, love and support each other.

The idea that it may not "be enough" to be included in gay pride marches for some transgender people, saddens me. Yes, we need to tackle legislative issues for the transgendered members of our community, but I think we would be more effective doing it as a whole! There is no better feel-

ing than to march down the street with tons of people from all walks of life that are together as one. I accept and cherish the transgender people in my community, but sometimes "enough is never enough".

It may not be accepted by many, but that's just my opinion. We must stick together, as one community! Together we will continue to progress and be that role model community that many parts of our country need! Separated, we will begin to lose why we are considered "family".

Grateful for your work and dedication,  
—Adam Brogan, Northampton

Dear Editor,  
I found The Rainbow Times in Albany. I am wondering if you are going to continue targeting this community. We have never had anything like The Rainbow Times, but I loved the first issue, especially the story about the companies that cater to the GLBT market. I didn't know how many didn't and now that I am aware, I say "shame on you for segregating us and not wanting our business." I will definitely take my business elsewhere from now on!  
—J. Randall, Albany NY

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## Featured Business

# Serio's Market celebrates 57 years, right at home

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

Serio's Market celebrates its 57th year anniversary on the same corner where it all began, literally, from scratch.

"This Business was started in Nov. 1950," said Christina Cavallari, owner Serio's Market, Northampton, MA. "Prior to that, my Grandfather came from Sicily in 1906 as a teenager. He started as a fruit peddler, going door to door to his customers. He married my grandmother and they continued this business together. When his health started to fail in his early forties and my uncles went in the service, my Mom started a small vegetable stand at the house. They lived on the corner where the store stands. They realized people would come to them and started 'The Little Store' in the front two rooms of their house."

According to Cavallari, the success of her family-owned business has largely to do with the area in which it thrives, Northampton, Mass.

"Northampton is a great community," said Cavallari. "It has changed over the years for sure, but I think that this is the reason we have been able to be successful. A lot of people who have grown up here take the area for granted. They



Serio's Market at 65 State St. in downtown Northampton, Mass.

expect things to always stay the same. [But] the people who come here fall in love with the area, what it has to offer, and decide to make their homes here. [That] makes the town a very vibrant place to be in business. We have great

diversity in our clientele; a lot of families, singles, students and people who move here from all over the country and the world, which is great. We try to treat all of our customers with the care and respect we would want for ourselves."

According to Cavallari, the high quality of their products, care of customer needs/requests, offering local produce and products are some attributes that distinguish Serio's Market from other markets.

"I think we fill a space for a lot of people who either do not have the time or the desire to shop big box shopping," she said. "We offer quality in our meats, produce and dairy. We do a lot with local produce and local products, and people appreciate that too. They [customers] know if we get in a new product, we have probably tried it ourselves or it has been requested by another customer, so we can give an honest opinion. And if they [customers] are looking for something, we try our best to get it in."

Services such as catering and home delivery are also available at Serio's.

"Catering has come out of customer requests," said Cavallari. "We started doing it because someone would have a hot dish or something from the deli and ask if we would make it for a party they were having. We now do a lot of orders. We make all of our deli salads,

See Serio's on Page 6

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Friday, November 16, 8pm, Concert Hall  
Paying homage to the Dead's legendary sound, a roster of acclaimed artists including Ollabelle, Larry Campbell, Theresa Williams, Jim Lauderdale and Catherine Russell come together to recreate and perform songs from Workingman's Dead and American Beauty.



#### DARK STAR ORCHESTRA

Saturday, November 17, 8pm, Concert Hall

The Grateful Dead spirit is channeled as the musicians capture the excitement and innovation of the original performances and compositions. Unbroken Chain is presented by the UMass Amherst Graduate School, Department of History, Fine Arts Center, University Outreach and University Research.

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Tuesday, November 27, 7:30 pm, Concert Hall

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Friday, November 30, 8pm, Concert Hall

The Blind Boys of Alabama have spread the spirit and energy of pure soul gospel music for over 60 years winning four Grammys along the way.

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## Queer Local News

# Trans discrimination by UMASS campus employee

By: Grisel M. Ocasio\* /TRT Publisher

Sept. 19, 2007 was just another day that she encountered discrimination. This time, a UMASS employee disregarded her request, although she was properly dressed as a woman. She is just another male-to-female (MTF) transgender person who has faced discrimination.

"The officer from the UMASS Parking Services Department came to me and asked me to move my car while repeatedly calling me 'sir,'" said Lara Lane, a Western Mass. resident, who distributes newspapers on campus. "When I asked her to address me as 'Ms.," she simply replied 'yes, sir.'"

Lane filed a complaint with the UMASS Police Department on that day. The officer completing the report from the UMASS Police Department, Sergeant Mark L. Jacques, stated in it that he informed Lane that "a non-criminal report would be filed, as I (he) did not believe it met the standard for criminal discrimination, but that a report would be on file to document her coming in." The report ended with the words: "No action required by this department."

However, that was back in September. As of the last week of October, TRT received information about the UMASS Parking Services Department's decision to offer its staff training on trans issues. The Training will be provided by the UMASS Amherst Stonewall Center.

"We're doing a two-hour transgender training for the UMASS Parking Services and everyone from the director to the clerk will take part in it," said Brett-Genny, Janiczek Beemyn, Ph.D., Director, the Stonewall Center, UMASS, Amherst; Co-Chair, Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals; Board Member, Transgender Law and Policy Institute. "We do awareness and education training. We talk about why it's important to address trans issues and talk about the experiences of trans people. We go through terminology and talk about practical workplace issues."

After receiving no response from Michael Brennan, Director of Parking Services, UMASS, TRT was contacted by a UMASS spokesperson on his behalf. According to Ed Blaguszewsky, UMASS Director of the News Office, the training

is something that Brennan mentioned to him as "being helpful for the staff to raise awareness and sensitivity."

"In matters like this we do not comment in detail," said Blaguszewsky. "The parking people view this in terms of the parking attendant who is involved as a personal matter, which we do not discuss with the press. Parking Services will be conducting its trans training in coordination with the Stonewall Center early in November."

Trainings can occur before or after an incident has taken place. However, it is preferable to have them before an inci-

dent takes place, according to Brett-Genny.

"It would be better if companies and institutions were to recognize the need for education around LGBT issues at the onset and not have to address the issue once there has been an incident of discrimination," said Brett-Genny.

According to *Ten Strategies To Improve Trans Inclusiveness on Campus*, written by Brett-Genny, "more than 40 colleges and college systems have added 'gender

See Discrimination on Page 11



CHRISTINA CAVALLARI & GARY GOLEC  
SERIO'S MARKET OWNERS

Serio's from Page 5

homemade soups, and hot dishes in-house. We do all kinds of platters [such as] sandwiches, cheese & crackers, veggie/munchies etc. We also [offer] grocery



Photos by: G. M. Ocasio

husband, Gary Golec.

"We do not have anyone who has expressed a desire at this point," said Cavallari. "Gary has three children and we have nieces and nephews. I did not think I would have taken it over and my grandmother worked until she was 90. So you never know!"

Serio's Market is located at 65 State Street in downtown Northampton. For more information about their products and services, call Chris or Gary at 413-584-2633.

home delivery which a lot of stores have gotten away from."

According to Cavallari, there are no plans for expansion at this time.

"One place keeps us very busy," said Cavallari. "We also like being present in our Business to give it heart and feeling."

It is unclear who will be the next in line to take over the market when the time comes, according to Cavallari and her

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# Fairytale Princess: Carlton's new album is the fairest of them all

"A Thousand Miles," the ubiquitous hit single from her 2002 debut *Be Not Nobody*, earned singer-songwriter-pianist Vanessa Carlton Grammy nominations for Record and Song of the Year. Now on a new label and releasing her third album, *Heroes and Thieves*—which includes lead single "Nolita Fairytale," an ode to the New York 'hood she moved into three years ago—the 26-year-old spun us a few yarns about her heroine Stevie Nicks and the gays who've stolen her heart.

**Q:** The low sales of your sophomore album *Harmonium*, which featured the controversial single "White Houses," led you to get dropped by A&M Records. Do you have any regrets?

**Vanessa Carlton:** As I'm promoting this record, I thank God for *Harmonium*, because there was a fork in the road after my first record, and I opted for the harder path. I think in the end it's going to pay off so much more for me in terms of longevity. I would've had regrets if I'd taken a slicker path that wasn't a reflection of my own aesthetic, but had maybe sold more records.

**Q:** In the "Nolita Fairytale" video, a taxi smashes the infamous piano from the "A Thousand Miles" video. Does that mean you're officially over that single?

**A:** I looked at it more like you have to



VANESSA CARLTON

close a book to open a new one. It was [director] Marc Klasfeld's idea to run the piano over. At first I just saw the humor in it, but as I thought about it, I was like, Wow, this is a big, bold statement, but an important one. So it was like, let's remind people of the girl on the rolling piano—because that image was bigger than the song and me—and then destroy it so we can start anew.

**Q:** What's so great about Nolita?

**A:** Aside from the fact that I walk to the

corner and hear four different languages, there's so much interesting stuff going on. Just walking down the street, I'm inspired by the people that I see expressing themselves artistically. They also have great dive bars, which I really appreciate! My favorite hole-in-the-wall is Ruby's, which I mention at the end of "Nolita": "Ruby's in the afternoon." But I'm nervous because I don't want people to go to Nolita! I feel protective of it. I don't want it to be completely infiltrated

by tourists, which it already is.

**Q:** Now that you're on The Inc. Records, were you nervous about working with executive producer Irv "Gotti" Lorenzo, who's best known for collaborations with artists like Ja Rule, DMX and Jay Z?

**A:** I was until I met him. When I played, he was running around the office screaming obscenities—all in a good way. I was just like, This guy is so refreshing! All preconceived notions popped, because in the end, we really respect each other and make each other better. That's the ultimate for any partnership, romantically or professionally—making the other person better at what they do and who they are.

**Q:** Tell me about your *gay fans* and friends.

**A:** I love the gays! All my gay boys and girls are great, and I have a lot of very cute gay boyfriends. I have so many friends in healthy relationships who aren't able to get married. There's so much oppression in this society that it feels oppressive to me as well. Actually, I really wanted [the *Harmonium* track] "Who's to Say" to be a gay anthem.

**Q:** Have you *performed at gay clubs*?

**A:** I just recently performed at a lesbian club in Albany, and the radio station that put the show on didn't even

See Carlton on Page 9

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# Is there a gay gene? What are the facts?

By: Dr. Renee Lang

*Question: I am a lesbian and my younger brother recently came out as gay. Since then, we have both been disowned because my family thinks it is all a choice. I know it is not a choice for me, but has there been any scientific proof that being gay runs in the genes? Could that explain why my brother and I are both queer? I would like to be able to combat the situation with facts and not just emotions.*

—Nancy E., Easthampton, MA



DR. RENEE LANG  
genetic component of gayness existed.

gay men and 16 non-gay men. The study revealed that an area of the hypothalamus was slightly smaller in the gay men as compared to the heterosexual men. The researcher concluded that a genetic component of gayness existed.

probability that a genetic component exists for homosexuality. However, if purely genetic, all the identical twins should be gay. In addition, other subsequent twin studies do not duplicate these results.

Finally, the third study by Hamer in 1993 studied pedigrees and determined that "gayness" in men was passed on via the X chromosome from mothers. Is that science or a stereotypical thought about gay men? From that conclusion, he looked at the X chromosome and found

of the justification seems to revolve around legality and discrimination, meaning discrimination against genetic "conditions" is unacceptable. In addition, some possibly internalized homophobia seems to exist around this topic. "Do you think I would choose to be this way?" "I was born this way!" Homophobia is a social/political/religious construct, one that I don't think needs to be supported by defining homosexuality as a genetic disorder.

In conclusion, no gay gene exists. No single genetic factor causes homosexuality. However, due to the increased likelihood of homosexuality in family systems, a genetic component does exist. Sexual orientation results from a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Family and social expectations and beliefs contribute, past incidences of trauma and abuse contribute, and so do many other factors. We rarely discuss how all of these things also contribute to being nice, being generous, and being a considerate person. However, all of that contributes to those complex behaviors as well. This article provides my best understanding and interpretation of the current research.

\* Dr. Renee Lang is the owner of Pioneer Naturopathic Medicine in Northampton and in Brattleboro, Vermont. Submit your question to Dr. Lang at TRT's website (Health Section).

**In conclusion, no gay gene exists. No single genetic factor causes homosexuality. However, due to the increased likelihood of homosexuality in family systems, a genetic component does exist.**

Dear Reader,

I am sorry to hear about your family's response to your and your brother's sexual orientation. I hope to provide some clarification to you and other reader's regarding the genetic component of homosexuality.

In short, there is no definitive scientific proof showing a direct link between genetics and homosexuality. Sexual orientation, like other complex human behaviors, result from both genetic and environmental factors. Certain traits directly pass down from genes, including hair and eye color. Homosexuality is not like hair color.

The media information about the gay gene arose from three different studies conducted in the 1990's. The first study done in 1991 examined the brains of 19

However, there was no discussion of whether or not AIDS may cause the shrinking or if that particular area of the brain controls sexual behavior. The small study size precludes any ability to make a statistical assessment.

The next study in 1991 found higher rates of homosexuality among identical twins (about 40-50%) than fraternal twins (about 25%) and adopted siblings (about 5%). This study points to the

that a high percentage of the gay men in the study shared a region of genes. However, he did not study the percentage of this "gene" in heterosexual men. Another study in 1999 did not find any region on the X chromosome specific to gay men.

At first thought I wonder why these studies are being done. I wonder why money flows to this topic as opposed to other life threatening conditions. Some

## Carlton from Page 7

know—and these were big, scary girls. [Laughs] A lot of times these stations are narrow-minded, so I was so glad they stumbled upon it by accident. It was a funny, special little secret I knew but they didn't.

**Q: Speaking of lesbians**, how was working with producer Linda Perry?

**A:** I did my first batch of songs with her, so it dictated the direction of the record and made me realize what I wanted it to sound like—like it came out on vinyl in 1972. That was inspired by her vibe and all her cool vintage gear.

**Q:** How did your split earlier this year from Third Eye Blind's Stephan Jenkins,

## Vanessa Carlton Upcoming Tour Dates

Nov 18 2007; 8:00P; Park West Chicago, IL  
Nov 20 2007; 8:00P; Joe's Pub, New York, NY  
Nov 21 2007; 8:00P; Birchmere, Alexandria, VA  
Nov 22 2007; 8:00P; Mod Club; Toronto, Canada  
Nov 24 2007; 8:00P; Cabaret, Montreal, Quebec

who also co-produced your album, influence the record?

**A:** We all learn so much from our relationships. Not just regarding that relationship, I've had so many life lessons and evolved a lot these past few years. I work out questions and find the answers through writing—but sometimes I don't find the answers. The last song on the album, "More Than This," is about my favorite idea in life: At any given time,

you can choose to be peaceful, you can choose to be happy and not crave anything more than what you have. That's obviously directed at someone else, wishing for them to understand that as well.

**Q:** You're young, pretty, famous, and you even dated another celebrity. How have you avoided tabloid attention?

**A:** Well, I don't live in L.A., and I don't

seek it out. You create your own reality. I just hate getting my picture taken and I hate clubs. I like old bars where it seems like Hobbits or ghosts would be.

**Q:** So no rehab for you anytime soon?

**A:** Hopefully not. [Laughs] You never know, though. We're all fragile, aren't we? We all have our vices.

FMI: [www.vanessacarlton.com](http://www.vanessacarlton.com). *Heroes and Thieves* (The Inc. Records/Universal

## Queer Cinema You Can't Miss!

### Southland Tales (LESBIAN)

Genre: Comedy, Musical, Sci-Fi, Thriller  
Rating: Not yet rated; Director: Richard Kelly;  
Starring: The Rock, Seann William Scott, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Cheri Oteri; Release Date: 11/14/07; Synopsis: Futuristic comedy that takes place in Los Angeles July 4, 2008. Cheri Oteri plays a villainous lesbian bodybuilder.

### Privileged (GAY)

Genre: Drama; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release  
Director: Jonah Salander; Starring: Julian Morris, Aaron Ashmore; Release Date: 12/01/07  
Synopsis: A closeted gay teen (Morris) tries to destroy the relationship between a girl and the boy he secretly loves.

### The Walker (GAY)

Genre: Drama; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release; Director: Paul Schrader; Starring: Woody Harrelson, Lauren Bacall, Kristin Scott Thomas, Lily Tomlin, Ned Beatty; Release Date: 12/07/07  
Notes: Premiered at 2007 Berlin Film Festival  
Synopsis: Carter Page III (Harrelson) is a gay

Washington, D.C. gentleman who escorts the wives of rich and powerful men to public events. He is closest to Lynn (Bacall), who, one day, finds her lover stabbed to death. By trying to protect his friend and cover up her affair, Carter tells her husband (Willem Dafoe) that he found the body, and thereby becomes the prime suspect.

### Almost Myself (TRANS)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release; Director: Tom Murray; Release Date: TBA  
Notes: Premiered at 2006 Newfest  
Synopsis: Director Tom Murray explores the lives of a group of diverse MTFs in this documentary.

### Be Real (LBGT)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release  
Director: Bobbie Birleffi and Beverly Kopf  
Release Date: 00/00/00; Notes: Premiered at 2006 Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival  
Synopsis: The two directors went in search of six extraordinary LGBT individuals across the country. This film tells their stories.

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## Education

# UNH: Gay men discriminated against more at work than gay women

DURHAM, N.H. (AP)—Employers discriminate more against gay men in many jobs than against gay women in the workplace, according to new research.

University of New Hampshire researchers found that gay men who live together earn 23 percent less than married men, and 9 percent less than unmarried heterosexual men who live with a woman. Discrimination is most pronounced in management and blue-collar, male-dominated occupations such as building, grounds cleaning and maintenance, construction and production, according to the study by UNH's Whittemore School of Business and Economics.

Lesbians, however, do not experience similar discrimination in the labor mar-

ket, according to Bruce Elmslie, professor of economics, and Edinaldo Tebaldi, a former assistant professor of economics now at Bryant University. Their research appears in the Journal of Labor Research in the article "Sexual Orientation and Labor Market Discrimination."

The authors also found that lesbians are not discriminated against when compared with heterosexual women. They conclude that while negative attitudes toward lesbians could affect them, lesbians may benefit from the perception that they are more career-focused and less likely to leave the labor market to raise children.

According to the study, 18.1 percent of lesbians have children, compared with 49.4 percent of straight women.

"Employers could reasonably infer that a lesbian applicant or current employee will have a stronger attachment to the labor force than will a heterosexual woman," the authors said.

The authors note that previous studies of attitudes of heterosexual men toward gay men and lesbians shows that the bias against gay men is much stronger.

"Employers may disapprove of gay lifestyles and act on this bias in making hiring decisions," the authors said. Employers also may discriminate against gay men in response to the desires of other employees. If employers consider mixing heterosexual and homosexual employees distracting and detrimental to productivity, the authors said the employers may consider it profitable to discrim-

inate.

Gay men also may be discriminated against because customers may not want to interact with them, thus influencing hiring practices. "If customers prefer to interact with heterosexual employees, the owner will act on the customer's taste for discrimination," the authors said.

Finally, the authors theorize that biased employers may be reluctant to hire gay men because they are concerned about a loss of productivity if a worker becomes infected with HIV/AIDS.

The authors analyzed U.S. Census labor and wage information from more than 91,000 heterosexual and homosexual couples in March 2004.

## Chocolate fundraiser announced; volunteers and auction items needed

NORTHAMPTON, MA—The 14th annual Chocolate Dessert Buffet & Silent Auction will be held on Sunday, November 11 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, One Atwood Drive, Northampton. Proceeds benefit AIDS CARE/Hampshire County.

For a \$15 donation, chocolate lovers can sample more than 70 chocolate desserts donated by local restaurants and bakeries. While enjoying the sweets, attendees are invited to participate in the silent auction. Bids will be accepted on a variety of donated items including artwork, books, clothing, gift certificates, gift baskets, performance tickets and weekend getaways.

Proceeds benefit AIDS CARE/Hampshire County, a non-profit,

### Some HOT auction items:

- 1) *Mordecai Gerstein* is donating a book and a drawing made in making the book. The drawing is not one that is in the book but an "alternate illustration" Value : \$1500
- 2) *Kelle Quist, Ginger Pear Gourmet, Personal Chef*: Meals will be prepared in the winner's home at a mutually agreed upon date (after January 1, 2008). Winner must be located in Franklin or Hampshire County only.
- 3) A photo shoot of you, your children, your pet—or your whole family, in the Northampton area. Includes 3 hand printed, black and white 5X7's of

your choice. Donated by *Photographer Ellen Augarten*. Must be booked in spring or summer.

- 4) Large original painting "Breathe Deeply" by *Donna Estabrooks* framed by *Hadley Picture Framing* The total value is \$845
- 5) A *Barry Moser Bible* (designed and illustrated by Barry Moser). This is one of only five hundred copies of the Viking Studio Edition of the *Pennyroyal Caxton Bible* that have been printed especially for the friends and patrons of *Pennyroyal Caxton Press*.
- 6) Overnight at the Inn at Essex in Vermont



important work of this agency through fundraising events like the annual Chocolate Dessert & Silent Auction event.

For more information, to inquire about volunteer opportunities or to make a donation of chocolate or an auction item, call (413) 586-8288 x5 or e-mail [aidscarehamp@cooley-dickinson.org](mailto:aidscarehamp@cooley-dickinson.org).

Northampton-based agency that provides comprehensive support services and case management services for people living with HIV/AIDS. AIDS CARE/Hampshire County is a program

of Cooley Dickinson Hospital. At the 2006 event, more than \$32,000 was raised.

The Friends of AIDS CARE/Hampshire County support the

### BASH from Page 4

State Representative Ellen Story (D/Amherst and Granby) has been a supporter of same-sex marriage from the beginning. I asked her about the latest backlash.

**JM:** What do you think of the NOM billboard campaign?

**ES:** I think it shows they are searching for a new avenue to take. In the legislature, it is clearly a dead issue, and it will not come up again in the next several years, and the more time that passes, the deader the issue becomes regarding amending the constitution to discriminate. They have realized that they cannot win in the legislature, so they are looking for new areas to explore. They think that having billboards is a good idea.

I think that for the few people who agree, they probably think it's a good use of money. For the majority of people who do not agree, they are either amused or outraged: "Isn't that issue already decided?" If this is the way they choose to spend money, fine. It will not be effective. Most of us have moved on in Massachusetts.

**JM:** I have read through their (NOM)

documents referring to various faith traditions, and why those traditions should support only the man-woman definition of marriage. With all of the verbiage around "threat," it does not appear that same-sex marriage threatens the heterosexual version. Why do you suppose the opposition uses the term "threaten" so often?

**ES:** I think it's part of their strategy, which is to inspire fear in people. Most of my district supported the SJC decision, but those who called in did say, "This makes a mockery of my marriage," etc. Leaders were suggesting they say this. It has always been baffling to me.

**JM:** What is your most important guiding principle in legislative work?

**A:** To try to be fair. It's one of my most guiding principles in life. Also, to treat other people the way I want to be treated. Jesus says love thy neighbor as thyself. That's too hard, I can't love all of them but I can treat them the way I would hope they would treat me. This is possible to do.

Sometimes, I will walk through Boston and find the most unlikely people to ask directions from—not the man in the

suit—but teens with a skateboard, "Excuse me. I'm trying to get to Church Street." They are disarmed; they have something that I need—directions. Then they start to discuss the best way amongst themselves. Their posture is different when I leave then when I first approached them. This never backfires; it is so unexpected-- a middle-aged woman in a suit, why is she walking here to ask us? They love it. They feel competent afterwards.

**JM:** Do you believe that our federal government should offer this protection? Why or why not?

**ES:** Yes, because it's FAIR. The SJC [Supreme Judicial Court] said it's discrimination if you don't. It is treating other people the way you want to be treated.

I caught up with MassEquality's Communication Director, Melissa Threadgill.

"I think it is a hateful and divisive billboard. 'Threat' is a loaded word. This heightened language inspires people to action. There is no indication that heterosexual marriage is in any way threatened by same-sex marriage."

**JM:** Do you see an opening for dialogue regarding the points on each side of this debate?

**A:** We are always reaching out to people, and we respect concerns, but we will not respond to the Judas/Benedict Arnold language. We see more and more people coming out as supportive of equal rights every day.

**JM:** Do you have any words of advice for LGBT activists and allies now? What should they be doing personally and politically to work for equality?

**A:** A #1 priority is to make sure that the legislators who voted with us are re-elected. Donate, volunteer, and help those who need it in your district. We stick by those who stuck by us.

...The legislators I spoke with are aligned around the concept of moving on. They have come together at a crucial point in history to honorably serve their constituencies and to take a stance for fairness and social justice. Whether or not we see additional BASH activities throughout the Commonwealth, one thing is for sure. United we stand; divided we fall.



## BCT: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Cast members include 12 Gay men from the MA area

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." The Biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors comes to vibrant life in this delightful musical parable.

The Black Cat Theater, in their 22nd year, is rehearsing and gearing up for their annual fall production at the South Hadley High School auditorium on November 7-11th. Wednesday November 7th is "Friends and Family Night" with discounted tickets for all. The Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances have a 7:30 pm. curtain. There are also Saturday and Sunday matinees with a 2:00 p.m. curtain.

This year's cast features 12 men from the local gay community playing several roles. This is a trend that started last year with BCT's production of "South Pacific" in which most of the male chorus consisted of gay men from the area.

"We have seasoned performers and guys who have never been on stage before taking part in this show," said director and cast member Matt Meers of Easthampton. "Directing a show with this many gay men involved, I've been

able to incorporate a lot of gay humor that everyone will enjoy."

Proceeds from these performances go into the BCT Scholarship fund that is available to a South Hadley High School senior going on to college to further their education in the arts.

Set to an engaging cornucopia of musical styles, from country-western and calypso to bubble-gum pop and rock 'n' roll, this Old Testament tale emerges both timely and timeless. This year's cast features Nick Adams of Amherst as Joseph and Seana Lamothe of Northampton as the Narrator. There are also over 20 performers in the cast, a six piece band and a 24 member children's chorus.

"A show like this brings a lot of people out of the woodwork to get involved" said director and cast member Matt Meers of Easthampton. "We have people involved from Springfield, Chicopee, Northampton, Granby and as far away as Conway and Greenfield. It's a real community effort to put on a show of this size here in South Hadley."

For ticket reservations call 563-6023 or email [dlarder@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:dlarder@mtholyoke.edu).

### Discrimination from Page 6

identity or expression to their policies in the last decade." However, at the Stonewall Center's website (under the Campus Transgender Guide), UMass Amherst, the guide reads, does not have "gender identity or expression" in its nondiscrimination policy.

It further clarifies that The Stonewall Center is leading an effort to amend the policy.

According to Lane, all she wanted was that the officer be reprimanded accordingly, and to receive an apology from her.

"It doesn't seem like that's going to be the case," said Lane. "I did not even hear about the training until recently, and frankly, I did not expect much

either. I hoped that the company I worked for would advocate for me, but they didn't care about my issue, but [rather] their truck. I will have to watch out for myself even more."

\* Grisel M. Ocasio is the Publisher of TRT, and a graduate of Temple University with over 16 years of experience in the publishing/journalism field.

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**Gay Traveling**

# Out of Town: Weekend in Austin, Texas



By: Andrew Collins\*

**F**ast-growing Austin has been one of America's most talked about cities over the past decade, having not only increased its population by nearly 50 percent but also solidified its reputation as an ultra-cool place to live and visit. The fact that Austin is oppressively hot for a few months each summer is about its only major negative. As autumn approaches, however, Austin cools off again - and this means the city's myriad cafes, lounges, music clubs, and gay hangouts sizzle with activity.

If you've been to this left-leaning - especially by Texas standards - city before, say five or more years ago, you may have trouble recognizing it. The downtown landscape has been transformed by recently constructed office and hotel towers, and a fantastic new airport makes traveling here a breeze. Here's a recipe for enjoying the perfect three-day weekend in this upbeat, welcoming metropolis.

Consider staying in the funky downtown Warehouse District, with its bounty of both gay and gay-friendly bars as well as hip restaurants and offbeat boutiques. Worthy recommendations include the most glamorous hotel in town, the Intercontinental Stephen F. Austin, an opulent 16-story beauty with marble baths, 1920s-era furnishings, and twice-daily maid service. Perfectly appealing yet less pricey downtown alternatives include the Radisson Town Lake, whose rooms face the scenic Colorado River (known as Town Lake in this part of the city), and the Hampton Inn and Suites, an attractive, reasonably priced mid-rise opened a few years ago.

Across the river, within walking distance of downtown, you'll find another excellent lodging base, the retro-trendy South Congress district, home to the cleverly restored Austin Motel. Many rooms at this quirky slice of '50s-style Americana have tile floors, kitchenettes, Jacuzzi tubs, and kidney-shaped patios. There's an on-site Mexican restaurant, El Sol y La Luna, that turns out fiery, kick-ass huevos rancheros and carne asada. A few blocks away, the swankier Hotel San Jose is another old motor court that's been given a postmodern, minimalist makeover. The spacious courtyard suites are downright posh (and pricey), but a simpler though

still snazzy room with a shared bath runs for under \$100 nightly. Entertain guests in the hotel's scene-y lounge-cum-coffee-house.

On Friday, your first night in town, decompress after your flight or car ride with a relaxing, informal meal at one of the city's well-regarded purveyors of Tex-Mex, such as Guero's or Manuel's. A former feed store that's now a fabulous taqueria, Guero's serves some of the best Mexican fare in central Texas—from standard but artfully seasoned tamales to more innovative creations like marinated grilled pork on a corn tortilla with onions, cilantro, and fresh pineapple. Fancier than most of the Mexican restaurants in town, Manuel's is a sleek, deco-inspired space in the Warehouse District with a sassy little bar in back.

After your meal, it's time to check out at least a couple of Austin's inviting gay bars—it's a topsy-turvy scene in these parts, with one or two bars coming and going seemingly every year. But you can consistently count on there being roughly a half dozen gay bars downtown, mostly concentrated in the Warehouse District. Worthwhile options on Fridays include the relatively new Rain on 4th, which opened in the Warehouse District in 2006, and has a lovely deck out back, a cozy billiards bar up front, and a mid-size dance bar in the middle; and Charlie's, the city's oldest gay bar, which lies in the shadows of the state capitol building. Go-go boys perform inside, and there's a spacious deck in back. If you're looking to keep it mellow your first night, have an after-dinner cocktail, fruit smoothie, or espresso drink at the stylish Halcyon Coffeehouse and Lounge, a hipster-infested, gay-friendly hangout across the street from Rain on 4th.

Rise and shine on Saturday morning with breakfast at one of Austin's more eccentric nosh pits, Magnolia Cafe, which has branches along South Congress Avenue and also just west of downtown on Lake Austin Boulevard. The delicious, filling breakfast specialties range from the "Solar Landscape" (seasoned grilled potatoes, red onions, and ham topped with queso and chipotle sauce) to hefty gingerbread pancakes bursting with blueberries.

Very close to the South Congress neighborhood, you can take to the outdoors and work off some calories with a stroll through beautiful 350-acre Zilker Park, a fine spot to tan your hide on sunny days. The park's spring-fed Barton Springs



The gay section of Hippy Hollow Park is a favorite Austin hangout on weekend afternoons.

Pool, a popular and enormous swimming hole, remains an invigorating 68 degrees year-round, so bring along a swimsuit if the weather's nice.

Austin's best outdoor attraction, however, is Hippy Hollow Park, which hugs the shores of stunning Lake Travis, about a 30-minute drive west of town. This is the region's only official clothing-optional sunbathing spot. The gay section, which draws substantial crowds on just about any day with temperatures above 65 degrees, lies at the very end of the pathway that leads from the parking lot. On weekend afternoons you'll often see pleasure boats packed with cute guys docked just offshore. Break for refreshments with a meal at the Oasis, a massive outdoor compound set high on a bluff overlooking the lake and Hippy Hollow - it's a short drive from the park. The mediocre Mexican food at Oasis won't win any culinary awards, but the views and the potent margaritas make this a winner.

On your way back into town, treat yourself to some truly heavenly ice cream at Amy's, a shrine to fattening dairy treats. Mexican vanilla, pumpkin cheesecake, and honeyed brandy are a few popular flavors at this local chain with outposts in several handy locations, including South Congress Avenue and 6th Street downtown. If you still have a little time left, stroll among the cool antiques, home-furnishings, and second-hand clothing shops along South Congress Avenue and also in the Warehouse District.

Saturday-night dinner options are many. Stick with the Warehouse District for the best people-watching, plus proximity to gay nightlife. Excellent dining bets include Kenichi, a mod, happening place where pretty young things hobnob over superbly rendered Japanese cuisine. At nearby Malaga, you can savor plate after plate of terrific tapas, such as braised beef short ribs in Rioja wine.

Saturday is Austin's big night for gay revelry. Rain on 4th and Charlie's remain

popular options, but this is also the best night to check out Rain's neighbor, Oilcan Harry's, which has been a fixture in the city for years. This always-packed stand-and-model bar attracts a hot collegiate crowd. There are a couple of bar areas, a patio in back, and a good (loud) sound system serving the tiny but pulsing dance floor. Austin's many queer country-western fans head to the nearby Rainbow Cattle Co., where they two-step and line-dance below a sea of wagon wheels and Wild West artifacts. If you're into leather, head to the Chain Drive, which cultivates a bearish and rugged ambience.

The city also has dozens of clubs and lounges hosting bands and singers of just about every ilk, making Austin one of the nation's top cities for live music. Just stroll through the Warehouse District, especially along East 6th Street, and listen for the sounds of music to your liking. In Austin, nobody cares much about looks, labels, and agendas—you'll be made to feel welcome most anywhere.

Sunday morning offers a fresh opportunity to sample one of Austin's great brunch or lunch spots—depending on how late you sleep in. A favorite of the gay community, Katz Deli is renowned for its half-pound sandwiches—the grilled three-cheese with tomatoes is especially good. Another enjoyable option is the South Congress Café, a handsome space known for such toothsome brunch treats as duck-and-oyster gumbo, and a luscious carrot cake French toast.

Spend your final afternoon in town exploring the leafy 357-acre campus of the University of Texas, whose attractions include the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum and the Texas Memorial Museum, which has exhibits on state history and local flora and fauna. UT's Blanton Museum of Art is well-regarded for its collections of Renaissance paintings as well as modern Latin American art. Guadalupe Street, known along its border with UT as "the Drag," is a haven of alternative culture as well as the place to shop for locally made arts and crafts, Longhorn memorabilia, and other offbeat goods.

On your final night in Austin, you might go all out with a high-ticket dinner at one of the city's most sophisticated restaurants, such as dark and sexy Jeffrey's, which has the polish of a big-city supper club and a clientele that ranges from celebs to politicians. The lamb T-bone with spinach-parmesan soufflé and onion-mint confit is a typically sublime dish. Don't miss the white-chocolate parfait with brandied cherries and pistachios for dessert—a memorable ending to a great Austin weekend.

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

To get phone numbers of the places listed here, otherwise known as **The Little Black Book**, please go to: [www.rainbowtimesnews.com](http://www.rainbowtimesnews.com) (click on the Travel Section).



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## PuddleJump Travel Stories

# Going Green: Exploring the nooks and crannies in El Yunque

By: J. Stevenson\*  
TRT Travel Columnist

The raindrops drum onto leaves below, the twittering Coqui frogs keep time with the beat, and every inch of the land is a shade of green, from turquoise to olive to chartreuse.

Just a short bus ride from the seaside resort town of Fajardo, Puerto Rico, it's hard to believe the El Yunque Rainforest exists so close to civilization. But El Yunque, the only rain forest in the U.S. Forest Service system, encompasses 28,000 acres of Puerto Rico and includes the Luquillo Mountains, offering spectacular, emerald views from every angle.

The Mt. Britton lookout tower, perched at 3,088 feet and accessible by foot or car, is an excellent place to start taking it all in. It's a simple, stone cylinder rising from the trees, allowing visitors to peek at the foliage from windows at many levels of a winding, stone spiral staircase. At the top, rain clouds can be seen retreating or approaching, and on a clear day, the coast is visible in the distance. A deep bank of fog lolling over the tree tops, however, is more likely, and equally striking.

It's a small rainforest in comparison to other tropical forests around the globe,



EL YUNQUE RAINFOREST IN EL YUNQUE, PUERTO RICO

but as such, is a concentrated hot spot for life – in countless forms.

El Yunque is what is called an 'experimental national park;' It is the site of several studies of flora and fauna, climate,

and other environmentally based subjects. Walking through the forest, though, either alone or on a guided tour, is the only way to fully appreciate how amazing El Yunque is in its diversity.

Some plants grow so fast, it's possible to see and hear the stalks creeping upward. Others are so deeply rooted they've stood firm in the same place for decades.

A glimpse at an endangered Puerto Rican parrot is a rare treat, and more common marvels are the tiny, chirping Coqui frogs – an unofficial mascot of the island, some exist nowhere in the world but in El Yunque – and giant snails, clinging to branches and leaves.

A different look at a culinary delicacy or two could be found as well; in the case of hearts of palm, for instance, the root, found in many Caribbean and Latino dishes, cannot be harvested until the tree in which it lives is felled, and at El Yunque, that's always of natural causes.

A walk through El Yunque isn't just a hunt for strange sights, though. It's a truly ecological experience, and a brief study of a rare and tiny island rainforest that is also considered by experts to be one of the most fragile in the world.

There are lessons to be learned in Puerto Rico's rainforest, where the rhythm of life drums quietly on.

\* J. Stevenson is a travel, culture, and business writer based in Massachusetts. Visit her online at [www.writerjax.com](http://www.writerjax.com).



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On October 6th, Mary Lou Perkins celebrated her surprise B-day Party along with family and friends. In the above photo, Mary Lou poses with her tiara, and daughter Margaret Chandler at her 80th Birthday Celebration, which took place at the Florence Civic Center. Left Top Pic: Back row: Sons, John, Greg and Paul Chandler, (Joseph Chandler missing), daughter Anne DePalma. Middle row: grandson Cameron Chandler, daughters Mary Chandler, Kathryn Chandler, Sarah Sansom, grandson Dan Chandler. Front row: daughter Margaret Chandler, Mary Lou Perkins, and grand-daughter Kelsy Chandler.



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10. She Likes Girls

\* By wolfevideo.com



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## Lambda Legal Urges Ithaca City School District to Retract Its Stance on New York Human Rights Law

New York—In an effort to persuade the Ithaca City School District to abandon its stance that the New York Human Rights Law does not apply to public schools, Lambda Legal today sent school board members a letter critiquing the board's argument and explaining the potential harm the board's position could cause.

"The human rights law is the only effective law that expressly addresses antigay discrimination in New York Schools," said Hayley Gorenberg, Deputy Legal Director at Lambda Legal. Attacking it jeopardizes LGBT students."

In response to charges of racial discrimination, the Ithaca City School District defended itself by challenging the New

York Human Rights Law, stating that the law should be interpreted to exclude public school students from its protections.

In the case that raised the issue, a young African-American girl alleged relentless harassment by a group of white students while riding the public school bus to DeWitt Middle School. Her mother, Amelia Kearney, said she reported the incidents but was given little to no help. She claims that the district failed to protect her daughter from racial harassment. In defense against this claim, the Ithaca City School District not only contested the specific facts, but argued that the human rights law does not apply to public schools. When a state Supreme Court

judge ruled on September 11, 2007, that the law applied to schools, the school district launched an appeal contesting that holding. Its decision to challenge the NYHRL has garnered harsh criticism from community members and civil rights organizations.

At its October 23 meeting the Board of Education will discuss a proposal to discontinue its challenge to the applicability of the NYHRL.

*Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.*

## State Legislators applaud expansion of GMDVP into New England

BOSTON—The Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project (GMDVP) announced today that its hotline program, designed to aid gay male victims of domestic violence, will expand to cover all of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. It will be funded through a \$75,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation.

Mr. Peter Bowman, a senior Verizon official presented the check to GMDVP Executive Director Curt Rogers in front of a packed press conference including state legislators, Verizon officials, community allies, and representatives from the Governors office, the Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance

The GMDVP hotline, expanding into all of New England is believed to be the first gay/bisexual/transgender male domestic violence hotline in the nation to expand beyond one state.

"The Verizon grant is significant for several reasons," said Rogers "It expands a model program into other states, and it provides a lifeline to gay, bisexual and transgender male victims currently without access to services. It also exhibits leadership to other corporate foundations who traditionally have not funded GLBT domestic violence issues"

State Senator Ed Augustus spoke of the



Individuals in Photo from L to R: Susan Goldfarb, Interim Director of the Family Justice Center of Boston; Massachusetts State Representative Liz Malia; Peter Bowman, Verizon Vice President of External Affairs for Massachusetts and Rhode Island; Massachusetts State Senator Ed Augustus; Mary Lauby, Executive Director of Jane Doe, Inc.; Dennis Breunsky, survivor of domestic violence and Treasurer of the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project; Curt Rogers, Executive Director of the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project.

exemplary nature of this combined effort of a leading business, a non profit and state legislators acting together to confront such a difficult issue. State Representative Liz Malia, a long time champion of LGBT Domestic Violence remarked that domestic violence in the gay community needed to be confronted with equal vigor and resources as seen in the heterosexual community. She spoke with compassion of her connection and on going work with both

GMDVP and their sister organization the Network/ La Red.

Verizon President of Massachusetts and Rhode Island Donna Cupelo said "Domestic violence is an issue that affects every segment of society and statistics have shown that 1 in 4 gay men will be victims of domestic violence. Verizon is proud to work with the GMDVP to assist on this worthy project." The grant from the Verizon Foundation will be used in part to hire a full time regional hotline coordinator who will be responsible for overseeing the larger staff of volunteers and geographic area.

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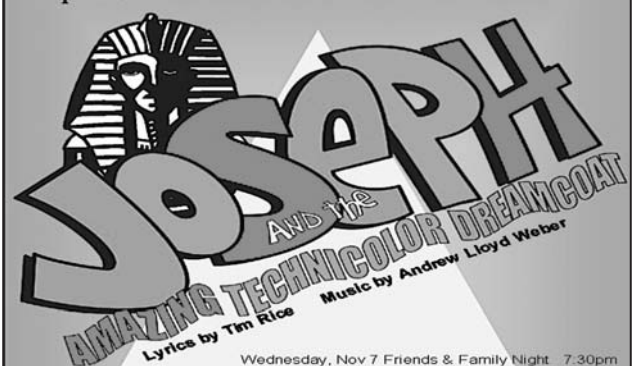


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# LGBT Announcements

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

(MA) **UNITY** is a Transgender support group which meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Baystate Hospital, 3300 Main Street in Springfield, MA.; and on the 4th Thursday at the Blue Moon Coffee Roaster located at 715 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA. FMI: Deja 860-604-6343 or Kerl 413-364-1749.

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

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

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

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

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

(VT) **MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP**; Any male 18 or older; 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.

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

(MA, NY, CT & VT) **DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE U R QUEER?** Call *The Rainbow Times*, 413-204-8959.

(MA) **Transgender Pride March Meeting**; November 1; from 7-9 p.m.; at the Media Education Foundation, 60 Masonic Street, Northampton, MA.

(MA) **MONSTER GOLD 2007**; Annual theater fundraising event. November 3, 2007. 8 p.m. - 1 a.m., Memorial Hall, 198 Monson, MA. Tickets: \$20.00/Adults 18+. For more information: 413-668-7284.

(MA) **NORTHAMPTON INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL**; Nov. 8-12; FMI [www.niff.org](http://www.niff.org)

(CT) **ONE BIG EVENT**; November 10, 6 p.m. to midnight, at the Hilton Hartford Hotel. Tickets are \$100 to \$200 per person.

(MA) **FALL FIESTA, A BENEFIT FOR NOHO PRIDE**; November 16, 2007, The Log Cabin, 7 p.m. - 12 a.m. Performances by D'Lish and The King St. Boiz performance troupes, Special Guest DJ. Advanced tickets \$15.00. At

the door, \$20.00.

(MA) November 1st; **First organizational meeting for the Trans Pride March and Rally 2008**; 7-9 p.m.; Media Education Foundation, 60 Masonic St., Northampton. This is for the transgender communities in Western Massachusetts, Southern Vermont, and Northern Connecticut.

(MA) Nov 2-10; **Northampton Independent Film Festival**; A film for just about anyone!; FMI: [www.niff.org](http://www.niff.org)

(NY) November 2: **ROMAINE BROOKS ART GALLERY OPENING** - First Friday featuring: The Propaganda Show; 5 - 9 p.m.; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY; FMI: Contact Michael at [RBG@cdglcc.org](mailto:RBG@cdglcc.org) and [www.romainebrooksgallery.30art.com](http://www.romainebrooksgallery.30art.com)

(CT) November 3: **Women, Wine & Chocolate**; A benefit for Love Makes a Family; 7 p.m. to ?; at the home of Donna Cordova & Alesia Mondello, 17 High Gate Lane, West Hartford

(CT) Nov. 3; 7:30-11:30 p.m.; **REAL ART WAYS**, 56 Arbor St, Hartford; Third annual Underween celebration, an evening of free food, fun, and dancing. There will be a Murder Mystery and a costume contest. Free event, open for all ages. FMI: [hmc@riseup.net](http://hmc@riseup.net) or call 860.560.9668.

(MA) **November Smith College's Program for the Study of Women and Gender**; a Fall Semester **LGBT History Film Series**. Films will be shown in McConnell B15. All films start at 7:15 p.m.

November 6 and November 7; [Helo Along The Wind: The Story of Harry Hay](#)

November 13 and 14; [Mom's Apple Pie: The Heart of the Lesbian Mother's Custody Movement](#)

November 27 and 28; [The Cockettes](#)

December 4 & 5; [The Times of Harvey Milk \(END OF FILMS FROM SMITH COLLEGE\)](#)

(NY) Nov. 9; Movie Night showing: "Chutney and Popcorn"; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY; 7:00 PM, FREE!

(MA) November 9th; **WORD WARRIORS: 35 Women Leaders in the Spoken Word Revolution**; 7 p.m.; Food For Thought Books 106 North Pleasant Street in downtown Amherst. Prize-winning Editor/Poet/Performer Alix Olson with Lenelle Moise and other contributors to WORD WARRIORS

(MA) Nov. 10-11; 11-5 p.m.; **The Rainbow Times Open House** at its new office in Ma.; 221 Pine St., Suite 358, Florence, MA 01062; 4130294-8959; 413-303-9549.

(CT) Nov. 10; The Kinsey Sicks Presents: **Dragapella Barber Shop Quartet**; UConn's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts; [jorgensen.uconn.edu](http://jorgensen.uconn.edu); tickets \$20, students \$17 @ 860-486-4226 (See page 11 FMI).

(CT) Nov. 10; **One Big Event**; Hilton Hartford Hotel, Hartford, CT; 6:00 p.m. to Midnight; featuring Michael Wilson - Emcee; Comedian Andre Kelley; Honorary Host: Mayor Eddie Perez; Musical entertainment provided by PaprikaCocktails, Silent Auction, Dinner, Dancing, Formal Attire Encouraged; FMI: Dan Millett; (860) 278-4163.

(MA) November 11: **The 14th annual Chocolate Dessert Buffet & Silent Auction**; 2 to 5 p.m.; Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, One Atwood Drive, Northampton. Proceeds benefit AIDS CARE/Hampshire County. For a \$15 donation, chocolate lovers can sample more than 70 chocolate desserts donated by local restaurants and bakeries.

(NY) Nov. 15; **For as long as HIV is here; "The best party this side of the River Rhone!"** The Annual Beaujolais Nouveau Wine Celebration; the Franklin Plaza in Troy; \$70 in advance and \$80 at the door. FMI: Janet Andrade at 518-434-4686, ext. 2424, or visit [www.aidsCouncil.org/help/beaujolais-nouveau/](http://www.aidsCouncil.org/help/beaujolais-nouveau/)

(MA) November 17; **FREE HOME BUYER'S SEMINAR**; 2 p.m.; Forbes Library, 20 West Street Northampton, MA. Free Pre-Approvals on the spot! Contact Kate Hunter or Jared Martin at 413-584-4404 or 413-230-6773 to reserve your space!

(MA) November 17th at 8 p.m.; **Melissa Ferrick's final concert of The Institute for the Musical Arts (IMA)** fall series; at the IMA Big Barn in Goshen, MA. Tickets \$22.50 in advance and \$25 at the door, or online at [www.ima.org](http://www.ima.org) and at Northampton's Pride and Joy on Crafts Avenue.

(MA) Nov. 17; National Transgender Day of Remembrance; Blue Moon Coffee Roasters; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; 715 Sumner Ave. Springfield.

(VT) November 18 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; **Transgender Support Group**; Meeting in Brattleboro, VT the third Sunday of every month. Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary, including transpeople of all genders and sexual orientations: transgender(ed), transsexuals, FTMs, MTFs, non-op, pre-op, post-op, crossdressers, bi-gendered, genderqueer, genderfluid, questioning... Confidentiality guaranteed. For more information contact Benjamin Robin: [robin@benjaminrobin.net](mailto:robin@benjaminrobin.net)

(CT) November 20; **6th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance**; 6 p.m. at MCC Hartford, 155 Wyllys Street, Hartford.

(CT & NY) Nov. 20; **Women's Monthly Connection**; 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.; third Tuesday of every month for a Women's social networking event for you and your friends. Come meet up with your friends or make new friends at this historic site where the Gay Liberation movement was started.

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

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

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

(NY) **Capital District Prime Timers**; Provides social, cultural, and recreational opportunities for mature gay and bisexual men. Open to men age 21+. FMI: [jallison2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jallison2@nycap.rr.com) or

CDPT 595 New Loudon Rd #202 Latham NY 12110

(NY) **Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Men Support Group**; Mondays; 7 p.m.; Support group for GBT men to talk about coming out, sex, religion, dating, relationships, and other issues affecting men in the GBT Community; CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138 or [qdiamond@cdglcc.org](mailto:qdiamond@cdglcc.org).

(NY) **Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Support Group**; every other Tuesday; 7 p.m.; Designed for multi-cultural lesbian and bisexual women who are questioning their sexuality, recovering from newly ended relationships, struggling with depression or just women needing the support of their peers. Meet at CDGLCC at 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138 or [qdiamond@cdglcc.org](mailto:qdiamond@cdglcc.org).

(NY) **Youth Group**; Friday nights; 7 p.m.; 332 Hudson Ave. in Albany; Group offers peer support to LGBT& questioning individuals ages 13-19. A supportive environment for LGBTQ youth and their straight allies to discuss issues of coming out, family, school, work, and relationships among their peers. It's not just a group about being gay. It's a group about being young and being who you are. Another group meets in Saratoga Springs at 624 Broadway every other Wednesday, a group in Hudson at 742 Warren St. every other Wednesday, and a group in Schoharie County that meets twice per month. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138 or [qdiamond@cdglcc.org](mailto:qdiamond@cdglcc.org).

(NY) **Confidential HIV Testing**; first Wednesday of each month; 6-8:30 p.m.; Provided by Project H.O.P.E., a program of the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York. Testing offered at the CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: 518-462-6138.

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

(NY) Dec. 3: **PrideWorks for LGBT Youth Conference**; 8:00a - 3:30p; Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY ; 9th annual full-day conference addressing issues of lgbtq youth and their allies in our schools and communities. Cost is \$85 for adults, \$50 for college students and \$30 for high school and middle school students.

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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.

# IPPI: Professional Parents and their children, do you qualify?

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

Over half a million children in the U.S. are awaiting foster care or adoption placements. In many cases, these children will never know a family or home to call its own. In an exclusive interview with The Institute of Professional Practice's Professional Parenting Program, TRT brings to you the way that you can take these kids out of the system and into your hearts.

"The Professional Parenting Program is a specialized foster care project operated by The Institute of Professional Practice, Inc.," said Martha Wick-Glaser, The Professional Parenting Program, The Institute of Professional Practice, Woodbridge, CT. "The program is designed to provide a loving home for children who are difficult to place due to emotional, behavioral, developmental or medical issues. We are a licensed child placement agency and over the years many of the children in our program have been adopted by their Professional Parents."

Being a foster parent can involve many different types of placements, including short-term and long-term, which may result in an adoption.

"If the child's biological parent's rights have been terminated and the State of CT

## The preliminary qualifications to become a Professional Parent are:

- At least 21 years of age • High School diploma or GED • An extra bedroom in the home and landlord permission if you rent • Valid CT driver's license and a reliable car with insurance
- Never been substantiated for abuse or neglect (there are also a number of criminal convictions that would preclude someone from being approved) • Sufficient income to meet the needs of your family (money should not be a motivating factor for someone considering this work) • A first shift work schedule

is the legal guardian of the child, they are most likely eligible for adoption," said Wick-Glaser.

"Many of the children that are referred to the program lack family resources and [their] biological parent's are not involved. Our program has celebrated the adoptions of several of our children over the years."

Although many adoptions have occurred, other professional parents are needed on a short term basis. In certain circumstances, the children may be reunited with their biological parents, according to Wick-Glaser.

"Foster care is designed to be a temporary solution for children in need of a safe and loving home," said Wick-Glaser. "Many of our children look forward to reunification with their biological families and when that is the plan, foster parents know it at the time of placement. For

those Professional Parents that feel that saying good bye to their foster child will be too painful, we recommend for them the children in need of long term placements or perhaps the adoptable children that are referred to the program."

According to Wick-Glaser, services and supports such as 24/7 emergency on-call staff, behavioral consultation, reimbursement for therapeutic respite and recreational expenses, consulting psychiatrists, individualized treatment plans, comprehensive parent training, weekly home visits, and a competitive stipend are available once a placement has been made.

"Such services and supports are what separate us from other programs and are made available to our Professional Parents upon placement of a child," said Wick-Glaser.

"The stipend that Professional Parents receive on behalf of the children in their

care is not to be considered household "income". Therefore, applicants are asked to provide us with evidence that they are financially capable of supporting their household."

Currently, The Professional Parenting program has 104 children with over 50 children on a waiting list who are in need of professional level foster homes.

"IPPI's Professional Parenting Program is licensed by the State of CT and therefore we can only approve homes within the state; just as the children referred to our program are residents of the State of CT," said Wick-Glaser. [However], the Institute of Professional Practice, Inc. in MA, recently started a Professional Parenting Program which specializes in working with Developmentally Delayed children. The rewards are many but very personal. Certainly what our parents give to their foster children is returned tenfold. Giving them the opportunity to become well adjusted, successful, happy children provides for them unlimited personal fulfillment and satisfaction."

For more information about the CT Program, visit [www.ippi.org](http://www.ippi.org) or call Martha Wick-Glaser at 888-968-4489, x134. To become a foster parent for developmentally delayed children in Mass., contact Mary Devlin at 978-343-8392, x314.

### Couch from Page 2

"Craig was seeking in that toilet stall a connection, a shard of intimacy, that the world would not give him, or that he could not give himself. No one should have to live without that intimacy and dignity—no one. Living a life like that, a deeply lonely, compromised, painful interior existence—is a very sophisticated form of hell. No human can keep it up forever. No human should have to keep it up forever."

And perhaps we've forgotten that it wasn't so long ago when gay people first stood up and said: "We aren't going to take it anymore!" (Yes, I was born then). Unfortunately now, just like in the past, so many of us are still not free to stand up and be counted. People like Larry Craig, who act on their desires without ever being able to come to terms with their sexuality.

Sociologist Laud Humphreys' "Tearoom Trade" study describes this

**He is in bed with them, literally. He is married to this identity; being a straight man, sleeping with a woman, having fathered a couple of children: A true hypocrite.**

subculture of married-with-children men who didn't self-identify as gay, or bisexual, yet still sought clandestine sex with other men on the side. Published in 1970, "Tearoom Trade" is full of useful information about foot tapping, shoe touching, hand signaling and other rituals of those so inclined to make contact with one another in public places.

I never got the handbook (or the toaster oven!).

In a world where television's Will and Grace and The L Word fill our living rooms, bathroom cruisers seem almost antiquated. Today's GLBT community wants the right to get married, and public bathrooms aren't the right venue for a

proposal (and for another kind of "proposal", there's always the internet, Larry!).

I am not going to defend the Senator's choices. (He is in bed with them, literally.) He is married to this identity; being a straight man, sleeping with a woman, having fathered a couple of children: A true hypocrite. But he's also a victim. Of the same world that demands we don't ask and don't tell. To admit anything different to himself at this point, would

demand destroying not only his career, but his very life as he knows it.

And when looking at the entire Larry Craig fiasco, I can only hope that someone—some youth, some elder, some married person—will be inspired enough to come out, especially because of him.

\* Susan Ambrose can be heard on "The Naked Truth" every Monday from 8-9 p.m. on 103.3FM. More commentary at: [www.nakedtruthshow.com](http://www.nakedtruthshow.com)



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## CT Neighborhood Organizations

**AIDS Testing:** [www.guardianhealth.org](http://www.guardianhealth.org)  
**Gay Father's Group:** (203) 938-2881/Hartford  
**Community Center:** (860) 724-5542/CT Freedom to **Marry Coalition:** (203) 791-9553/Love Makes a **Family:** [www.lmf-ct.org](http://www.lmf-ct.org) (860) 525-7777/Married **Lesbian Support Group:** [trucolor@aol.com](mailto:trucolor@aol.com) (203) 430-9227  
**Married Men's Bisexual Support Group of Hartford:** (860) 264-5605/MetroPolitan **Church of New Haven:** (203) 397-2312/New Haven **Gay & Lesbian Center:** [www.nhglcc.org](http://www.nhglcc.org) (203) 387-2252  
**PLAG Danbury:** [www.plag.org](http://www.plag.org) (203) 797-4743/Connecticut's Kids: (203) 256-8414  
**Senior Lesbians Happily at Play (SLAPHAPS):** Kathy (203) 929-8113  
**True Colors CT:** [www.ourtruecolors.org](http://www.ourtruecolors.org); (888) 565-5551/National

**Runaway Switchboard:** (773) 880-9860/Connecticut **Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF):** 135 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 • 860.247.6090 **Info, and Referral program:** (800) 479-2949 or Greater Hartford 524-0601 • Statewide women's rights organization working to end discrimination and hate crimes; provides free legal information and referral to the LGBT community.  
**XX Club (Twenty Club):** Rev. Cannon Jones - 45 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06141-0387 • (860) 646-8651 • Provides knowledgeable info., and ongoing peer support to transsexuals. 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, 2-5 p.m.  
**connecticut View (cTVIEW):** A Transgender social and support club, for the TV, TG, TS, CD, both male and female. Monthly meeting in New Haven as well as e-membership, and more. A no dues club, with all the frills; [www.transgender.org/ctv/](http://www.transgender.org/ctv/)



## QueerWood

# Deep Inside Hollywood: Moennig shows Remorse



By: Romeo San Vicente\*

Queer fans of Katherine Moennig, *The L Word's* shaggy-haired, womanizing, underwear-modeling

Shane, will have a reason to leave their televisions for movie theaters when the actor stars in the new indie thriller *Remorse*. First-time feature director Quinn Saunders will helm the project, which co-stars Eion Bailey (*Band of Brothers*). The plot is still mostly under wraps, but there's already an ominous poster image for the film online, one that suggests the movie will serve up a fairly large serving of insanity and fear. And no matter what the story line, it will simply be good to see Moennig on screen for more than a few minutes at a time after her tiny roles in films like *Art School Confidential*. *Remorse* cameras will roll beginning March of 2008.

## Toni Collette Moves into Tara

You've seen Toni Collette play everything from an ABBA obsessive to a mom whose kid talks to dead people, but the Aussie actress is about to play a whole lot of new characters - all in one TV series.



Showtime has announced that Collette will star in *The United States of Tara*, based on an idea by Steven Spielberg, about an ordinary-seeming wife and

mother of two who copes with life's stresses via multiple personalities. These alter egos include a promiscuous teen, a picture-perfect housekeeper, and even an aggressive male biker. The pilot, which shoots in 2008, was written by Diablo Cody, the screenwriter behind this winter's much-buzzed-about comedy *Juno*. And if any actress can convince us there's a menacing guy lurking inside a regular gal, it's Toni Collette.

## Hellraiser Raises Hell Again

Practically every successful horror movie made between 1960 and 1990 has been remade—*Halloween*, *Dawn of the Dead*, *The Hitcher*, etc.—or has a remake

in the works. And so it goes with Clive Barker's 1987 hit *Hellraiser*, which spawned several sequels and taught the world to be afraid of bald men who stick nails in their heads like they were pin-cushions. Gay horror master Barker directed the original and has now given his blessing for Dimension Films to reboot the franchise with a remake. The story, you may recall, deals with a cheating wife trying to liberate her lover from Hell and encountering the nasty demons known as Cenobites. Will Barker's creation still have bite the second time around? Audiences will decide when it opens in 2008.

## Dumbledore's Unrequited Crushes

The *Harry Potter* books have all been written and published, so the recent and somewhat bemused comment from author J.K. Rowling that she always believed Hogwarts' headmaster Albus Dumbledore to be gay can have no effect on future installments. But there *are* still two film adaptations left in the cinematic version of the boy wizard's saga, and that leaves plenty of room for both actor Michael Gambon to re-interpret the character with plenty of new subtext and for queer fans to speculate wildly on what those sidelong glances to other actors might really mean. Of course, neither Gambon nor anyone else related to the projects will speak about what's coming to theaters near you, but Romeo would like to officially cast his vote for a little infusion of homo content into the magical world of Harry.

\* Romeo San Vicente knows a few lesbian witches but, sadly, no gay warlocks. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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## Automotive Q & A

By: Stephen M. Lewis  
TRT Auto Columnist

Well, we finally got "A" question asked by a reader. I think it may be of interest to a lot of you. So might the question be that you don't ask. As you can tell, no questions — no column! HELP!!

**Q: I just had my tires rotated, but my car keeps pulling to the left. I told the guy where I had it done, but he said I needed new tires. I got the tires last year and they look fine to me. Are they trying to get me to spend more money on tires, or did they do a lousy job rotating them?**

A: Let's see....several problems are possible, but it is impossible to do a lousy tire rotation.

In a tire rotation, it is most common for tires on the same side of the car to be rotated



Stephen M. Lewis  
President, Steve Lewis  
Subaru

ed front to rear. However, if you told the technician of your problem, he could have switched the 2 front tires and that possibly could solve the problem. Get that done and based on the results, if it works — Great. If it doesn't, you'll probably need an "alignment". If your vehicle is 2-wheel drive, get a "front end alignment". If it is "all-wheel" or "4-wheel" drive, get a 4-wheel alignment.

If a car pulls in either direction, it is most likely out of alignment, and will wear your tires prematurely. Alignment is cheaper than tires.

Remember this — if the car vibrates or shimmies while driving, that is NOT alignment, it is tire balance. If the car pulls left or right it is alignment. Alignment does not cure vibration, nor does tire balance solve pulling.

How about some more questions to: stevelewis@subarumail.com! I kind of like doing this!

Happy Motoring,  
Steve

## NIFF: Film festival dates, check out the LGBT films

Northampton, MA—The 13th annual Northampton Independent Film Festival (NIFF) is pleased to announce its new Festival dates for 2007. NOVEMBER 2,3,4 & 9, 10 are on the schedule for this nationally recognized event.

Director, Jeffrey Dreisbach (pronounced Dryzbock) is quite busy with festival planning and coordination. The theme this year is, "The Future We Will Create."

"As we look ahead to the future, it is clear that we have amazing opportunities for showing our community just how film can affect our lives. November is the perfect time for us," said Dreisbach. "Wonderful venues in this amazing town of Northampton."

New to the festival this year is having two

week ends rather than four days in a row.

"This gives more opportunity to see great films and helps to give our sponsorship more visibility," said Dreisbach. "We are also planning a new hang out-central location for filmmakers, students, and filmgoers to meet between showings and share their experience in a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere.....we're calling it CLUB NIFF!" You can join the club via our web site at niff.org."

About the Northampton Independent Film Festival

The Northampton Independent Film Festival (NIFF) is committed to establishing a northeast center for the exploration, examination, and celebration of

independent filmmaking. NIFF showcases the works of filmmakers whose films demonstrate quality, innovation, and independence in both form and content.

For more information, or to check out the LGBT films go to: [niff.org](http://niff.org)

## The Pony Express

Stay tuned in and updated during the weeks that TRT doesn't print! Our FREE e-newsletter, The Pony Express, contains valuable and pertinent information about breaking news in our communities (MA, NY, CT & VT), teasers for the upcoming editions of TRT, calendar listings, selected news stories and much more. The Pony Express is sent to our large subscriber e-base on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

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## Empowered: Party Drugs, STD's and world peace with Annie Lennox

Ready for a roller-coaster ride? That's what Annie Lennox likens her music to, and her new solo disc, *Songs of Mass Destruction*, is certainly a dramatic journey of extreme emotions—as is this interview with the surprisingly sassy songstress. But when discussing her work, she's a serious artist: "Each track has a different feel," Annie says of the album that veers from atmospheric songs of loss to anthemic calls for hope. She's also serious about her passionate for human rights—her disc's title references the Iraq war—and when we caught up with Annie, she had just performed in London for Peace One Day, a movement to make September 21 the day of world peace. "But it doesn't have to be about putting weapons down," she says. "You can make friends with someone you haven't spoken with—whatever it means to you." What? Make peace with our ex-boyfriends? Now that really would change the world.

**HX:** After hearing the haunting debut single "Dark Road" and reading about the disc's serious subject matter, listeners might not be prepared for the upbeat,



anthemic sound on many tracks. How do you meld the two?

**Annie Lennox:** Seamlessly, dear! The music comes intuitively. I don't try to figure it out. And as human beings, we are paradoxical, the two things co-exist: darkness and light, positive and negative. You can't get one without the other. I've always been a person with a dark side, but I do try to be positive.

**Q:** Yet another sample of "Sweet Dreams" has surfaced in a dance track, this time in Britney Spears's

See Lennox on Page 22





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## Dr. Lola: Sexpert & more

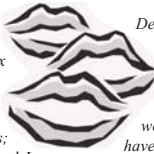
Dear Dr. Lola:

Hi, I am a strictly lesbian identified woman who has never had sex with a biological man. I also don't have sex with women who do have sex with biological men. (I'd like to get a tee shirt that says, "I don't do Dick - just Jane!"). So, my question is this; my new partner, well sort of new, and I have been intimate for almost three months. Now she thinks we each need to have an AIDS test before we can have hot sex without gloves and all. She's done a lot of volunteering and works in the gay men's community and personally, I think she's on overload with all this AIDS stuff. We are lesbians. Why do we need to worry about this stuff? And, more importantly, do you think we need to get an AIDS test? Maybe there's something she's not telling me?

—“All about Jane” in Northampton, MA

Damn girl, you've got issues. You can be all about Jane or Jeffrey for all anyone cares - that doesn't stop you from being human. Before I get tempted to give you a life lesson, let's get real about HIV. There is no such thing as an “AIDS” test. There is a test for HIV. HIV stands for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. The HIV test looks for the antibodies that the human body produces when it has been exposed to the virus. AIDS is a diagnosis of the syndrome and is based upon specific medical criteria. You don't say how old you are. You sound young and dangerously unaware.

My advice to you is as follows, 1) Be proud that your partner serves our community 2) Get your butt to a clinic specializing in sexual health and get tested for anything and everything the counselor suggests because lesbians are not immune to STI's (sexually transmitted infections) 3) Grab all the pamphlets from the clinic and read them with your partner, ask her questions and listen to what she has to say 4) Only you and your partner can negotiate safer sex practices. It really is a negotiation so if you think there are things that need to be said, say them and be prepared to communicate, listen, share, and exchange ideas before you exchange bodily fluids 5) read my column regularly for hot sex tips 6) Open your mind; it is sexier than opening your legs.



Dear Dr. Lola:

I am an openly gay man. I love my life. I love my man. He loves my neurotic cat. So what is the problem? My man was born a woman. When we met I never would have thought that he was a trans. He was honest with me from day one. At first I thought he was joking. Then, before we first got busy we had a real heart to heart and worked stuff out. He is the biggest, hottest bear that has ever taken me down. I love this man and I love his cooking. Unless you knew him before the transition you could never guess he was any different than he is now. Since he was born a woman does this mean I am really straight, only I am hiding behind my lover? I am 32; a little old to be questioning my sexual orientation. Oh, and he asked me to marry him. The guy loves me for me. He's even Jewish! My family, even my mother loves him. She thinks he's quite a catch. He's the only man I ever brought to Temple but nobody in my family knows his physical history. Is this something we need to tell my family? The wedding is next spring. Oy vey!

—DL, Holyoke MA

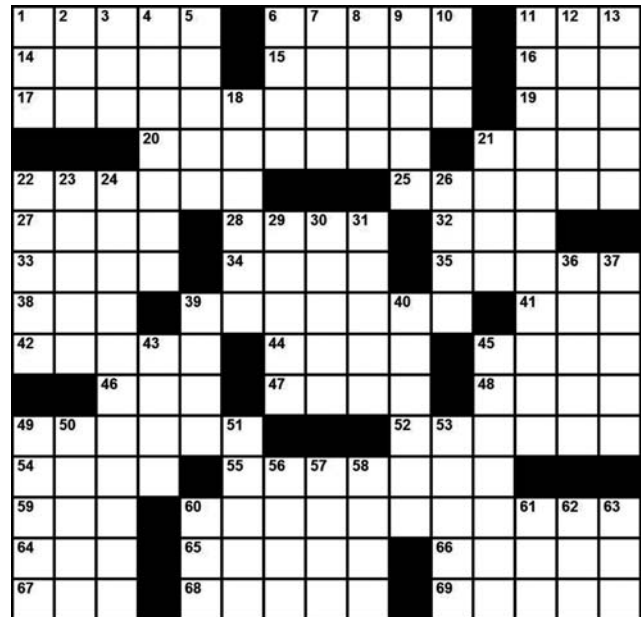
Dear DL:

Mazel tov my darling mensch! Now - you listen to me. A Yentl he's not - it's a good thing too! Why stir the pot when the matzoh balls have already floated to the top? It's time to take out the ladle and serve everybody this love. He's happy, you're happy.

Hello - how many men would be able to make your mother happy? If you are asking what to do, I would say talk it over with your beloved. Let him know what your concerns are. See how he's feeling about it and then the two of you decide what is important to disclose to whom and what is not.

Enjoy this time in your relationship and remember to say, “thank you”, to your mother for giving you life and for raising a son who is such a good catch that he's marrying the man of his dreams before 35. A mitzvah, truly. There is a passage in the Talmud that I love - it says, “...every blade of grass has an angel that whispers, ‘Grow, grow’...” Bask in the love and growth of your family. They seem to be whispering to the both of you.

## Q Puzzle: Ford Foundation



### Across

- 1 Elton John wears them
- 6 "Silence = death," e.g.
- 11 Colts' org.
- 14 Flaming queen's crime?
- 15 Pink, for one
- 16 Matthew in *The Producers*
- 17 Former column by Michael Thomas Ford
- 19 Oddball comedian Phillips
- 20 Broadway title woman of 1925
- 21 Top
- 22 TV host Steve
- 25 Like some condoms
- 27 Setting for *At Swim, Two Boys*
- 28 Ejaculation of concern
- 32 *Valencia* author Michelle
- 33 Melissa Etheridge's "Don't Look \_\_\_"
- 34 Rowlands of *An Early Frost*
- 35 Fashion designer Perry
- 38 R. Mapplethorpe supporter
- 39 With 60-Across, Ford book
- 41 Sex orientation determiner, some say
- 42 Like *Tales of the City?*
- 44 Russian singing duo
- 45 Out
- 46 Coll. of Phil Andros
- 47 Places where women might sweat together
- 48 Fruity drink
- 49 Houston's WNBA team
- 52 Catherine of Capote
- 54 *Mamma Mia!* band
- 55 Emily Dickinson, in her day
- 59 Lesbian opponent of Wade
- 60 See 39-Across
- 64 Old nuclear power org.
- 65 Ecstatic spasm, like an orgasm
- 66 Eastern positions
- 67 Fab Five syllable for many a straight guy
- 68 Drag queen's garment
- 69 O'Connor of *Xena*

### Down

- 1 *American Beauty* director Mendes
- 2 Stick your nose in
- 3 Firm member (abbr.)
- 4 Poet Cullen
- 5 Pussyfoot
- 6 160 rods
- 7 Bonehead
- 8 Went down
- 9 Tammy Baldwin's page, e.g.
- 10 Preposition for Byron
- 11 Ford's \_\_\_ *Doesn't Love Me*
- 12 Amelie Mauresmo's woman
- 13 Whispered to one's partner
- 18 Tired lover's cry
- 21 His brother laid him in his grave
- 22 Reeves of *My Own Private Idaho*
- 23 Hat for Pope Julius II
- 24 "The gay \_\_\_" (Ford nickname)
- 26 Caligula's way
- 29 Prelims for Bruce Hayes
- 30 Coming soon
- 31 Until, in Stiges
- 36 Cockamamie
- 37 Nay follower
- 39 Oddly shaped testicle?
- 40 What a Minuteman shoots off
- 43 Where to find Moby Dick
- 45 "Fabul"
- 49 Weight unit for David Diamond?
- 50 You can blow them in the orchestra pit
- 51 Jane of the cloth
- 53 Artist Hernandez
- 56 Shrek, for one
- 57 Some actors have big ones
- 58 Ballet supporters?
- 60 Co. that may deliver pansies
- 61 The feminine side 62 Stuff from your shaft
- 63 Bring to bear



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## Queer Politics

### Obama speaks to SC homosexual group about concert

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama's campaign held a hurriedly put together conference call Thursday night with gay and lesbian leaders in South Carolina.

The call discussed Obama's weekend gospel tour, which includes gospel singer Donnie McClurkin who says homosexuality is a choice.

Obama campaign spokesman Kevin Griffis refused to talk about what was discussed on the call.

Members of the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement are discussing what actions they could take, including a possible protest or vigil, outside the Sunday concert in Columbia.

Obama's campaign invited the Rev. Andy Sidden, a South Carolina pastor who is openly gay, to appear at the same concert.

McClurkin is a Grammy Award winner who performed at the Republican National Convention in 2004. He told AP Radio in an interview that September that he was "once involved with those desires and those thoughts," but God turned him away from them.

Obama has spoken out against homophobia, including in the black community. He supports civil unions for same-sex couples but not the right for gay marriage.

### 15-year-old presses Romney on views on gay rights, abortion

EXETER, N.H. (AP)—Kevin Daly got a lesson Thursday in Presidential Politics 101.

The sophomore at Phillips Exeter Academy pointedly asked Republican candidate Mitt Romney about his shifting positions on abortion and gay rights.

As governor of Massachusetts, Romney indicated he would not change state laws on abortion rights, now he opposes abortion. During the 1994 Senate campaign in Massachusetts, Romney indicated he would be a better advocate for gay rights than rival Democrat Edward M. Kennedy.

"How can any of your campaign promises be trusted?" Daly asked.

Romney suggested the 15-year-old from Weston, Mass., had falsely stated that he favored gay marriage in 1994.

Around and around the two went, with Daly referring to a New York Times report about the gay rights pledge. The second time through, he mistakenly said the story detailed a "gay marriage" pledge.

That was enough for Romney.

"Even The New York Times hasn't said I'll be stronger on gay marriage than Ted Kennedy, even The New York Times," Romney said. "I've never been an advocate of gay marriage."

### Lennox from Page 20

"Everybody." You've covered other artist's songs, but how do you feel about your work being covered and sampled?

A: Well, most of the time I don't mind, but frankly, I think a lot of it's pretty lame.

Q: The new album and the video for "Dark Road" explore that political and economic rift in today's world. On the new album cover, you symbolize a priest-ess rising from the destruction?

of women across the globe who are in desperate need of it. Empowerment is not a given. Women struggled and fought before us to secure the vote and equal rights. We owe them some acknowledgment for what we've received because of their efforts. As for the men—I still haven't figured it out. Enough said.

Q: Back to the album: Some tracks give me the impression of someone who has been pushed too far for the last time, someone on an extreme edge. Would it be a mistake to assume you're writing from personal experiences?

**Queer ears will prick up when they hear "Sing." Who's that girl on the second verse? Yes, it's Madonna. In the chorus? Joss Stone, Celine Dion, Fergie, Pink, Shakira, k.d. lang and a host of other divas. Annie wrote the empowering track to focus awareness on HIV/AIDS in women and children (money from the single goes to Treatment Action Campaign).**

A: I had the imagery established in my mind well before we went to the studio. I wanted to stand in front of an apocalyptic sky because every day I'm seeing images of destruction. Some bombing here, some building that has been blitzed, some body parts lying around. When I say "Songs of Mass Destruction," it isn't only in Iraq. The globe itself is almost at a tipping point. Now is a time to question political leaders and find ways to save the planet.

Q: You amassed an entire choir of world-famous divas to help out on "Sing." In fact, I get a strong feminist vibe on the disc. Is that a fair assessment? Have you had it with men?

A: To me, the word feminism means social, political and personal empowerment. Despite the fact that Western women seem to have become so blasé about the subject, there are still millions

A: Darlin', I've been through pretty much everything. Let me put it to you like that. But having said that, I have to say that the songs are non-specific ... just like STDs.

Q: STDs?! I'm sure I wouldn't know anything about that, but speaking of which—God, this is a terrible segue—the *gays have always loved you*. Can you elaborate on that relationship?

A: Gay men relate to me because they want to be me, stupid! Just kiddin'! I wish that people wouldn't have to make their sexual orientation the entire center of their existence. I don't think too much about which side of the fence people are on. I just know whether I feel connected to them. A lot of the time, I still feel pretty alienated from the herd. I keep myself to myself mostly.

Q: One last subject: dance mixes. You music has always been a staple on the dance floor. And you have remixes already slated for the single "Sing." You said you collaborate with the art directors. Do you also work with the DJs and producers on the remixes?

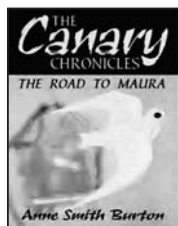
A: I'm going to be brutally honest here. I find a lot of it totally vacuous. People say you've got to have taken a lot of drugs before you "get it." I'm pretty sure that you have to take a lot of drugs. What kind of drugs are you gay guys taking? Wait! Don't answer that! Please don't!

"Songs of Mass Destruction" (Arista Records) hit stores in Oct.

Annie Lennox will be performing live on Nov. 11 at the Boston, MA Symphony Hall. For more info, visit [annielennox.com](http://annielennox.com).

## The Canary Chronicles: The Road to Maura

Anne Smith Burton



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Kyle Anne Burton (Anne Smith Burton) will be in Northampton, MA until December. Contact at: [smithburton@comcast.net](mailto:smithburton@comcast.net) or look for two adorable Boston Terriers walking around town!

Available at Pride & Joy in Northampton or order online: [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

### Q Puzzle Solution from P. 22

S	P	E	C	S	A	D	A	G	E	A	F	C
A	R	S	O	N	C	O	L	O	R	L	E	O
M	Y	Q	U	E	E	R	L	I	F	E	E	M
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A	T	M	E		G	E	N	A		E	L	L
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### Looking for help around LGBTQ issues?

The UMass Amherst Stonewall Center provides support, educational trainings, and programming for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people, and allies on campus and throughout the Pioneer Valley. More information and resources are available on our website, [www.umass.edu/stonewall](http://www.umass.edu/stonewall), by contacting us at 413-545-4824 or [stonewall@stuaf.umass.edu](mailto:stonewall@stuaf.umass.edu).



# The Outfield: You say you want a revolution



By: Dan Woog\*

Each winter, when *Sports Illustrated* unleashes its swimsuit edition on America, readers react predictably. Many men greet it with orgasmic pleasure; a few writers bloat that they've removed it from their living rooms, bedrooms, or bathrooms, and huffily cancel their subscriptions. No one wonders why credit-card-thin models, with no visible connection to athletics, appear in a magazine otherwise wholly dedicated to sports.

Like *SI*, Outsports.com—the Internet's favorite destination for all things GLBT-athletics-related, from an international gay rugby tournament to discuss throwing in ancient Greece—also runs photos of eye-popping eye candy. Shirtless soccer players, Speedo-ed swimmers, and Super Bowl studs—some gay, most straight, a few wink-wink—are, like the site's in-depth stories and interactive discussion boards, ways to keep users coming back for more.

But, though their photos always depict athletes, Outsports founders Jim Buzinski and Cyd Zeigler Jr. say they are criticized for running titillating photos that undermine the site's journalistic integrity. Some of those comments come from gay athletes themselves.

Welcome to the still-evolving, often controversial, and always entertaining world of gay sports. It's a relatively new

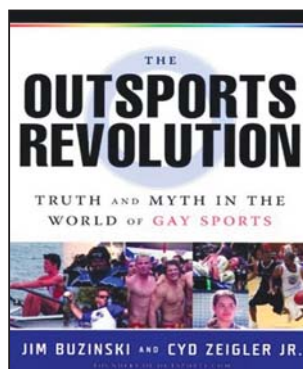
niche, but one that Buzinski and Zeigler helped pioneer. Now, with the release of their first book, *The Outsports Revolution: Truth and Myth in the World of Gay Sports*, they're bringing that world to a wider—and perhaps straight—audience.

"I think we have a lot to say," explains Buzinski, of the book's genesis. "A book has permanence, and the potential to reach people who don't see our stuff on the Web." With a broad focus—stories range from gay sports history and the Gay Games to "the curse of the high school gym class" and how to date a sports nut—Buzinski hopes *The Outsports Revolution* will reel in readers who are interested in the role all sports play in American society. After all, the writers note, studies show that for rabid fans, the thrill of watching their favorite team in action can rival a sexual experience. Members of Queer Nation bond with members of Red Sox Nation in a way that's unimaginable—and unstudied—in many other areas of life.

"My 17-year-old nephew asked a lot of questions about gay sports," Buzinski says. "And my 32-year-old niece, who is not a sports fan, devoured the book."

His niece also called him on the *Sports Illustrated*—like swimsuit section, which included negative comments about cheerleaders. "Aren't you stereotyping them, the same way gay people don't like to be stereotyped?" she asked. She was right, he admits.

Her comment got him thinking, which is exactly what Buzinski hopes the book will do for others. Among the most



provocative sections, he says, is the first: "Why Should I Give a Damn About Sports?" "Lots of gay people instinctively diss sports, in many cases because of negative experiences growing up," he says. "They think that games have no value. We talk about why they're important: They're dramatic, unscripted, and unpredictable, just like life. And, because they allow people to work, compete, laugh, and cry together, they provide a crucial community bonding experience."

Buzinski cites other chapters as important, too, including "The Media's Fumbling of Gay Sports," "The Wave of Out Young Jocks," and "Getting in the Game." "We want gay sports to be accessible," he says, referring to that how-to section for nonparticipants. "People have to get over the fear that gay sports today are like high school, when they always

got picked last."

Zeigler cites the section on transsexuals in sports as particularly noteworthy. "Gay people go through a lot of crap, but trans struggles are so difficult," he says. "What's interesting, though, is they've probably made more progress in sports—in tennis, women's professional golf, the Olympics—than in most of the rest of society. The sports world views [transsexuals] as an issue of biology, not sociology. That's pretty refreshing."

*The Outsports Revolution* includes some of the most popular and groundbreaking stories from the website's 7-year history. Where will the site—and gay sports in general—be seven years from now?

"It will be nice if there's Outsports TV!" Buzinski laughed. "The big question, of course, is when will a male who's an active player in a major sport come out. A 40-year-old told me, 'Not in my lifetime,' but I think that's way too negative. I hope in seven years that will have happened, and it will be less of a story than it would be today."

"I think our readership will change," Zeigler adds. "We're still at a time when gay people read gay books and watch gay movies. Seven years from now, our next book may be more about sexuality in sports than homosexuality in sports."

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

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

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