

The Rainbow Times

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

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www.rainbowtimesnews.com

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Opinions

An open city with a "hidden" element

By: Gricel M. Ocasio/TRT Publisher

[This was originally a Letter to the Editor sent to and published by *The Daily Hampshire Gazette* in October, 2008. However, we found it pertinent that it ran in TRT too.]

For all of us who live outside of Northampton, we find the "little New York" to be quaint, beautiful, with a sense of community building, accessible and very, very open—for the most part.

Most people's views within this highly educated town are very progressive. You can witness hands-on political rallies, and openness to culture and diversity that I have seen in very few places, especially those cities/towns with a comparable populace to Northampton. I still remember when same-sex marriage was celebrated at the steps of City Hall, which was grand to admire and to be a part of in this day and age. As people walk downtown, you can see all colors of life, shining proudly—from the Asian couple going into a restaurant, to the Latin woman shopping at a specialty store, to the many other out members of the LGBT community that feel free to be themselves, and so on—only in Northampton.

However, pressure is alive and well in this modern-day small metropolis. When *The*

Rainbow Times, TRT, came into being, threats and disapproval were the "welcoming" response from a number of community members. The police department's response to such hate-filled demonstrations—missing wire racks, broken plastic covers of newspaper boxes, personal threats to management and staff, etc.—was admirable and steadfast. As the first TRT interview published by *The Gazette*, which showcased the launching of a local LGBT specific newspaper, was about to hit the stands, intimidation tactics and prejudice were following us.

As time has gone by, things have calmed down, but not to the degree that we would have expected in our Northampton. Not only have our newspaper boxes' front page displays been taken from their windows, or replaced with other publications, but the boxes themselves have also been vandalized. In addition, the "missing" wire racks continue to disappear—here in Northampton.

And now I ask you, TRT readers, to help us stop this type of dark vigilante approach. This is not a Northampton behavior that should be tolerated, and we should all take a part in continuing to be as diverse and colorful, for these

See *Hidden Element* on page 19

The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something

By: Suzan Ambrose/TRT Columnist

Joan Jett couldn't have spit out the truth any better than when she sang the words "We are not to blame...for seeing love is pain." Or maybe she meant "Pa-I-in," after this rocky roads love affair Republicans are having with their VP nominee.

I feel their pain, just like Bill Clinton does. Love is pain. War is pain. Life can be filled with pain, as it casts its broad net in quite a few human arenas. 'Who's Cryin' Now,' 'Harden My Heart' and a million more tunes are popular for a reason. I tend you know!

And yet, what if by scientific advances, one could erase pain? What if one could forget the miseries and mistakes that have occurred in



our lives? Goddess knows I have a few of choice tidbits I'd rather not regurgitate again! Would we be willing, perhaps even eager, to flush those post-traumatic memories right down the toilet? And awayyyy they go!

Let's face it: many of us in the LGBT community have had heart-wrenching stories about coming out. Instead of living a love story, too many of us have ended up lost in the horror section in the *Barnes and Nobles* of our mind's eye. We may feel like Frankenstein: unloved, misunderstood, chased away from our homes, because of fear. That we have endured this pain, in many cases, has resulted in our becoming stronger, more empathetic individuals. That we HAD to endure it may have left its mark. That wound, perhaps still unresolved, may be comparable to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

PTSD inflicts many people in our country, most noticeable present day in our soldiers returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Clayton Dach, in his article for *Alternet.org*, speaks about the military solution of using pharmaceuticals to deal with our human weaknesses in warfare. Dach writes: "Through it all, it seems, the human body and its fleshy weaknesses keep getting in the way

See *Couch* on Page 6

C'mon Out – Just Ask! Advice column

By: Tetty Gorfine*

Hi Tetty, I read your column in The Rainbow Times all the time. I've always identified myself as a lesbian. I always loved women, since I was very small. I have very "male" tendencies, or what this society considers them to be "male." I am assertive, aggressive, I protect those I love and I am a go-getter. I stand up for what I believe and follow my convictions. I feel often that because I am a woman (a lesbian) that I am not taken seriously. I see a bunch of my d'e friends crossing over and starting to go for the "change." They say that now that they can pass for men, they have the male privileges and respect that they deserve. They go on to telling me that they make more money and feel more powerful as men, even if they haven't fully transitioned. I like being a woman, but I don't like being a woman in the society that we live in. As a result, I've started thinking about changing, or becoming a transgender person. I have been thinking about getting rid of my breasts, and I know it takes a lot of psychological sessions, etc., because I wouldn't be the person who really has "gender dysphoria." I also want to start going on Testosterone, to fully look like a man on the outside. Like many of my d'e friends, they don't have gender dysphoria either, yet they've decided to transition. How is this possible that these trans wannabes fool the professionals whose care they are under? Do you think that society breeds this type of behavior due to the inequalities that it places on other people who are considered to be less powerful in society? I need to know and I don't think I'm alone. Please reply via The Times, since I don't always have computer usage where I live.



TETTY GORFINE

much! In order to begin to address your concerns I must in part step out of my role as a professional psychotherapist because these issues not only touch upon mental health concerns but also societal values and politics. I grew up and came out in the 70's when being women, when being lesbians, when coming out and politics were one in the same. We were determined as women in not having to fulfill prescribed sex roles and stereotypes. We demanded wholeness in being women. We fought for our rights and equal pay. As feminists we saw no conflict with the qualities you mention such as assertiveness or being a go-getter and being women. This, and more, was the heart and soul of feminism. Many things have happened in 30 years and many wonder if feminism still exists. While I totally support the transgender movement and while I am grateful that greater awareness of gender offers us all the opportunity for greater wholeness within ourselves, it does not seem that the issues you are raising for yourself and your friends have any relationship with transgender experience.

I believe feminism has lost much ground over the years and that what you are describing are lesbians seeking male privilege. This is not something I have had experience with in my practice. The transgender people I have seen over the years struggle with their identity and a discrepancy they feel within themselves and the

See *C'mon Out* on Page 4

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am pleased to see Rainbow Times carrying the regular column by Paul Jesep on spiritual issues. For too long, anyone in the GLBT community who was on a spiritual track had to keep their quest in the closet. There sometimes seems to be as much bias in our community against those persons with religious interests as there is coming from the religious right against our community in general. So I think that any opportunity to discuss spiritual matters is healthy for our community.

To help connect GLBT spiritual seekers with religious and spiritual organizations that are open and welcoming to participation in faith rituals, a group of Capital District synagogues, churches, and other faith bodies joined several years ago to form a loose alliance known as the Advocates for Welcoming Congregations. The mission of AWC is to both reach out to anyone in the GLBT community that is looking for a spiritual home and links them with opportunities for safe worship, and also to assist those congregations that are interested in finding ways to become more welcoming to the queer community to do so. We have undertaken a survey of faith bodies in New York's capital region to find out which organizations are in fact open, welcoming and non-judgmental. As a result we have some confidence that there are plenty of options available for the GLBT community to explore their spiritual paths. We are eager to hear from open-minded faith communities in western New England, so that we can make referrals there as well.

To find out more about AWC, interested persons can visit our Yahoo.com group "Welcoming Congregations". It's a great forum for sharing ideas on how we can do more on this issue to help seekers in our community, as well as open minded congregations.

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Dear compadre:
Your questions and concerns touch on so

Read TRT's Trans Column on P. 6 & Lesbian Voices on P. 24

Obama: "This victory truly belongs to you"

By: *Gricel M. Ocasio & Nicole C. Lashomb*
 TRT Publisher & Editor-in-Chief, respectively

In a historic and triumphant run to the White House, a young half African American, half White Senator from Illinois, fought all of the existing odds to become the 44th president-elect of the United States. At 11 p.m. Tuesday, November 4th, 2008, Eastern Time in the U.S. and throughout the world, people will always be able to remember with accuracy where they were, what they were doing and who they were with when this extraordinary precedence took place.

After shortly presenting to the world the "first" family, President-elect Barack Obama addressed the crowd with the same unifying words that he used throughout his campaign.

"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible ... who still questions the power of our democracy ... tonight is your answer. It's the answer told by lines that stretch around schools and churches, in numbers this nation has never seen ... because they believed that this time could be different. Because they believed that this time must be different, that their voices could be that difference. It is the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Gay, Straight, disabled and not dis-

abled, Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been just a collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states. We are and always will be the United States of America!" said Obama to the approximately 125,000 people gathered at Grant Park, Illinois.

His victory does not only offer hope to African Americans, but to every American who has felt like s/he could never be more than s/he could ever imagined of in his/her lifetime. Tonight, a glimmer of hope was reborn in millions of people's hearts, as they watched the grand crowd gathered at Grant Park. Present were hundreds of thousands of nameless and famous, young and old, rich and poor people from all walks of life, from diverse racial backgrounds and ethnicities, who believed in one dream, a dream of a better tomorrow, a dream of hope and magnificent future to come. From Washington D.C., Times Square, Los Angeles, etc., and virtually all over the country and around the world people were celebrating history in the making.

Obama thanked his staff, the American people, and his family, especially his best friend, while remembering his late grandmother.

"My best friend for the last 16 years, the rock of my family, the love of my life, the nation's first lady, Michelle Obama," Obama

OBAMA WORKING FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY

Expand Hate Crimes Statutes: Obama co-sponsored legislation to expand federal hate crimes law to include crimes perpetrated because of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Fight Workplace Discrimination/Promote Rights: Obama believes the Employment Non-Discrimination Act should be expanded to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Full Civil Unions/Federal Rights, LGBT Couples: Barack Obama supports full civil unions that give same-sex couples equal legal rights and privileges as married couples. Obama also believes we need to fully repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and enact legislation that would ensure that the 1,100+ federal legal rights and benefits currently provided on the basis of marital status are extended to same-sex couples in civil unions and other legally-recognized unions.

Opposes Ban on Same-Sex Marriage: Obama voted against the Federal Marriage Amendment,

which would have defined marriage as between a man and a woman and prevented judicial extension of marriage-like rights to same-sex or other unmarried couples.

Repeal Don't Ask-Don't Tell: Obama believes we need to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The key test for military service should be patriotism, a sense of duty, and a willingness to serve. Obama will work with military leaders to repeal the current policy and ensure we accomplish our national defense goals.

Fight AIDS Worldwide: Obama has been a global leader in the fight against AIDS. He traveled to Kenya and took a public HIV test to encourage testing and reduce the stigma of the disease. Obama worked to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act, one of the largest sources of federal funds for primary health care and support services for HIV/AIDS patients

**Taken from www.BarackObama.com*

said. "While she's no longer with us, I know my grandmother is watching."

Without forgetting, he thanked the most important people who helped him become elected.

"Above all I will never forget who this victory truly belongs to, it belongs to you, it

belongs to you," said Obama humbly. "Because of today, of this defining moment, change has come to America."

Senator Obama won 27 states. He and Senator Biden will take their oaths of office as president and vice president on Jan. 20, 2009.



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In 'The Name of God'

Faith, Family, and God: "Sanctified"

By: Paul P. Jesepe*

The GLBT and those searching are sanctified as individuals and collectively as a community. As created by the Creator each person is holy, sacred, and inviolable. This is the main theme in "Sanctified - An Anthology of Poetry by LGBT Christians" edited by Justin R. Cannon.

Although you might be inclined to think about your negative experiences with corporate religion and stop reading, please don't. The poetry speaks to the condition of the human spirit when faced with rejection, loneliness, and the premature passing of a partner, among other things. Thirty-three poets share their fears and struggles while expressing hope and showing resilience. Incidentally, Jesus, crucified for teaching individuals how to unconditionally love one another without judgment, was thirty-three years old when he

died.

The poems reflect the journey of the human spirit in a cold, complicated world where the individual keeps asking "why?" The answers, if there are any, never come easily. One lesson from some of the poems is that the seeker must live and journey into the answers. Part of living is to age. Time's passage offers much needed perspective.

"Dear Leonardo," Chad Gurley writes. Chad tries to find closure from the suicide of his partner. The feelings that touch the page are raw, honest. The poet refers to himself with a lower case "i." It indicates many emotions including a strong sense of guilt. . .

"i'm lonely," Chad reflects. "i'm broken. i'm searching. i'm afraid. my faith is shaken to its core. and i don't know what to do with that. i'm lost . . . you were my best friend . . . Oh my Leonardo! My Soulmate.

My One. Who i missed out on . . . i allowed my own suffering and depression to drown me so much so that i missed your call . . . i felt us grow together as you nourished a new me away from the timid, self-hating little boy you first met."

"for i love you so much. you must know that i love you . . . did you believe that you were not loved? did you forget my eternal love for you? well if you remember, then meet me again someday . . . i will miss you so much until the next time."

Heidi Griep shares her attempts to hide from being the Creation God intended. "I refuse to go back to crawling. I am terrified of being seen flying. So I live in a cocoon, a holding environment . . . No. I'm not ready. I don't want to. But cocoons are not meant to be forever And there are too many living-dead already . . . So I'll snuggle in one more

day; and maybe tomorrow I'll think about, thinking about, leaving the cocoon between what crawls and what flies."

Timothy Holyoake writes of rejection and homelessness. He ends, however, with a poignant, timeless message. "I am your father, I am your son, Care for me for I am you. Love me for I am."

"Sanctified-An Anthology of Poetry by LGBT Christians" may be purchased at Amazon.com or *Sanctified Anthology.com*.

* Paul is a practicing attorney in Albany, priest and prelate in the Eastern Orthodox Church, and author of "Crucifying Jesus and Secularizing America—the Republic of Faith without Wisdom." He may be reached at VladykaPaulPeter@aol.com.

C'mon Out from page 2

the world. It is an issue of identity for a transgender person, not one of attempting to make more money or have more power.

When a transgender person decides to transition and when they actually take that first step, inwardly something snaps into alignment. People feel much better in themselves and often report feeling whole for the first time in their lives. It seems to me that any woman who does not feel a genuine discrepancy in her gender but chooses to become a man for power, respect and money will create problems within herself. Unlike the transgender person who truly becomes more whole in transition, I believe the women you are describing are choosing to become less of who they really are and will ultimately diminish themselves. Please, for yourself, get support, talk this through and consider other avenues. Read about feminism.

In speaking to a colleague of mine about this issue, he raised an excellent point. He proposed that women seeking male privilege

by trying to pass as male are akin to people of color being able to change their skin color so they can lead a "white" life. These kinds of solutions will only reinforce the problems of race, gender inequality, sexism, homophobia and gender phobia. Surely we can do better.

I write letters for my clients who chose hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery. Based on the information you have outlined in your question (not getting direct information from your friends), I would not write letters of support for them. I am saddened but not totally surprised that your friends can find therapists who will. I have seen many things over the years for which I do not agree.

Growing up and figuring out what is right for one self is difficult. We ought to have the space and chance to explore different things. Being a woman in this world, when we are seen as less than men, when we receive less respect and earn less money is very hard. But hormones and surgery create permanent changes and one day you and your friends may come to a different peace with the

inequalities in our society.

Transgender experience is different. I have not known one transgender person or client who has decided to "change" or "transition" who has later regretted it. I doubt the same will be true for your friends or yourself if you decide to appear to look like men.

The best of luck to you,
—Tetty

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

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

Gay-rights group members arrested at college

WAXAHACHIE, Texas (AP)—Three members of a gay-rights group on a nationwide bus tour of faith-based universities were arrested Wednesday after going to a private campus that had banned them, officials said.

Three members of Soulforce were charged with trespassing after they tried to go to a chapel service at Southwestern Assemblies of God University, a 1,900-student Pentecostal school, according to the Waxahachie Police Department. Their bond was to be set at an arraignment Wednesday afternoon.

The group earlier sent a letter to Southwestern Assemblies requesting a forum, but the president declined and asked Soulforce to stay off the campus, said university spokesman Ryan McElhany.

"It's not a question that's up for debate for us," McElhany said. "We love the people, but we do believe that homosexuality is a sin."

The Southwestern Assemblies handbook lists

See Arrested on page 12

Your Subaru will come with an honest deal AND an honest dealer!



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TRT Advertising works.

Noho Pride Promos: LGBT Entertainment events steal the limelight

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

Earlier this year, *Noho Pride Promotions*, an LGBT event and entertainment enterprise, launched in Western Mass. to bring LGBT events and entertainment to Northampton and its surrounding communities.

"*Noho Pride Promotions* (NPP) is an LGBT Event and Entertainment Business that evolved out of the need in the LGBT community to produce more events that honor and celebrate our uniqueness," said Melinda Shaw, Co-owner, Noho Pride Promotions, Florence, Mass.

NNP, a partnership of two women, Melinda Shaw and Suz Seymour, has already kicked off its series of events by hosting afternoon tea dances on the third Sunday of each month, and most recently celebrated its annual Halloween Costume Dance Party debut.

"In our area, there are so many places that are gay-friendly, there's no one place to find each other," said Suz Seymour, Co-owner, *Noho Pride Promotions*, Florence, Mass. "We don't even have a gay bar in Northampton anymore! There are so many of us in the area, but where can you meet them [gay people], talk to them, meet new friends or find available partners? Pride Promotions wants to fos-



LGBT community members celebrated Halloween by dancing the night away at Union Station, Northampton, Mass. Photo by S.E. Chase

ter and encourage all of us; older/younger, men/women, different colors, religions and politics, to meet and have a chance to see who we are. People are coming [to our events] from all over ... Southern Vermont, Connecticut, Albany, Boston, Worcester, Keene ... We are really able to reach out to our market in other areas by having dances in the

afternoon. This ensures a good time and to be snuggled in at home by 9 to watch *Desperate Housewives!*"

As the only LGBT Entertainment business, NNP has also partnered with *Northampton Pride*, the largest Pride March and Rally in Western Mass., to assist in fundraising efforts, according to Shaw. Partial proceeds are

donated to the organization.

Shaw and Seymour, life-long entrepreneurs and business women, have vast experience and know what it takes to mobilize and execute a plan of action. Seymour, formerly a proprietor of two *Domino's Pizza* stores and a massage therapy company; and Shaw, owner of *Smooth Movers*, Florence, Mass., and former owner of *KidSports* in Hadley, Mass., recognize the importance of customer and community service. Shaw has also been involved as a *Northampton Pride* organizer for over 10 years.

"A strong sense of customer satisfaction and making people happy has motivated me to work with the GLBT community and continue that piece," said Seymour.

In addition to the regularly scheduled tea dances, the next event to mark on your calendar includes NNP's *New Year's Eve Extravaganza*.

"The *New Year's Eve Extravaganza* will be held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Northampton, with LA Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer performing," said Seymour.

See NPP on page 20

STILL BLACK
A PORTRAIT OF BLACK TRANSMEN

MONDAY, NOV. 17, 2008
7 P.M.
UMass Campus Center, Room 101
Free and open to the public

STILL BLACK

Area Premiere! Still Black is a feature-length experimental documentary that explores the lives of six black transgender men living in the United States. Through the intimate discussions of their lives, the film challenges traditional notions of black masculinity, sexuality, and identity. A discussion led by local Black transmen will follow the film.

TRANSGENDER
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

ANNUAL VIGIL

To remember those who have been killed because of their actual or perceived gender identity or expression.

THURSDAY, NOV. 20, 2008
7 P.M.

Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse
121 North Pleasant St., Amherst

Sponsored by the UMass Amherst Stonewall Center, the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, and The Rainbow Times. Co-sponsored by the UMass Black Student Union and the East Coast Female To Male Group. This program is made possible in part by a grant from the UMass Arts Council.

University of Massachusetts Amherst Stonewall Center
413-545-4824 * stonewall@stuaf.umass.edu
http://www.umass.edu/stonewall
Crampton Hall, 256 Sunset Ave.

Scamps Comedy

PRESENTS

Saturday
November 8, 8:00 pm

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Jackie Monahan
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Transgender Day of Remembrance, a truly sad & regrettably needed day

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw/TRT Writer

It's November and the warmth of summer is gone. The flowers have gone, the leaves have fallen, the sun is hiding on us and the cold is returning. November is kind of a solemn month as it reflects the passing of the seasons. Actually, in the case of the flowers and leaves it simply reflects death.

November is also the month of the Transgender Day of Remembrances all across the world. It is the day that we commemorate the Transgender dead, especially those who have died within the past year. To date, I believe there are 22 deaths that occurred this year. There are most likely more that we do not know about.

Many of these deaths are caused by men

dating Transwomen. Upon discovering that she was born male bodied the man then goes "crazy" and brutally beats, shoots or stabs the woman to death. There are also strangulations, head fractures caused by beating with blunt objects such as bricks, and even the victim has been run over repeatedly by a car. Some have also been gang raped before the death. These are just this past year's deaths.

There has also been a case where the father was trying to "toughen up" his 3 year old child by ripping up his Elmo doll in front of the child, slapping the child around, taunting



DEJA NICOLE GREENLAW

the child, and then finally dropping the child on his head causing head fractures and death. It is unthinkable what some men have done to Transgender women and girls.

Besides the dating deaths, many Transwomen have lost their lives simply because they wore women's clothes. They were taunted by a group of men, whose approach then escalated into a deadly group beating. Other ally bystanders tried to help the Transwomen and they were brutally murdered too. And, then there are those brothers and sisters who simply cannot face the world anymore. They cannot put up with the daily struggles to be who they are. The rejections by family, friends and employers, the taunts, the name callings, the constant wrong pronouns, etc., these add up so significantly and they are

just too much for the Transgender to bear every single day so they take their own life. Yes, it can get that bad! We've lost a Transman earlier this year right here in Northampton, MA. So those of us who are still surviving we set aside the time to commemorate our fallen brothers and sisters with the yearly Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR). If you are able to attend a TDOR please do, we appreciate your support.

There are most likely other TDORs in the Albany area, the Brattleboro area and other areas. Please watch for them and please attend. You can check TRT's Calendar of Event's page for some of the listings. Thank you. For more information online visit: www.transgenderdor.org.

Couch from Page 2

of warfare. Just as in the health clinics of the nation, the first waypoint in the military effort to redress these foibles is a pharmaceutical one. The catch is, we're really not that great at it... (and) the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency itself notes a few unwanted snags like addiction, anxiety, aggression, paranoia and hallucinations."

Not great at it? Just what I want to hear...our soldiers are being medicated to *be all that they can be*. What are a few hallucinations on the battlefield anyhow when you're already feel-

ing paranoid and anxious with a weapon at your side? And these are the same folks who say Americans shouldn't smoke marijuana? At least pot smokers appear likely to advocate making love and brownies instead of war and pain.

And, now our military is serving up a new medical "miracle." A recently developed beta-blocker is being introduced that would lessen, maybe even completely desensitize one from their past actions or circumstances. Being touted as a great way to treat PTSD, it makes one wonder. What about the ethics of conscience?

... We've forgotten the struggles of those who dared to stand at Stonewall. We've forgotten our brothers & sisters in foreign lands who, at this very moment, are being beaten, jailed or put to death because they are gay. We've forgotten America is a land of immigrants, that we are all allowed to live under this flag, and we aren't just meant to be a Christian nation ... or a completely hetero one.

Is that why a ton of soldiers have PTSD? Because they have regrets or are deeply disturbed by the things they have witnessed in war? Pain...most of us will do anything to not feel a lot of it. But *what* would you be willing to give up allowing that to happen?

Dach warns us that mental health workers are concerned this treatment could be abused, perhaps by military commanders who want soldiers to become desensitized to terrible acts. And some researchers argue that aspects of PTSD are a natural response to traumatic events and absolutely should not be treated with drugs "If soldiers did something that ended up with children getting killed, do you want to give them beta-blockers so that they can do it again?" asks Paul McHugh, a psychiatrist at Johns Hopkins University and a member of the US President's Council on Bioethics.

Studies are being done on humans, as we speak, and the results are intriguing. Some of the people interviewed for a *60 Minutes* segment Nov., 2006 (*CBSNews.com*) say that they

have been able to lessen the memories of rape, or abuse, and are thankful for the release. But, some had serious concerns about the effect of pharmaceuticals on their core being, reporting: "It's like they went in and altered my mind," and "This study has taken away a part of me that's been in me for so long, and that I find very weird." Who knows if the future will offer that (forcibly) to gays and lesbians?

And, although advocates say memories would never completely be erased, the question remains: Without a conscience, do we become less human? *The President's Council on Bioethics* condemned the study, saying our memories make us who we are and that "rewriting" memories pharmacologically ... risks "undermining our true identity" according to *60 Minutes*.

As recent political rallies spark seeds of hate speech and cries for lynching, as White supremacy-rhetoric spews from those who would dare utter assassination attempts on our

See Couch Page 7

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Deep Inside Hollywood: Zeta-Jones Walks - & Dances - Like an Egyptian



By: Romeo San Vicente*

Zeta-Jones Walks - and Dances - Like an Egyptian
What do Catherine Zeta-Jones, Hugh Jackman, Steven Soderbergh, Cleopatra, choreography, and 3D glasses have in

common? If you guessed "everything," then you have even more strangely specific Busby Berkeley dreams than Soderbergh, whose next big idea involves just that. The acclaimed filmmaker wants to stage an all-singing, all-dancing, all-3D, big-budget musical version of *Cleopatra*, starring Zeta-Jones and Jackman, and is in talks with those stars to make his vision a reality. There are no other details at the moment, but the very idea that this could take place should be enough to warm the heart and excite the over-the-top imagination of *Chicago*-loving, Wolverine-lusting, musical-loving queers (not to mention all those *Jaws 3D* fans in desperate need of stuff fake-flying off the screen) everywhere. More two-dimensional details coming soon.

Rosie O'Donnell Pursues America

You may miss seeing Rosie O'Donnell taking



CATHERINE ZETA-JONES

Elisabeth Hasselbeck down a peg or two on *The View* every day, but Rosie's keeping herself very busy on the small screen. Following her recent hilarious appearance on *Little Britain USA* and her upcoming gig hosting a

new NBC variety special, Rosie will be starring in and executive-producing *America*, a new movie for the Lifetime network. Based on the book by E.R. Frank, *America* tells the story of a troubled 16-year-old and his struggles with the foster care system. The title role of the teenager hasn't been cast, but O'Donnell will play his therapist, and Oscar nominee Ruby Dee has signed on as the boy's caretaker. Yves Simoneau (HBO's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*) will direct. See *America* first in February.

Hayes, Hathaway May Make Promises!

Now that *Mad Men* has made 1960s office politics sexy all over again, perhaps it's no surprise that gay producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron (*Chicago*) are talking about reviving the Burt Bacharach musical *Promises! Promises!* on Broadway. A tuneless take on the Billy Wilder classic *The Apartment*, *P!P!* was a big hit on the Great White Way in the late '60s. (It's also the show that gave us "Turkey Lurkey Time," so memorably performed in the recent movie *Camp*.) While no one has yet signed on the dotted line, Sean Hayes and Anne Hathaway recently participated in a workshop reading in New

York and are presumed (read: fervently hoped) to be the first picks for the lead roles. Since it's still early in the process, an opening date has yet to be promised.

At Last, *The Big Gay Musical*

Gays and musicals go together like chocolate and peanut butter, so it seemed inevitable that someone would combine the two. And so we have *The Big Gay Musical*, which started shooting in October. Directed by Casper Andreas (whose *Slutty Summer* and *A Four-Letter Word* were popular on the gay film-festival circuit), *Big Gay Musical* tells the story of two gay song-and-dance men. One of them has abandoned the search for Mr. Right and chooses instead to get slutty, like all the chorus boys he knows, while the other copes with issues of family and faith. The cast includes vets from just about every recent Broadway show, from *A Chorus Line* and *Mamma Mia!* to *Wicked* and *Xanadu*. Look for *Musical* to pop up at next summer's fests.

* Romeo San Vicente has been known to launch into numbers from "Merrily We Roll Along" at the most inopportune moments imaginable. He can be reached care of this publication or at this email: DeepsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Couch from Page 6

country's first Black presidential hopeful, I question the ethical judgment of anyone who would offer humankind a pill to forget.

Humanity, and our deep ability to feel what others feel, is needed more than ever in our world's history. It wasn't that long ago we were forced to wear black or pink triangles on our clothing. We were marked, caged and executed. Thankfully, there were others who fought for our rights to be free. But what if a future fighting force were to forget the pain they caused? What if they could go on *not feeling* what the consequences of their actions were? That would be a very grim day, indeed.

What our country is really suffering from is its own style of PTSD. Forgetting is what has gotten us into this mess to begin with. Americans are suffering a form of civic amnesia: we have allowed ourselves to forget. We've forgotten what men and women have breathed and died for to allow us the freedoms we take for granted. We've forgot-

ten the struggles of those who dared to stand at Stonewall. We've forgotten our brothers and sisters in foreign lands who at this very moment, are being beaten, jailed or put to death because they are gay. We've forgotten America is a land of immigrants, that we are all allowed to live under this flag, and we aren't just meant to be a Christian nation...or a completely hetero one.

American may have forgotten their roots, but our community needs to work to remember its own. And about that pill to forget: it may sound sweet, even tempting but, we need to always remember our own his(or her)story- so it doesn't continue to repeat itself.

Yes, our past has left its mark, but it's a scar well worth keeping. It hurts, but it's a reminder of where we've been, as well as where we're going. Just ask Frankenstein.

* Suzan Ambrose, when not cruising down the road less traveled, playing Pinochle with friends or listening to talk radio can be heard on her call-in radio program, *The Naked Truth*, Monday evenings at 8 p.m., on

103.3FM, Northampton, MA. Also catch the show streaming on the web at [\[lewyfreeradio.org\]\(http://lewyfreeradio.org\).](http://www.val-</p>
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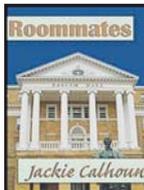
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Headed East? No prob!

Gay Travel

Out of Town: Northeast Getaways, from luxury to affordable



By: Andrew Collins*

Especially in recent years, the Northeast has become increasingly abundant with gay-popular inns, even in small, rural towns far from big cities. You may not find lesbian and gay bars or myriad cultural offerings in the country hamlets of Vermont or Maine, but you can find an irresistibly romantic setting - perhaps an inn on a lake with an outdoor Jacuzzi, or a B&B nestled in the north woods and warmed by a roaring fire.

Here's a sampling of romantic and memorable inns in the Northeast, the first four offering cushy accommodations and appropriately upscale prices, and the second four providing a perfectly charming and inviting stay at more affordable rates.

The Luxury Inns

Hob Knob Inn-Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

A dignified, Gothic Revival inn on quiet Edgartown's main drag, the Hob Knob contains 17 spacious and airy rooms. It's large enough to feel like a small hotel but also homey enough to feel personal and low-keyed. Fresh flowers brighten the guest accommodations, which are bathed in pastels and feature down comforters and pillows and a mix of well-chosen antiques. Most units overlook the lush gardens surrounding the property. A filling, complimentary breakfast is cooked to order each morning. The Hob Knob stays open year-round, a relative rarity on Martha's Vineyard, and the off-season rates can be a great bargain. Martha's Vineyard has developed a notable LGBT following in recent years, and although nightlife is tame and without specifically gay options, the island is highly welcoming.

Four Columns Inn - Newfane, Vermont

In southeastern Vermont, just 2.5 hours from Boston and 3.5 hours from New York City, the Four Columns Inn excels both as a top-notch accommodation and a terrific restaurant. There are 15 rooms, all with gas fireplaces and traditional Colonial or Shaker furnishings. Many of the marble bathrooms

have in-room Jacuzzis, and some rooms have private decks overlooking the tranquil and stunningly landscaped grounds, which are dotted with ponds and traversed by a mountain stream. Newfane is a quiet village, and that's a big part of the Four Columns' appeal. If you do stay here, try to plan at least one evening in the acclaimed restaurant, where you might sample such creative fare as seared medium-rare breast of duck with a rhubarb-red currant-port sauce.

Inn at Stonington - Stonington, Connecticut

Little Stonington, a Colonial fishing village facing the frothy Atlantic Ocean (the rest of the Connecticut's coast, to the west, fringes milder Long Island Sound), is refreshingly free of crass commercialism or chain shops. Until the tony Inn at Stonington opened in the early '00s, there were no accommodations here either. But this 18-room property comprising two neighboring buildings has been a great success. Within steps of four excellent restaurants, a charming town beach, and a small history museum installed inside an old lighthouse, the property looks superficially like one of Stonington's well-preserved 18th-century fishing captain's mansions. Inside, however, rooms reflect a more contemporary style, from the deep two-person whirlpool tubs to gas fireplaces and

central air-conditioning. Furnishings differ in each unit, but all have original artwork, beautiful custom-made wooden beds, and plush linens.

Inn at Sunrise Point - Camden, Maine

Occupying one of coastal Maine's classic



shingle-style mansions - what wealthy summer folks referred to as "cottages" a century ago - this vintage inn anchors a 4-acre oceanfront estate on Penobscot Bay and contains three gorgeously furnished rooms. Each has a fireplace, VCR/DVD, and oversized tub and shower. Additionally, four posh cottages sit alongside the water - these are more secluded and romantic, with decks and two-person whirlpool tubs. Accommodations

are named for famed Maine residents, including painter Winslow Homer and poet (and lesbian) May Sarton. A lavish breakfast is presented each morning in a sunny conservatory. A short drive away, the village of Camden, which buzzes with restaurants and shops, overlooks a yacht-filled harbor.

The Affordable Inns

The Taylor House B&B, Boston, Mass.

Boston has among the highest lodging rates in North America, so finding a romantic, gorgeously furnished inn with rates for doubles starting around \$160 is no small accomplishment. Sure, there are even cheaper inns and chain motels in the area, but this Italianate Victorian bed-and-breakfast oozes charm and character. The inn, run by partners Dave Elliott and Daryl Bichel (along with two very friendly golden retrievers), is on a quiet side street in the lesbian-chic Jamaica Plain neighborhood; it's just steps from several funky cafes and shops, and an easy bus or subway ride from the rest of Boston. The 1855 structure is one of the great old mansions of Jamaica Plain's heyday - one room has a decorative fireplace, and all have queen-size sleigh beds and TVs with VCRs.

The Somerset House Inn, Provincetown, Ma.

New England's fave gay playground, Provincetown, can be pricey come summer, when the place buzzes with vacationers. One queer-popular resort where you can find downright

chic rooms for just \$150 during the high season is Somerset House, which has three snug but perfectly charming units starting at this rate. Off-season, rates sink as low as \$75 nightly, and even the inn's fanciest accommodations run for under \$150 (consider staying in Room 5, where you can enjoy your own Jacuzzi tub, gas fireplace, and expansive bay views). All the rooms at this whimsically decorated property have high-speed Internet access, phones with voicemail, CD player/clock radios, mini-refrigerators, and DVD players.

Journey Inn B&B, Hyde Park, New York

Plenty of gay travelers fed up with crowds, traffic, and high costs have begun avoiding the Hamptons and even Fire Island in recent years, and instead vacationing in the mellower Hudson River Valley, an hour or two north of New York City. A favorite accommodation in these parts is the Journey Inn B&B, which makes an idyllic base for exploring this scenic, cultured region. The gay-friendly inn lies just across from the Vanderbilt Mansion and close to both the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home and Presidential Library and the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site. It contains six smartly appointed guest rooms with decorative themes based on such far-flung places as Mombasa, Kyoto, and Tuscany. The least expensive unit, the Roosevelt Room, has a pair of twin beds (a comment on Eleanor and Franklin's married life, perhaps?) and costs \$130 per night; all rooms have private baths, some en-suite and some reached through the hallway. Another advantage to staying in Hyde Park: you can dine at one of the three well-priced restaurants operated by the Culinary Institute of America, which is just down the road.

Cordials, New Hope, Pennsylvania

In the heart of New Hope, one of the Northeast's most gay-popular small towns, Cordials draws a predominantly gay and lesbian clientele but welcomes everybody. The contemporary white house contains six guest rooms, all of them immaculately kept with modern furnishings - the look is more functional than quaint, but accommodations are comfortable and reasonably priced (starting at \$85 on weekdays, \$140 on weekends) - they also come with fresh flowers, snacks, and crystal stemware. This is a great choice for social butterflies who want to be close to New Hope's lively nightlife. Also, the town's many antiques shops and quirky boutiques are just a short drive away. Useful amenities include a spacious deck overlooking a flower-filled yard. And you can get to know your other guests during a wine-and-cheese social held on Friday and Saturday afternoons.

*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@qsyndicate.com.

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Queertations: Say what?!

By: Rex Wockner

"Interpreting our state constitutional provisions in accordance with firmly established equal protection principles leads inevitably to the conclusion that gay people are entitled to marry. ... To decide otherwise would require us to apply one set of constitutional principles to gay persons and another to all others."

—The **Connecticut Supreme Court** in an Oct. 10 ruling legalizing same-sex marriage. Three states down, 47 to go.

"I don't have a problem discussing the topic of somebody being gay, but I do have a problem discussing my personal life. You don't get that part of me. Sorry. ... I don't feel like I need to share my personal life, and I don't care if people think I'm gay or not. Assume whatever you want. You do it anyway."

—Singer and actress **Queen Latifah** to *The New York Times*, Oct. 3.

"God is dead. Or rather, the Repubs' particularly cruel version, a gloomy, tyrannical, guilt-slingin' God from Colorado Springs who loved war and smacked up women's rights and pretended to tolerate gay people even while hating 'what they do,' a God who snorted the Republican agenda like it was cheap meth in a Denver motel room, has proven to be a complete failure, an abomination of divine connection."

—San Francisco Chronicle columnist **Mark Morford**, Oct. 16.

"I think the idea of poly-relationships is great. And it's open to me if I want that. My marriage is about 'Whatever happens, we'll stay together.' But it just hasn't come up yet. Being married is very important to me. It has utterly committed me to the fight for gay marriage. ... I've been with my husband for 10 years. There is an unconditional support and love there. That connection, feeling supported by someone emotionally has totally enhanced my life."

—Comedian **Margaret Cho** to the Ottawa, Canada, gay newspaper *Capital Xtra!*, Oct. 8.

"We (activist Urvashi Vaid and I) never made a huge public thing of our relationship. It puts too much pressure on it. We are truly a marriage of comedy and tragedy, but I'm never saying which one I am. The secret is that we have made a commitment to keep talking and to have fun. It's been 20 years now -- but then, some afternoons seem 20 years long."

—Lesbian comedian **Kate Clinton** to the national lesbian magazine *Curve*, November issue.

Queer Justice: Can't afford mortgage payment

By: Attorney Jennifer L. Dexter*

Dear Queer Justice,
My partner and I have lived in our home for almost 5 years. Because of the poor economy, my partner has lost her job and we can no longer afford our mortgage payment. We are fearful of foreclosure. Legally, is there anything we can do to protect ourselves? If we get a foreclosure notice what can we do? We executed a declaration of homestead, does that help?

—Concerned in Hampden, MA



Atty. Jennifer Dexter

negotiate for you. Engaging in conversations with the right people you can create a new payment plan and possibly stay foreclosure.

With the astonishing numbers of foreclosures it is possible you can even re-negotiate the terms of your loan without the pain of re-financing. Should you find yourself with out the time or if the concept of confronting your mortgage company causes you to have a panic attack, please contact an attorney for assistance. Good luck!

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

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

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

Dear Concerned:
This is a really good question. I am not a real estate attorney and foreclosure encompasses some very complex theories. For a more in-depth answer, please contact a real estate attorney. Should you need a place to start, you can contact the *Hampden County Bar Association* for a referral.

The short answer is there is little you can do either after or before you receive the foreclosure notice. Your declaration of homestead will not help you in a foreclosure. The homestead protects your home against creditors in the event you become delinquent. The downside is your mortgage company is not a creditor bared from taking your home.

You have the power to negotiate with your mortgage company though. Call your mortgage company, ask to speak to a supervisor and work your magic. You do not need an attorney or a credit counseling agency to

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Queer Happenings

Out! For Reel Film Series premieres two new LGBT Comedies

The *Out! For Reel Film Series* will present the Western Massachusetts premieres of two witty, entertaining LGBT comedies. "Breakfast With Scot," will be shown on Saturday, November 15 at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Wright Hall, Smith College in Northampton, MA. "Tru Loved" will be shown on Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Northampton High School Auditorium in Northampton.

"Breakfast with Scot" is a delightful comedy about a "straight-acting" gay couple: Sam (Ben Shenkman, "Angels in America"), a lawyer, and Eric (Tom Cavanagh, TV Series "Ed"), an ex-NHL player turned sportscaster. Their lifestyle is turned upside down when they become the temporary guardians of Scot (Noah Bernett), a boy who loves all things pink, scented hand cream, and Broadway musicals. Eric and Sam must deal with their internalized homophobia and face the disastrous consequences of their efforts to butch up Scot by having him play hockey. A film that the whole family can see, "Breakfast with Scot" is an uplifting, funny story about the courage to be who you are no matter what your age is.

Officially sanctioned by the National Hockey League, this is the first time a professional sports league has allowed their uniforms to be used in a gay-themed movie.



Breakfast With Scot, November 15, Smith College.

"Tru Loved" is a laugh-out-loud comedy about the challenges of high school and family life in the 21st Century. Sixteen year old Tru is heterosexual with two lesbian moms and two gay dads. Her friend Lo, the star quarterback, is in the closet, with one heterosexual mom and grandmother. They each have their challenges dealing with homophobia and trying to belong. As the new kid at school, Tru fights rumors that she is gay because of her parents' orientation and Lo must endure hearing homophobic jokes by his friends. When Tru starts a gay-straight alliance, everything at school really gets

stirred up. A heartfelt comedy with great one-liners, "Tru Loved" is a film for everyone who loves to laugh—a lot.

"Tru Loved" has several recognizable cast members: Alec Mapa ("Ugly Betty"), Bruce Vilanch ("Hairspray"), Nichelle Nichols (Lt Uhura in "Star Trek!"), Jasmine Guy ("A Different World"), Najarra Townsend ("Me And You And Everyone We Know"), Jake Abel ("Flash of Genius"), Alexandra Paul ("Baywatch"), Cynda Williams ("Tales of the City"), Matthew Thompson ("Drake and Josh") and Jane Lynch ("L-Word", "The 40 Year Old Virgin"). Part of the proceeds of the screening for "Tru Loved" will be donated to the Gay-Straight Alliances in Western Massachusetts.

Out! For Reel Film Series, the newly created LGBT film series based in Northampton, shows current LGBT films that have received rave reviews at film festivals around the world. "Film is such a great way to build bridges, entertain, educate, and bring our community together," states Jaime Michaels, founding producer of *Out! For Reel Film*



Tru Loved, December 6, at the Northampton High School.

Series. Over 700 people attended *Out! For Reel's* first premiere screening of "The World Unseen" in September at the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton. Tickets for both films are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, \$8 for students. There are two ticket outlets: *Northampton's Pride & Joy* and *Food For Thought Books* in Amherst. To purchase tickets online or to watch the trailer, visit: www.OutForReel.org.

Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq lecture at UMass

This Veterans Day, the UMass Veterans and Service Members Association (VASMA), in partnership with the UMass Military Community Resource Center (MCRC) and Everywoman's Center (EWC), presents an educational lecture by nationally published journalist Kirsten Holmstedt, author of the critically acclaimed book *Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq*. Ms. Holmstedt will speak on her experiences meeting, researching, and interviewing female veterans of the Iraq War in the course of writing her book. A reception open to all female service members and veterans will be held with the author in the Cape Cod Lounge prior to the event at 6:00 pm. A question and answer discussion will follow the lecture. This event is free and open to the public, and wheelchair accessible. A book signing and t-shirt sale will follow the event.

Kirsten Holmstedt has received widespread

praise for *Band of Sisters*, in which she methodically and convincingly constructs an irrefutable testimonial to the courage, sacrifices, and valor of today's female service members during a conflict in which they have taken on historically unprecedented roles, yet commonly remain misunderstood and politically controversial to those unfamiliar with their service and heroism overseas. Author Ralph Peters has called *Band of Sisters* "one of the few truly revealing books written about our military in the past decade—and one of the most fascinating to read."

This event is also supported in part by the *Military Community Resource Center*, and the Everywoman's Center and *The Student Affairs Cultural Enrichment Fund*.

This lecture will take place on Tuesday, November 11, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., at the Student Union Cape Cod Lounge, UMass Amherst campus.



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Lesbian Best Sellers*

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2. The L Word: Season 5
3. Shelter Me [Riparo]
4. Four Minutes
5. Butch Jamie
6. Finns Girl
7. The Gymnast
8. Treading Water
9. Affinity
10. She Likes Girls 3

* By wolfevideo.com

Gay Best Sellers*

1. Shelter
2. Boys Briefs 5: Schoolboys
3. Adored: Diary of a Porn...
4. 3-Day Weekend
5. For the Love of Dolly
6. You Belong to Me
7. Arizona Sky
8. Dantes Cove Season 3
9. Prom Queen
10. Another Gay Sequel: Gays....

* By wolfevideo.com

TRT True LGBT, anywhere.

Stand Up & Out: An Evening of Gay & Lesbian Comedy

Comedians Come to The Academy of Music Theatre

NORTHAMPTON, MA—*The Academy of Music Theatre* will make its hilarious first foray into standup comedy with the Nov. 8 *Stand Up & Out: An Evening of Gay & Lesbian Comedy*.

Presented by *Scamps Comedy Productions*, the show features four top professional comedians from Boston and New York: Bob Gautreau, Jackie Monahan, Amy Tee and Greg Rodrigues. The performance is being sponsored by *The Rainbow Times*.

With a dynamic repertoire of more than 300 celebrity voices, from Robert DeNiro to Martha Stewart, Bob Gautreau has been called a “veritable cyclone of pop culture” and lays claim to the title of New England’s top impressionist. The former Provincetown Entertainer of the Year began his career as female impersonator Tony Rose, creating the “Mama Rosa” character that remains a favorite part of his act. He’s a leading choice of comedy clubs, cruise ships, colleges and corporate events around the Northeast, as well as in *Las Vegas* and *Atlantic City*. Gautreau, who outed himself on A&E’s *Evening at the Improv*, has also appeared on HBO, NBC’s *Last Comic Standing* and most recently on

The Next Best Thing. In 2008, he was a featured performer at two events for *The Human Rights Campaign*, in San Antonio, Texas and in Kansas City.

Fresh, disarming, original and hugely funny, Jackie Monahan has become a local favorite at New York City’s Gotham and Caroline’s on Broadway, while also playing clubs and colleges around the country with the LOL Tour. She’s well-known to fans of Sirius Satellite Radio and VH-1 for her appearances on those outlets, and for those who saw her special on LOGO. She also has a hit podcast, “Girls on Girls” on the HERE network. She will shock and make you think, and has been known to make her audiences tinkle.

Identified as a rising star by the *Boston Globe*, Amy Tee is one of the busiest comedians on the New England scene. Her surprising observations and illuminating presence have scored points with mainstream and alternative audiences from Los Angeles to Provincetown, whether she’s performing in world famous comedy clubs, theaters, or lesser-known holes in the wall. Her takes on life as a “lesbian in the mainstream” are delivered with a quiet

style that belies its edgy content, leading the audience to laughter and nods of agreement. Amy is a regular performer at the Boston Comedy Festival, and audio clips of her performances there have been played on XM Satellite Radio. Since 2007, Amy has headlined her own show in Provincetown, and was the co-headliner in “Two Dyke Minimum,” a standup tour that has played in clubs and theaters in six northeast states. Currently she is featured in All Out Films’ *Laughing Matters...Next Gen*, airing on LOGO. She recently worked with Monahan in “Two Dyke Minimum,” and with Gautreau at a Human Rights Campaign event.

Whether opening for national acts at Boston’s Comedy Connection, doing showcase sets at the respected Comedy Studio in Harvard Square, Cambridge, or performing in mainstream suburban rooms on the Dick Doherty Pro Comedy Tour, Greg Rodrigues has established himself as one funny, original and versatile professional comedian in Boston. Rodrigues is a mainstay in the mainstream comedy clubs and GLBT venues, benefits and showcases. He is a regular at the annual Boston Comedy Festival.

Show time is 8 p.m. and tickets cost \$20, available at www.ScampsComedy.com, *Pride & Joy Books* in Northampton, *Food for Thought Books* in Amherst, *World Eye Books* in Greenfield, Mass. and at the box office the night of the show.

The Academy of Music Theatre is at 274 Main Street, Northampton, MA.

For more information, please visit www.ScampsComedy.com, or call the Academy at 413-584-9032.

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Paul Taylor Dance Company, 11/13/08



Photo by Tom Caravaglia

PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

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Soweto Gospel Choir, 12/3/08



Photo by Jay Town

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Street Sense

With the elections just around the corner and polls showing mixed numbers everywhere you turn, who do you think will win and become the President of the United States?



DJ Shpank
DJ/Holyoke, MA

"I think McCain will win because we're not that lucky."



Tandra LaGrone
Albany, NY

"My hope would be Obama, although I am disappointed with his views on gay marriage. He's a great candidate to turn the country around now."



Steven Bartender
Albany, NY

"It's a tough call, but I think it'll probably be McCain. Because of our country's history, we tend to ease into positions of power. I don't think we're ready to jump to a black man for president, but we're probably ok with a woman being VP."



Corinne Shaw
Daycare Proprietor
Hadley, MA

"I hope that Barack will win because otherwise I'm moving and taking all my children in the daycare with me! (With their parents, of course!)"

Arrested from page 4

homosexuality as an offense for which a student can be expelled, but if a current student is struggling with such feelings, he or she may be referred to counseling instead, McElhany said.

Soulforce has already held forums at nearly a dozen campuses since the Equality Ride tour began earlier this month to promote inclusion at schools it believes have policies that discriminate against gay students. Several Soulforce members have already

been arrested for trespassing at three schools in other states.

"We never want to get arrested; our goal is to spread a message of hope and fairness and to talk to students and meet them where they are," said Soulforce spokeswoman Caitlin MacIntyre. "Three men really wanted to attend the (Southwestern Assemblies of God University) chapel service, and we would have reached more people, but the university put up boundaries."

Six Percent Increase in Hate Crimes Based on Sexual Orientation

A rise in hate crimes based on sexual orientation underscores the need to elect leaders who support Federal Hate Crimes Legislation.

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, responded today to the Federal Bureau of Investigation report which showed the incidence of bias-motivated crimes based on sexual orientation increased by 6 percent in 2007. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation remain the third most common type of hate crimes, behind race and religion. This increase comes as the Hate Crimes Statistics, 2007, also reported that the overall incidence of bias-motivated crimes decreased in 2007.

"The FBI's 2007 hate crimes report shows once again that hate crimes protections for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community are long overdue," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "We are hopeful that after next week's election we will finally have a President and a Congress that will enact federal hate crimes legislation into law."

The FBI report shows the continuing crisis of hate violence in America. This month

marks the 10th anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepard from hate violence. In those ten years, the FBI has documented over ten thousand hate crimes based on sexual orientation alone. A decade after Matthew's death, federal hate crimes legislation protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens has yet to be signed into law.

Last year, Congress passed federal hate crimes legislation in both the U.S. House and the Senate in a bipartisan vote. Unfortunately, President Bush's veto threat blocked enactment of the legislation.

Federal legislation is crucial to ensuring local law enforcement is given the tools they need to combat hate violence in our communities. If signed into law, the Act would give the federal government expanded jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute violent crimes based on a person's race, color, religion or national origin as well as their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, and disability. It also provides assistance to local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute bias-motivated violence. Existing federal hate crimes law covers only certain hate crimes that are based on a victim's race, color, religion and national origin.

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which is no mean feat!” — *Shotgun Reviews*



Saturday, November 15, 2008

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Saturday, December 6, 2008, 7:30 pm

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380 Elm Street, Northampton

Sixteen-year-old Tru, with two lesbian moms and two gay dads is the new kid at her conservative high school. Tru’s only friend is the closeted star quarterback, and even that friendship is jeopardized when she starts the school’s first Gay-Straight Alliance Club. A comedy for everyone, gay and straight, young and older, who loves to laugh — a lot.

*Part of the proceeds of this event will be donated to
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Same-sex marriage victory in CT, opposition lies ahead

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT's Editor-in-Chief

Love Makes a Family (LMF), a statewide non-profit organization that advocates for equal marriage rights, celebrated CT's same-sex marriage victory. However, LMF is pressing forward with recent plans to help enhance same-sex couples' understanding of the new marriage laws, and tackle the opposition ahead, according to the organization's Associate Director.

"We are educating same-sex couples on how to get married," said Carol Buckheit, Associate Director, LMF, Hartford, CT. "With our colleagues at GLAD, we are co-hosting 'Legal Marriage Counseling' seminars for same-sex couples, attorneys, and anyone else who wants to hear about implementation of the new marriage laws. We are planning ahead for the legislative session,

which will begin in January. The legislature will have to deal with how to dissolve the institution of civil unions, so we will support efforts to do that and educate our members on that. We will also need to defend our new marriage rights, since our opponents will almost certainly attempt to use the legislature to amend the CT Constitution to ban marriage rights for same-sex couples."

The *Connecticut Supreme Court* ruled in favor of same-sex marriage, a historic decision which made Conn. the third state, preceded by Massachusetts and California, to afford same-sex couples marital rights.

According to a *Hartford Courant* poll taken in mid October, Connecticut residents support the decision to legalize same-sex marriage by a margin of 53-42. However, a backlash is expected.

Groups such as *The American Family Association* (AFA), a non-profit organization that promotes conservative Christian values, vehemently opposes same-sex marriage and lobbies against it.

"I have grave concerns about such groups," said Billy Ulrich, New Britain, CT. "Although they preach love of God, etc., ad nauseam, they live their lives with fear, misunderstanding, intolerance, bigotry and hate. As a result, any 'out-group' pays the price. We see this with the Mathew Shepards, Jessica Mercados and the many more, not only in this country,

but around the world. People are looking for demons to blame their problems on, and we're at the top of the list."

Kerrigan & Mock v. Connecticut Dept. of Public Health, the Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) case that compelled the recent ruling,

commenced in 2004 after eight same-sex couples were refused marriage licenses and sued the state claiming their constitutional rights had been violated.

In October 2005, the state began issuing "civil union" licenses, limited to same-sex couples, as a method of legally recognizing their relationships. However, the court ruled that the enacted civil unions' law did not comprehensively provide same-sex couples with the

same rights as heterosexual couples, especially related to social or historical significance. Separate is not equal, according to the justices in the 4-3 decision.

"Although marriage and civil unions do embody the same legal rights under our law, they are by no means 'equal,'" the majority wrote. "The former is an institution of transcendent historical, cultural and social significance, whereas the latter most surely is not. ... the very existence of the classification [for same-sex couples] gives credence to the perception that separate treatment is warranted for the same illegitimate reasons that gave rise to the past discrimination in the first place. Despite the truly laudable effort of the legislature in equalizing the legal rights afforded same sex and opposite sex couples, there is no doubt that civil unions enjoy a lesser status in our society than marriage."

Conn. same-sex couples, singles and families weigh in.

"As a couple, we feel that that we have just been given a right that should have always been there for us," said Anthony Cervoni along with partner Robert Haydasz, Southington, CT. "It means that our relationship is recognized and that nobody in Connecticut can claim that we don't have the right to speak for each other. In the past, if one of us had to talk to the insurance company, the bank, or the doctor's office on behalf

of the other, we would just 'pretend' to be Robert or Anthony because we weren't sure they would talk to us otherwise. Now, we can simply tell them that we want information on behalf of our legal spouse."

Patty Connelly-Cohen of Hartford, Conn. furthers.

"Full marriage [rights] being afforded to GLBT people legitimize my children, as well as my partner, myself, and all GLBT loving families," she said.

One local resident believes that the new law will not only affect same-sex couples, but will also impact the dreams and fantasies of children alike.

"Knowing that I was gay almost my entire life I never really thought about my wedding," said Jenn Tracz, Suffield, CT "Every girl says they've been planning that day their whole life, not me. But, when I heard that it [same-sex marriage] was legal and a reality in the state I live in, suddenly I became that girl.

Call me crazy, but I've begun planning [my wedding] without a future bride to be!"

As LMF continues to serve the gay community at large, CT same-sex residents can rest assured that, at least for now, their love and families are protected and governed by the law.

"Thousands of couples who have pledged to love each other and spend their lives to take care of each other can finally have their government recognize them as legally married couples," said Buckheit. "These couples will finally have the dignity and respect that is afforded by the word 'married.'"

According to GLAD, the Supreme Court's decision will likely be enacted and same-sex couples can expect to marry on or shortly after November 10, 2008.

For more information (age limit, residency requirements, re-marrying, or what to do if you have a civil union) visit www.glad.org, or call LMF at 860-525-7777.



Plaintiff couple Jeffrey Busch and Stephen Davis with their son Elijah, at the press conference a few hours after the Kerrigan decision was announced.

Photo by: Glenn Koeltzner



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Lesbian Voices

A Lesbian's Post-election Musings



By: Rev. Irene Monroe*

Depending on which media outlets you tuned into for "fair and balanced" reporting on the election campaign's presidential candidates, Senator Barack Obama couldn't do any wrong and Senator John McCain couldn't do any right. Or, Obama was spun as an elitist erudite with anti-American cronies, and McCain's a swashbuckling maverick. The V.P. hopefuls—Senator Joe Biden and Governor Sarah Palin—were not spared from the "info-tainment" and insults, either. And while the 2008 election coverage had been nonstop in providing excitement, too much political theater and fighting became exhausting over time.

While political ideological lines were warring factions in the campaign, so too were identity issues. The intersections race, gender, and sexual orientation played out in this campaign where women and blacks have been pitted against each other, and blacks against gays. The dynamics of status, power, privilege, and inequality also impacted these issues. At times, we behaved as a nation intractably embattled and divided across these identity lines than as a nation striving toward a participatory democracy.

As a LGBTQ community we saw that no time was the right time to push to the forefront as national campaign issue marriage equality.

Marriage is a litmus test not only for those of us seeking it, but marriage is also a litmus test for our government to honestly say that it grants equal rights to all its citizens. Democracy can only begin to work when

those relegated to the fringes of society can begin to sample what those in the rest of society take for granted as their inalienable right. The gap between heterosexual marriage and un-recognized same-sex partnerships include more than 1,100 rights and protections, such as Social Security benefits, veterans' benefits, health insurance, Medicaid, hospital visitation, estate taxes, retirement savings, pensions, family leave and immigration law, to name a few. This election was no different than previous ones, in that no candidate

we also as its consequence are thrown into a higher tax bracket. And, to add insult to injury, our social security benefit packages won't benefit our partners like those of heterosexuals. All of us hope for a speedy solution to our country's financial crisis. But one, I say, that take into account the way all its taxpayers share households, including its LGBTQ partnered and married citizens.

Women's issues had never been so exciting—and so frightening—in a presidential campaign until this August when McCain

Violence Against Women Act, he did not take the time to stress the significance of the bill.

In our efforts to erase race in this campaign we have had to confront the issue of gender bias, or more bluntly stated the issue of a Black man competing against white woman for the highest office.

The race between Obama and Hillary for the White House highlighted the fault lines of both race and gender, and a nation still at the cross roads of how to overcome these social ills. And with a media that pandered to Obama's charm and parsed Hillary's words we saw not only unfair treatment of the candidates but also a race/gender divide among Democrats as a consequence of it. Race in this instance did indeed trump gender and the alchemy of the two in a male-dominated society I confront all the time as a black woman.

As an African American lesbian, Christian minister and theologian I know that the struggle against racism is legitimate only if I am also fighting Anti-Semitism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, classism and other oppressions together. I know that all of these "isms" are merely tools of oppression which will continue to keep us fractured instead of united toward a common goal.

And while it is also true that employing a narrow understanding that all oppressions are interconnected ignores the salient points about differences within oppressed groups and that these differences are neither all the same nor all equal to each other, it is also true that ignoring how oppressed groups can work together truncates the possibility for full and equal rights for all Americans.

With this new presidency the moral and political imperative before us all is that united we can stand striving toward a participatory democracy or divided we can fall as a petty people.

* Rev. Irene Monroe can be reached care of this publication. For more information, visit: therainbowtimesmass.com.

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attempted to grant these rights and protections to us under the name of "marriage."

Without the right to marry a failed economy hurts, LGBTQ taxpayers more. For example, aside from HIV/AIDS prevention programs that will be slashed if not all together gone, our Medicare and social security benefits will be slashed disproportionately more than the rest of the population, if we are partnered/married, simply because we are LGBTQ taxpayers. Why? With only a few states recognizing same-sex marriage we not only are forced to file separate income tax forms, but

picked Palin as his running mate. Viewed by many women Democrats as the G.O.P.'s drag queen, lip-synching the party's rhetoric, Palin—a moose-hunting, gun-toting maxed-out hockey mom of five—has the worst record on women's issues of all four candidates, including McCain's. The National Organization of Women refused to support her. Astonishingly during the Biden/Palin debate, women's issues were scantily touched on. If you were not listening closely you would have missed this topic all together. More amazing was that the moderator, PBS's Gwen Ifill, a noted African-American female journalist, never broached the topic head-on by asking the candidates questions concerning women. Only Biden briefly mentioned Roe v. Wade. And though Biden authored the

Queer Cinema You Can't Miss!

Milk (G)

Genre: Biography, Drama; Rating: Not yet rated
Distribution: Wide Release
Director: Gus Van Sant
Distributor: Focus Features
Starring: Sean Penn, Josh Brolin, Emile Hirsch, James Franco; Release Date: 10/29/08
Notes: General release in November

Synopsis: Harvey Milk (Penn) was the first openly gay man elected to office in 1977. A year later, he was assassinated by Dan White (Brolin), a rival politician. Also included in the story is Scott Smith (Franco), Milk's lover and campaign manager, as well as gay rights activist Cleve Jones (Hirsch), who went on to form the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

The Women (L)

Genre: Comedy, Drama; Rating: PG-13
Distribution: Wide Release; Director: Diane English
Distributor: Picturehouse Entertainment
Starring: Meg Ryan, Annette Bening, Eva Mendes, Jada Pinkett Smith, Debra Messing

Release Date: 09/08/08

Synopsis: In this remake of George Cukor's 1939 film of the same title, Mary (Ryan) a wealthy New Yorker, leaves her cheating husband and bonds with other society women at a resort. Among her support group is Alex (Pinkett Smith), who is an out lesbian.

Happy Hookers (G,T)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated
Distribution: Limited Release
Director: Ashish Sawhny (Happy Hookers), Alessandrea Zeka (Harsh Beauty)
Release Date: 00/00/00

Synopsis: Happy Hookers looks at the lives of three male hustlers in India. Harsh Beauty follows the joys and struggles of the hijras, a cult of eunuchs who live between genders.

Jack & Diane (L)

Genre: Drama; Rating: Not yet rated
Distribution: Starring: Ellen Page; Status: delayed until 2010; Synopsis: About a young lesbian dealing with her sexuality.

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“Milk” the film resource kit

On Nov. 26, 2008, the much-anticipated film *Milk* will be released, creating an opportunity to give audiences a unique perspective into the early days of the modern LGBT rights movement.

The feature follows Harvey Milk (played by Sean Penn), an outspoken advocate for lesbian and gay equality who successfully ran for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and became the city's first openly gay elected official, and one of the first openly gay elected officials in the country. Unfortunately, Milk's life came to an abrupt and tragic end.

many such stories, a local man on the set of *Milk* broke down in tears during a speech in which actor Sean Penn delivers the lines, “Brothers and sisters, you must come out to your parents... It may hurt them. But think how they could hurt you in the voting booth.” The 63-year-old extra explained to the *San Francisco Chronicle* that *Milk* had influenced him to come out to his family, and that the film “is an important thing for me because I want all the kids to know what Harvey did.”

“I have cried every single day since we started working,” said Cleve Jones, a gay

The 63-year-old extra explained to the *San Francisco Chronicle* that *Milk* had influenced him to come out to his family, and that the film “is an important thing for me because I want all the kids to know what Harvey did.”

On Nov. 27, 1978, Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone were shot to death by Dan White, a former member of the Board.

Thirty years after the murders, Gus Van Sant has directed a star-studded cast in a feature film retelling of the story. Set for an October 28 premiere in the Castro District of San Francisco, followed by a release in select markets nearly thirty years to the day of his murder a month later, the film has the potential to introduce a tremendously important piece of LGBT history to mainstream audiences.

Milk was shot on location in the Castro District of San Francisco. Archivists poured over historical materials to formulate a detailed, accurate vision for the period landscape, which was then accomplished by both small and large scale changes, such as de-modernizing storefronts, repainting the Castro movie theater marquee, and even switching the trash cans on the street.

By all accounts, filming was a very emotional experience for those involved. In one of

activist working as a historical consultant on *Milk*. He is played by Emile Hirsch in the film and is best known as creator of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. “So many of the things we take for granted now, in the age of ‘Will & Grace’ re-runs and Mark Leno and Carole Migden holding office, were unimaginable not so long ago,” said Jones. According to Jones, *Milk* does fictionalize some elements in its transition to the screen, but tries to stay as true to the story as possible. “If we tried to explain exactly the politics of this city, the movie would be long, dull, and confusing”

For more information about the film visit: filmfocus.com/focusfeatures/film/milk/



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Albany, NY

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Oh Bar
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508.487.9793

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Q-lebrities

A few Q's: Ari Gold, Hebrew heartthrob

[Hit Recording Artist Ari Gold has had the #1 Music Video on LOGO and a Top-10 song on Billboard's Dance Chart. He's releasing his newest single and music video for his cover of "Human," by the Human League, released on Oct. 18.]

By: Mikey Rox/TRT Special

The Hebrew heartthrob chats about charity, the new book 'Crisis,' and the criticism of his latest release, *Transport Systems*.

MIKEY ROX: In addition to being an award-winning vocalist, you're also an activist and a philanthropist who supports diversity and health charities like the HRC, ACLU, and Gay Men's Health Crisis. With all that's happening with your music career, why is it important to you to stay involved?

ARI GOLD: I see my art as part of my activism, and I only hope I can make more and more of an impact when it comes to human rights and LGBT issues. It's the whole Ghandi thing of being the change you want to see in the world. I don't want anyone to suffer like I did when I was growing up, and I didn't even have it as bad as a lot of people. The creative process of making music as well as performing is incredibly fulfilling, but I feel like

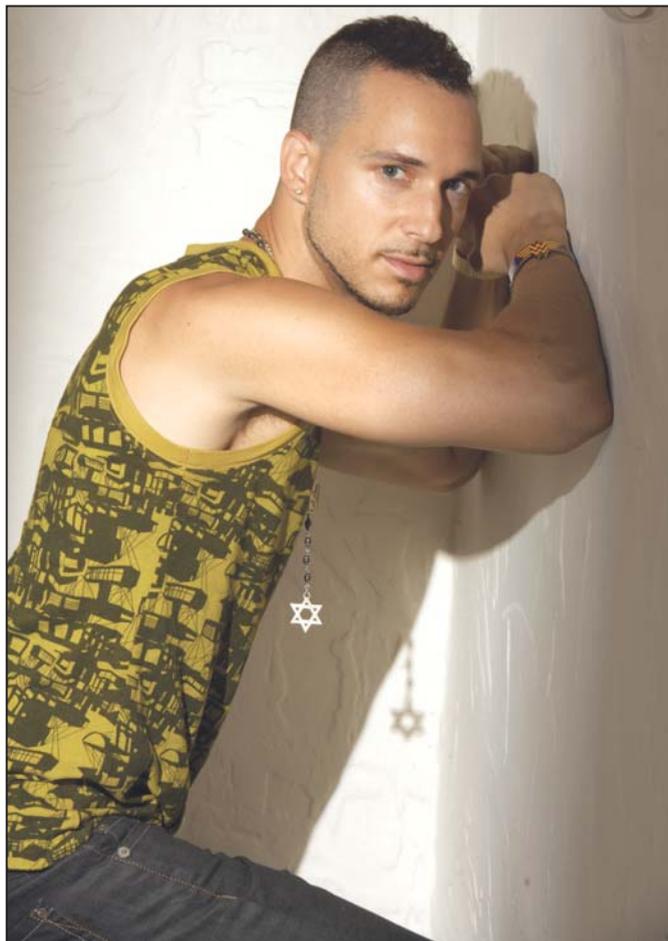
I've been given this gift of responsibility that helps keep me going strong—especially in a crazy business like the music business.

MR: The new book *Crisis: 40 Stories Revealing the Personal, Social and Religious Pain and Trauma of Growing up Gay in America*, features personal essays from gay notables, including *Nate Berkus*, *Candace Gingrich*, *Billy Bean* and you. What's your story about?

AG: You have to read it! I focused primarily on being 16 years old in Yeshiva (orthodox Jewish parochial school), which was around the time that I had sex for the first time with both a girl and a guy.

MR: You've received major props from *Whoopi Goldberg*, who remarked that you're changing the face of pop music, and Clive Davis, who was quoted as saying, "Ari wrote a very personal album and the lyrics attest to the battles that he's been through... he writes from the heart." What kind of weight do these comments carry, given the resistant nature of mainstream America to fully embrace an openly gay artist?

AG: It meant a lot to hear that from Clive, knowing how influential he's been at bringing



artists like *Aretha Franklin*, *Whitney Houston*, *Billy Joel* and *Alicia Keys* to the world. And hearing that from *Whoopi*—and getting to meet her—I mean, she's so inspiring 'cause she's one of those people that when she first came on the scene there was nobody like her, and there's still nobody like her. She made a genre for herself, and that's very inspiring. And now that's she's on *The View*, people are really listening to what she has to say about everything.

MR: Your third studio album, *Transport Systems*, was released earlier this month. While you described it as being about movement, progression, transportation and transformation, *Pink* magazine said your lyrics lingered on "gender, sexuality, addiction and race." Is that an accurate description? How do you respond?

AG: There are definitely songs that deal with

all of those issues, and we need to move forward with our thinking when it comes to those things. It's challenging for me to be able to say something meaningful in pop music but also make sure that I'm keeping it fun and sexy. There's a lot of hope in this album, too; I was very conscious of making sure of that.

MR: On a lighter albeit final note, you share the same name as actor *Jeremy Piven's* character on *Entourage*. Helping hand or hindrance?

AG: I think it adds a layer to the story that's interesting, being that I'm all about challenging gay and Jewish stereotypes and he's this mildly homophobic stereotypical Jewish agent. It makes my message all the more clear—I'm combating the stereotype in this strangely literal way.

* Who is Mikey Rox? Who gives a &#@%!
But you can find him at www.mikeyrox.com.

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Victory: Legislature repeals 1913 law

By: Grisel M. Ocasio/TRT Publisher

"It seemed like we had a lot of more signatures," was MassResistance's excuse printed on its website for failing to provide the amount of signed petitions needed to reinstate the 1913 law. The organization wanted to place a referendum on the 2010 ballot to reinstate the law and leave it up to Massachusetts voters to prohibit same-sex couples from other states to wed in Massachusetts.

The law, used by former Governor Mitt Romney to prevent same-sex couples to marry in Massachusetts, first banned marriages from couples from out of state whose marriages would be null in their home states.

In July, the legislature and Gov. Deval Patrick repealed the law. In August, *MassResistance* filed a Referendum Petition to force its vote on Mass. residents. Approximately 33,000 signatures were needed to reinstate the law. However, *MassResistance* efforts were in vain. Delivered to the Secretary of State's Office last week were less than 11,000 petitions.

The website, which uses derogatory lan-

guage against members of the Lesbian & Gay community claims that their efforts were "done strictly on principle." Claiming to be the pro-family action center for Massachusetts—and beyond, this large group of nameless individuals maintained that one of the reasons for this fiasco had to do with people's fear to sign the petition because "their names would end up on 'homosexual' web sites and they would be harassed."

Brian Camenker, MassResistance's leader, admitted defeat in their campaign through their website while calling the anti-gay supporters "heroes."

To Lisa Vanderbilt, and thousands of lesbian and gay people in Massachusetts and throughout the country, the defeat was a great victory.

"Now I can get married in Massachusetts and go home with that piece of paper, which will enable me to better present my case in my home state," said Vanderbilt, who has been in a same-sex relationship for 22 years. "I know I won't be the only one thinking of Massachusetts, Connecticut and California, or if all else fails, there is always Canada."

even you, the reader of this letter. I am asking for your help to bring an end to this cowardice and unhanding behavior. Please, keep your eyes open for our product on the streets of Northampton, and alert us when/if you witness something disturbing. Please, do so not just for TRT, but for every other publication that lives on the streets of our beloved Northampton and represents our thriving culturally diverse community.

Thank you for your support!

Grisel M. Ocasio

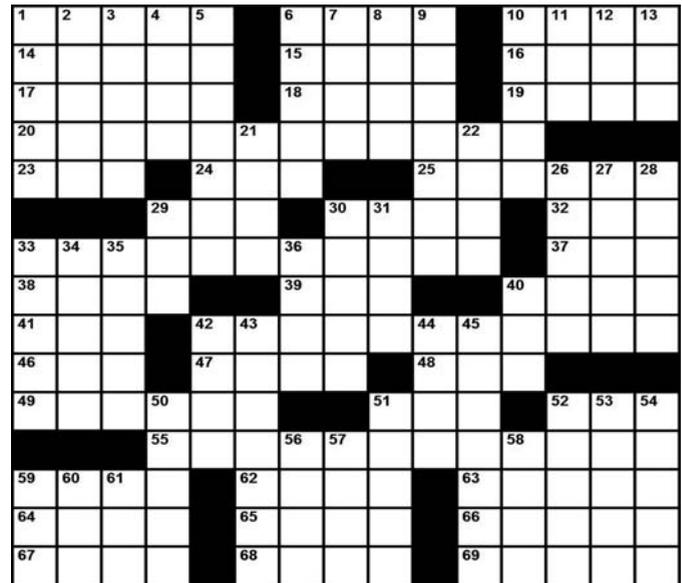
Hidden Element from page 2

are the qualities that truly bring visitors and tourists from all over to this city. And, these are the qualities in which Northampton thrives. *The Rainbow Times* is one of the first tools that outside members of the LGBT community use to ask community members about the town openness, for they are thinking about moving into town. TRT serves as a resource within a community that needed its presence.

But, with change and success also come hatred, bigotry and disunion. First it is *The Rainbow Times*, and then it could be a community member, another business owner, or

Q Puzzle: Newman's Men

A tribute to the late, great Paul Newman.



Across

- 1 Bessie of the blues
- 6 Mary had a little one
- 10 Straight, in a bar
- 14 Father, to Gloria Anzaldua
- 15 Foundation for Humanity name
- 16 Verb of Verlaïne
- 17 No longer lying with one's partner
- 18 Balls
- 19 Backup date?
- 20 Paul Newman's character in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*
- 23 You can send one to pick up a trick on AOL
- 24 No. in a little black book
- 25 "Beats me"
- 29 Help out
- 30 Without a date
- 32 It's tiny but attractive
- 33 Newman's character in Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth*
- 37 Colette's tea
- 38 Straddled a stallion
- 39 Earhart's medium
- 40 Switch end
- 41 Threesome for Caligula
- 42 Newman wanted to play this character in Patricia Nell Warren's *The Front Runner*
- 46 Tongue ending
- 47 Sea eagles
- 48 "Don we now ___ gay apparel ..."
- 49 Family of Mary, Queen of Scots
- 51 The whole shebang
- 52 "Morally straight" org.
- 55 Newman's character in Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
- 59 Noble title for Chablis
- 62 Illegal block by Esera Tuola
- 63 Wet spot on a blanket of sand
- 64 Retreat for D.H. Lawrence
- 65 Hang out
- 66 Fairy tale hag
- 67 Oral sex protectors
- 68 Cock attachment
- 69 Roo's mom

Down

- 1 Orgasm, e.g.
- 2 Poles for your first mate?
- 3 Where to see Tom, Dick, or Harry
- 4 Math branch
- 5 Joan of Arc, allegedly
- 6 Lambda ___ Defense and Education Fund
- 7 Ball of film and TV
- 8 Actress Kunis of *Gia*
- 9 Like the Singing Nun
- 10 Former Indian head
- 11 Sappho's long E
- 12 Prince Valiant's boy
- 13 Food and wine expert Allen
- 21 Ancient Persian
- 22 ___ of *Seventeen*
- 26 Big bang cause, briefly
- 27 Gomer's not at all
- 28 "There's a single runner," to Billy Bean
- 29 Hydrocarbon ending
- 30 Travels with one's first mate
- 31 Model Banks
- 33 "Lesbians ignite!" and others
- 34 Get up
- 35 Foucault's final word
- 36 AfterEllen.com editor Sarah
- 40 Pull a boner
- 42 *Cabaret* mister
- 43 *The Advocate* piece, e.g.
- 44 Publisher of same-sex couples' legal guide
- 45 *Queer Duck* voice Jim J.
- 50 Immeasurably vast hole
- 51 Big fruit of New York?
- 52 Male offspring that goes either way?
- 53 He wrote "Englishman in New York" as a tribute to Quentin Crisp
- 54 Cruising, maybe
- 56 Tight group
- 57 Scot's skirt
- 58 Byron poem
- 59 Inc., to W.H. Auden
- 60 Org. that comes when you break down
- 61 DeLuise who was in drag in *Haunted Honeymoon*

Solution on Page 20

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Queer Movie Reviews

'Half a Person' packs whole lotta punch

By: *Ginger Harris* Special for TRT

Mayhem ensues when a lovelorn working stiff and his freeloading best friend leave their small Ontario suburb behind and hop on a bus headed for the big city. Straight and single Alex (Nigel Smith) and his gay best friend Mark (Michael Majeski) tackle the Canadian countryside in search of a good time and a little perspective in *Half a Person*, on DVD since October 21.

Desperately single Alex is searching for order in a life he finds increasingly uncertain. With his school days behind him and "nothing to show" for his success – neither personally nor professionally – the 20-something sets out to sate his demons and confront his future with loose ends tied up. Meanwhile, charismatic Mark adopts his best friend's quest as his own, inviting himself along at the last minute. Mark's own demons, however, begin to rear their ugly heads as situations destabilize on the road to Toronto: his relationship with live-in partner Tom is on the rocks, and a life spent guarding his sexuality and then answering for it has left him fleeing consequence. Both boys' expectations of the trip are higher than the experiences it yields, as their pilgrimage to the city is fraught with

mild to moderate inconvenience: Bad timing results in the pair missing their ride at a rest stop; Mark's antagonism instigates several run-ins with authority figures; and cavorting about town with a pair of flirtatious young girls they meet on the bus—Julie and Crystal—throws a wrench in everyone's emotional cogs.

Julie and Crystal's relationship parallels Mark and Alex's, with one being the reckless thrill seeker and the other passively following her own agenda. And when a night

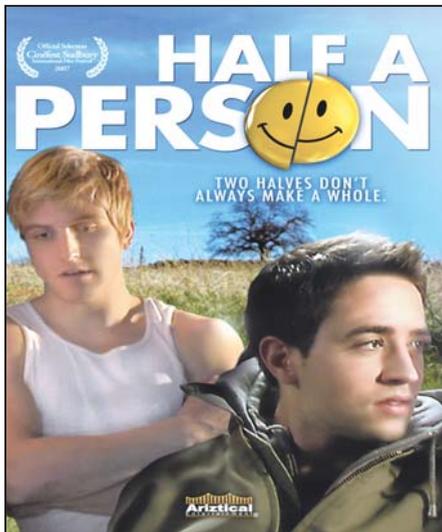
on the town with their new travel companions turns into more than they bargained for, Mark and Alex are thrust into a sort of latent coming-of-age where they must reevaluate, above all, their feelings for one another. Alex's convoluted search for closure and the means to a new beginning comes to a head when he finds himself on his father's doorstep. In spite of a surprising revelation, the confrontation between father and son comes off as a touch

anticlimactic but keeps with the consistent vein of "wrong turns" in the film. And though the two friends are looking for answers in erroneous places, the day finally arrives when Alex can no longer put his own life on hold to fix Mark's problems.

Half a Person raises some important issues concerning the transition from impressionable youth to accountable adult. There's effective ambiguity here surrounding an off-referenced evening spent hiding out in their high school as teenagers, which manifests Mark's struggle with his family's rejection of his sexuality. The intimate nature of this night spent alone is an early representation of the therapeutic function of their friendship and proves to be a pivotal point for both boys.

Tensions run high in this 70-minute whirlwind of self-discovery, where two pals on the edge of adulthood come face to face with their respective pasts. As fraught with mishap as their sojourn proves to be, there is tenderness to be found on the road, and the childhood friends discover that what they feel for each other transcends the inevitable hardships of growing up.

* *Ginger Harris is an intern with Line/Byline Communications in New York City. Reach her at ginger.harris@sju.edu.*



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NPP from page 5

"She can be found on the front cover of *Curve Magazine* this month. It will be loads of fun and extremely entertaining."

According to Seymour, the New Year's Eve celebration will feature dinner, a VIP cocktail hour with *Suzanne Westenhoef*, dancing with *DJ Studebaker Hawk*, a comedy show, raffle, and ringing in the New Year with a Champagne toast at midnight.

"Tickets are \$100/person, \$190 for two," she said. More deals are listed on our website.

There are opportunities for corporate sponsorship as well."

The *Clarion and Conference Center* has joined forces with NNP to offer a special New Year's Eve nightly discounted rate of \$89.00 when attendees book their reservation and mention NNP's New Year's Extravaganza.

"It will be like a big ol' lesbian pajama party with our gay boy friends as well," said Seymour.

Advanced ticket sales for the *New Year's Eve Extravaganza* with *Suzanne*

Westenhoef are available at NPP's Florence office, online at www.NohoPridePromos.com and at *Pride & Joy*, Northampton, Mass.

"Tea dance tickets are not purchased in advance," said Seymour. "Just come on down! Our events are 18+ to party and 21+ to drink."

All events are sponsored by *The Rainbow Times*, *Web-tactics*, *Out! For Reel Film Series*, *Noho Pride* and *Smooth Movers*.

For more information about Noho Pride Promos, visit their website at www.NohoPridePromos.com or e-mail info@nohopridepromos.com.

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Q Puzzle Solution from P. 19

S	M	I	T	H	L	A	M	B	N	E	A	T
P	A	D	R	E	E	L	I	E	E	T	R	E
A	S	T	I	R	G	A	L	L	H	A	N	D
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NOV. 20, 2008

Transgender Day of Remembrance

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

This day and vigils held are to honor Rita Hester, whose murder in 1998 kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Since then, the event has grown to encompass memorials in dozens of cities across the world. Rita Hester's murder—like most anti-transgender murder cases—has yet to be solved.

Vigils in our area:

Nov. 14: 6 p.m.-9 p.m.; 3300 Main Street, Springfield, MA; hosted by UNITY, a Springfield Trans support group and Baystate Hospital.

Nov. 20: 7 p.m.; UU Meetinghouse, 121 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA hosted by the UMass Amherst Stonewall Center, the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, and The Rainbow Times.

Nov. 20: 5:15 p.m. Gather at the First Presbyterian Church, 136 Capitol Ave, Hartford. Vigil walk from the church to the State Capitol where there will be a rally at 5:30 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m. the Transgender Day of Remembrance program will begin at MCC Hartford, 155 Wyllys Street, Hartford. FMI: call (860) 983-8139 or email diana@transadvocacy.com.

10th Annual EROS Film Festival

Out Film CT, organizer of the *CT Gay & Lesbian Film Festival*, and *EROS* (Encouraging Respect Of all Sexualities), the Trinity College student organization, present the *10th EROS Film Festival* from Nov. 5th through the 9th. As always with this Film Festival, there will be an eclectic mix of films and documentaries, old favorites and exciting new works that will appeal to all LGBT film lovers. Here is this year's line-up:

Breakfast with Scot (Friday, 11/7 @ 7:30 p.m.) This touching comedy tells the story of a very 'straight' gay couple. Eric and Sam are living the good life: happy, healthy, devoted to each other and their careers. However, their comfortable world is turned upside down when the mother of swishy 11-year old Scot suddenly dies, leaving Eric and Sam as temporary guardians. Will they be able to gently nudge Scot away from scented hand cream and all things pink, towards a more 'acceptable' pastime – hockey?

Pageant (Friday, 11/7 @ 9:30 p.m.) *Pageant* takes you behind the scenes as 52 ordinary gentlemen go to extraordinary lengths in order to be crowned the 34th Miss Gay America®. Pageant features stunning musical numbers, while diving into the heart and soul of this make-believe world: the men behind the makeup. Everybody has a dream; these men are making theirs a reality.

Red Without Blue (Saturday, 11/8 @ 2:30 p.m.) An honest portrayal of a family in turmoil. *Red Without Blue* follows a pair of identical twins as one transitions from male to female. Captured over a period of three years, the film documents the twins and their parents, examining the Farley's struggle to redefine their family. Through its portrayal of these articulate and independent twins, each haunted by the painful experiences of their adolescence, the film questions normative standards of gender and identity—as Mark and Clair reassess their indescribable bond as identical twins. Filmmaker Brooke Sebold will be in attendance.



Red Without Blue follows a pair of identical twins as one transitions from male-to-female.

Searching 4 Sandeep (Saturday, 11/8 @ 7:30 p.m.) Australian director Poppy Stockell is delighted when her "research" on a light-hearted look at lesbian Internet-dating leads to an unexpectedly deep connection with an English woman, Sandeep Virdi. However, their relationship is complicated by the reality that Sandeep is Sikh, lives at home with her conservative family, and has kept her sexuality a secret. Humorous and thoughtful, this documentary film explores the collision of love with ethnic, religious and sexual identity. And this film is presented with *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon*. A memorial screening of the

award winning documentary: *No Secret Anymore* is the inspiring story of *Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon*, founders of the modern lesbian civil rights movement and partners in love and political struggle for half a century. A breathtaking personal/political history narrated by *Kate Clinton*. Delightful and illuminating!

Itty Bitty Titty Committee (Saturday, 11/8 @ 9:30 p.m.) Part social commentary, part drama and part romantic comedy, *Itty Bitty Titty Committee* has a blast exploring social change and coming out. When we first meet Anna, she is working at a plastic surgeon's office and generally moping her way through her days. One night when leaving work, she catches Sadie spray-painting the front of the plastic surgeon's building. Instead of calling the cops, she and Sadie find common ground and Sadie recruits Anna into her group of radical feminists. In the end, the universality of the desire to be in a posse that can change the world is what truly elevates this engaging ride through the mosh-pit of 20-something girlie-activism.

The Laramie Project (Sunday, 11/9 @ 2:30 p.m.) To honor the 10th anniversary of *Matthew Shepard's* passing, we will be sharing a free screening of "The Laramie Project"—a groundbreaking film that recreates the efforts of a New York theatre troupe to shed light on a western town's loss of innocence following a hate crime perpetrated on a 21-year-old University of Wyoming student. Adapted from the acclaimed play of the same name, the film features an all-star cast.

For additional information, please visit the Out Film CT website: www.OutFilmCT.org and read TRT's Calendar of Event's page.



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More Connecticut News & Events/Info. on Pages 14-15

CT Neighborhood Organizations

AIDS Testing: www.guardinhealth.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 (860) 525-7777/Married Lesbian Support
Group: truicolor@aol.com (203) 430-9227
Married Men's Bisexual Support Group of Hartford:
(860)264-5605/Metropolitan Community Church of New
Haven: (203) 397-2312/New Haven Gay & Lesbian
Center: www.nhgcc.org (203) 387-2252
PFLAG Danbury: www.pflag.org; (203) 797-
4743/Connecticut's Kids: (203) 256-8414
Senior Lesbians Happily at Play (SLAPHAPS): Tathy
(203) 929-8113
True Colors CT: 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/

TRT Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS/SUPPORT GROUPS

(MA) LGBT Afternoon Tea Dances; Every 3rd Sunday of the month; 3-7 p.m. Dance, Drink, Dialogue! The Union Station, 125A Pleasant Street, \$8 admission, \$5 w/student ID. FMI: www.nohopridepromos.com

(MA) Every first Wednesday of the month for a potluck dinner social. We meet at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 175 Wendell Avenue in Pittsfield at 7:00 PM. FMI: at the INFOline 413-822-7268.

(NY) ONGOING: First and third Sundays of the month, 11 - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(NY) Confidential HIV Testing; last Wednesday of the month; 6-8:30pm; CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: 518-462-6138.

(CT) Living Soulfully: A Monthly Men's Gathering; Meets on 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:30-9:00pm at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective. FMI: HGLHC at 860-2787-4163.

(NY) Capital Pride Singers LGBT and affirming mixed chorus. Rehearsals on Monday's, 7pm, Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State St; Albany. FMI: 518-435-4636.

(CT) RainbowRoom is open every Sunday from 3:00pm-6:00pm and is located at 1841 Broad St., Hartford. RainbowRoom is an affirming and safe place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning teens and young adults 13 to 21. RainbowRoom is a drop-in center located in an intimate, informal space with room for a variety of activities.

(VT) July 10; CORE GROUP; 6pm Potluck; 6:30pm Group Discussion, at the Menspace. Help guide the Men's Program. Join us for a great potluck and then conversation about the program. We always welcome new members. Please come for the discussion even if you don't come for the potluck!

(VT) BOOK CLUB; 7pm; 139 Main Street, Ste #606B. FMI: Curtis802-254-2400. Core Group is meeting on Thursday at the Menspace.

(VT) TRANSGENDER SUPPORT; 5:30-8:30pm; Meeting in Brattleboro; Third Sunday of every month. Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary. Not a Men's Program event. FMI: oshee@benjaminrobin.net

W. MASSACHUSETTS

Nov. 5; BSCC POTLUCK DINNER; 7:00 pm; Unitarian-Universalist Church, 175 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA. Open to GLBTQI community & friends. Bring main dish, salad, veggie or dessert to share. FMI: BSCC Infoline 413-822-7268.

Nov. 6, 13 & 20; Basic ballroom for the LGBT community and friends, taught by professional dancer and teacher, Skip Warren. Will consist of a series of classes on three Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m.; November 6 (swing); November 13 (waltz); November 20 (rumba). Cost is \$10 per couple per session (or \$5, if you come solo). Register in advance by calling the Center at (413) 584-7327 or email: ncia@nohoarts.org.

Nov. 7; Free and Anonymous HIV and STD Testing; 10-2 pm; UMass Campus Center, Room 165-69. No appointment necessary. No blood is involved in HIV tests, just oral swabs. The results of an HIV test will be available in about 20 minutes.

Nov. 9; Why we Fall in Love with a Poet?; 3pm; Jones Library Trustees Room Amherst, Mass. Perugia Press, the Jones Library, and Everywoman's Center present a poetry reading with Nikky Finney, who fell in love with Nancy Pearson's poetry while judging manuscripts for the Perugia Press Prize last year. Free, open to the public and wheelchair accessible. ASL interpretation available with three weeks advance notice to Beth at girshmanb@joneslibrary.org. Refreshments and book signing will follow the reading. FMI: info@perugiapress.com

Nov. 9; Transcend: A Support Group for the Trans Community; 7-8:30 pm; Berkshire Stonewall Community Coalition (BSCC); South Congregational Church, 110 South Street, Pittsfield; FMI: BS

Infoline 413-822-7268.

Nov. 11; Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq; 7pm; Student Union Cape Cod Lounge, UMass Amherst campus; This is an educational lecture by nationally published journalist Kirsten Holmstedt, author of the critically acclaimed book Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq. Ms. Holmstedt will speak on her experiences meeting, researching, & interviewing female veterans of the Iraq War in the course of writing her book. A reception open to all female service members and veterans will be held with the author in the Cape Cod Lounge prior to the event at 6:00 pm. A Q&A discussion will follow the lecture. Free and open to the public, and wheelchair accessible. A book signing and t-shirt sale will follow the event. FMI: (413) 545-5792.

Nov. 14; Local Transgender Day of Remembrance; 3300 Main Street in Springfield, MA hosted by UniTY, a Springfield Trans support group and Baystate Hospital from 6pm-9pm.

Nov. 15; A Gathering of LGBT Grandparents; 9:30 am - 3:30 pm; Stonewall Communities Lifelong Learning Institute at Wheelock College, Wheelock College Brookline Campus, 43 Hawes Street, Brookline, MA \$20 (free for those 75 and over) includes lunch. FMI: www.stonewallcommunities.com or (617)369-9090. This gathering features Dr. Nancy Orel, author of studies on LGBT grandparents, Denise Simmons, mayor of Cambridge, and breakout sessions to share experiences, to connect, discuss, learn and celebrate, plus resources!

Nov. 15; HIKE: 1:00 pm, meet by the Berkshire Bank in the Allendale parking lot, Pittsfield. Hike to Cheshire Cobble. Wear comfortable clothing and dress for the weather. All are welcome. FMI: Infoline: 413-822-7268.

Nov. 16; 15th annual Chocolate Dessert Buffet & Silent Auction; 2 to 5 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center. FMI: 413-586-8288 ext. 5.

Nov. 20; Local Transgender Day of Remembrance; 7pm; UU Meetinghouse, 121 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA hosted by the UMass Amherst Stonewall Center, the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, and The Rainbow Times.

Nov. 23; BSCC THANKSGIVING DINNER. Arrive 3:00pm; on; dinner at 4:00 pm, St. Stephen's Church, 67 East Street, Pittsfield (use side door). FMI call coordinator Karla Kavanaugh (518-392-4905). Everyone welcome.

Dec. 3; BSCC POTLUCK DINNER. 7:00 pm, GLBTQI community and friends. Bring a main dish, salad, veggie or dessert to share. Beverages provided. All welcome. FMI: Infoline: 413-822-7268.

Dec. 5; INFOSOCIAL PANEL/DISCUSSION. 7:00-9:00pm, Unitarian-Universalist Church, 175 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA. "We're Gay, We're Married, Then (Now) What?" Exploration of the legal and personal ramifications of marriage. All welcome. FMI: www.berkshirstonewall.org

Dec. 14; "TRANSCEND!" MEETING 7:00 - 8:30 pm, South Congregational Church, Pittsfield; use side door. Confidential; FMI: Infoline: 413-822-7268.

CAPITAL DISTRICT OF NY

Nov. 7; First Friday at the Romaine Brooks Gallery featuring TransPride Show; Free! CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave, Albany. FMI: CDGLCC at (518) 462-6138

Nov. 7 & Nov. 9; "BEAR ALBANY 3rd Anniversary" Weekend; Nov 7th; BEAR-AOKE at George Bar 720 Central Ave., Albany; 9PM-1AM. No Cover!

Nov. 9; Family Fall Fun Fest; 1-4pm; CDGLCC; 332 Hudson Ave. Albany. Join us for gourd painting, cupcake decorating, story time and more! Fun for the whole family! RSVP by November 3rd to (518) 462-6138.

Nov. 9; Movie Night (with author discussion) - Showing Third Man Out; 6:00pm; CDGLCC; 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12210; FREE! Please join us in welcoming Dick Lipez (pen name Richard Stevenson - author of Donald Strachey gay-themed mystery novels turned film series) back to CDGLCC.

We will watch Third Man Out (starring out actor Chad Allen) followed by a discussion (Q&A) with Mr. Lipez.

Nov. 12; Center IDOL, LGBTQ Youth Competition; 6pm; YWCA; 44 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY 12305. If you love to sing, please join CDGLCC for our newest program - a competition called Center IDOL!!!! Open to youth ages 13-18. Finalists will perform at "A-Prom" and the winner will perform at Capital Pride 2009 on the main stage! Sign-up today!! Send your name, age, location, and 2-3 song choices to: qdiamond@cdglcc.org

Nov. 15; Art for AIDS Sake; 7 pm - 10 pm New York State Museum, 4th Fl, Empire State Plaza Madison Ave, Albany, NY To Benefit The Albany Damien Center.

Nov. 16; A Sneak Peak at "The Main" Documentary; 5-6:30pm; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY FREE! Has queer identity moved into the mainstream? Join award-winning filmmaker Julie Casper Roth as she screens clips of her documentary-in-progress, The Main. The film follows the story of a gay bar as it explores changing trends in gay community. The screening will be followed by an open discussion with the filmmaker. Julie Casper Roth is 2008 Artist Fellowship recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA). This presentation is co-sponsored by Artists & Audience Exchange, a NYFA public program.

Nov. 20; Transgender Day of Remembrance

Nov. 21; TransAction! A new national day of action day to educate, celebrate and to become an ally and stand up for the rights of individuals who have faced harassment, bullying and name-calling because of their gender identity/expression. FMI: www.daysof-visibility.org/trd.html

Dec. 12; Center IDOL - LGBTQ Youth Competition; 7pm; CDGLCC; 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12210 If you love to sing, please join CDGLCC for our newest program - a competition called Center IDOL!!!! Open to youth ages 13-18. Finalists will perform at "A-Prom" and the winner will perform at Capital Pride 2009 on the main stage!! Sign-up today!! Send your name, age, location, and 2-3 song choices to: qdiamond@cdglcc.org Updates at www.myspace.com/cdglcc!

N. CONNECTICUT

Nov. 5-9; Out Film CT 10th Annual EROS Film Festival; Cinestudio at Trinity College; 300 Summit St., Hartford, CT; \$8 general admission; \$7 students & seniors; FREE for Trinity Student & Staff with proper ID.

Nov. 8; One Big Event: A benefit for the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective 6:00 p.m. to Midnight; Hilton Hartford Hotel; Hartford, CT. Featuring: Emcee Michael Wilson, Entertainer Varja Jean Merman, and Honorary Host Mayor Eddie Perez. Musical entertainment provided by the Shaded Soul Band. Cocktails, Silent Auction, Dinner, Entertainment, and Dancing. Formal Attire Encouraged.

Nov. 8 & Nov 15; Breaking the Song Barrier: Connecticut Women's Chorus celebrates women composers; Nov 8, at the Unity Church of Greater Hartford, 919 Ellington Road (Rt. 30), South Windsor CT. On Nov. 15; 8:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

Nov. 13-14&15; Transplantations; at the theater of Fairhaven K-8 School, 164 Grand Ave., New Haven All shows are at 8pm, followed by a question and answer. You won't want to miss Puerto Rican lesbian actress Janis Astor del Valle (a Love Makes a Family Board member!) in this fabulous play, last performed in Connecticut at the Hartford Stage. \$15; FMI: (203) 787-0191.

Nov. 20; Local Transgender Day of Remembrance; 5:15pm First Presbyterian Church, 136 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT. Hosted by the Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition. Then the event moves to a rally at the State Capitol (5:30pm) and then to MCC Hartford, 115 Wyllys St. at 7 pm.

S. VERMONT

Nov. 8; New England Men's Dinner-Fall Potluck;

Arrive anytime after 5pm with dinner at 7pm; Frog Meadow Farm, Newfane. Since Frog Meadow does not have a license to serve alcohol this is a BYOB event. The hot tub will be fired up, bring a towel, no suit required! Please bring a dish of your choice, preferably made by you and not prepared supermarket food. Bring enough to serve about six. FMI: NEMMenDinners@gmail.com

Nov. 10; Writing Group; 7-8:30pm, Menspace; This is the third meeting of our informal writing group. We use a writing prompt-a question, an object, a person, a scenario-to write for half an hour or so, then have a conversation about the writing process, what we wrote, etc. Sharing of writing is welcome but not required. Please join us even if you have not attended before and/or have no experience in writing.

Nov. 11; CORE GROUP; 6pm Potluck, 6:30pm Group Discussion, at the Menspace. Help guide the Men's Program. Join us for a potluck and conversation about the program. As always, new participants welcome. If you'd prefer to attend just for the conversation, feel free. Come check us out.

Nov. 14; Spirituality; 7pm; the Menspace. This month Jim will share with us about his travels in Israel. This is a welcoming group. You do not need to RSVP, or to have attended in the past.

Nov. 15; GRF Contra Dance; 7-10pm; Montague Grange, Montague, MA. The gender role free contra dances are great fun, and very welcoming. Experienced dancers help the new dancers out, and all dances are taught. New dancers welcomed and encouraged! Very social, enjoyable evenings with live music. Admission: \$7-\$10, \$5 with valid student ID. FMI: 860-749-3863, or 413-247-9604

Nov. 16; Transgender Support; 5:30-8:30pm; Meeting in Brattleboro the third Sunday of every month. Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary. FMI contact Oshee: oshee@benjaminrobin.net

Nov. 19; Teresa Stores will read from her new novel, Backslide, at Northshire Books in Manchester, VT, at 7 p.m. The Advocate says Backslide "illustrates in living color what it was like to grow up as a Southern Baptist in the '60s, navigating the bumpy road from loneliness and sexual denial to self-assurance.

Nov. 20; Gay Men's Alcohol Recovery Discussion Group; 7pm; Menspace. One of our members has volunteered to host an alcohol recovery discussion group for gay and bi men. At the October meeting, guys agreed they would like to grow up as a Southern Baptist in the '60s, navigating the bumpy road from loneliness and sexual denial to self-assurance.

Nov. 21; GayMe Night; 7pm; Howie's place in Chesterfield, NH. Come on over to Howie's with your favorite game and a snack or beverage to share. FMI 802-254-4444

Nov. 23; Holiday Project Kick-Off Potluck; 4-8pm at Dave Hall's in Guilford. Come on over to Tree Frog Farm in Guilford for a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the pre-holiday camaraderie. This event kicks off the Holiday Project—our yearly effort to connect the generosity of the men's community with the needs of our HIV positive clients. You can choose a present to sponsor at this event, or contact

Howie or Alex directly to help out with the Holiday Project, 802-254-4444. FMI for directions: Dave at workstif@yahoo.com

Nov. 24; Connecting Group; 7 - 9:30pm; Menspace. RSVP. Join a small group of 8 to 10 guys talking about how we meet and connect with other men - emotionally, physically, sexually. PLEASE NOTE—Pre-registration is REQUIRED. Space is limited. FMI: Howie: 802-254-4444, men@sover.net

Dec. 1; World AIDS Day Observation; 12pm at the Centre Congregational Church, Main Street, Brattleboro, VT.

Dec. 6; GRF Contra Dance; 7-10pm; Montague Grange, Montague, MA. The gender role free contra dances are great fun, and very welcoming. FMI: afirion@rctknex.com or call Arlene 860-749-3863, or Eleanor 413-247-9604.

The Outfield: Giving thanks for Gay sports stuff(ing)



By: Dan Woog*

It seems like just yesterday we were watching the Olympics in Beijing. The day before, Barack and Hillary were duking it out for the Democratic nomination. A few hours earlier, it was Christmas.

2008 is almost in the history books. Thanksgiving signals the beginning of the end of the year; it's also a good time to look back. As we tuck into our turkey and stuffing - how gay does that sound? - let's give thanks for the good GLBT sports news of the past year. Of course, let's also look back at the bad. Plenty of work remains to be done.

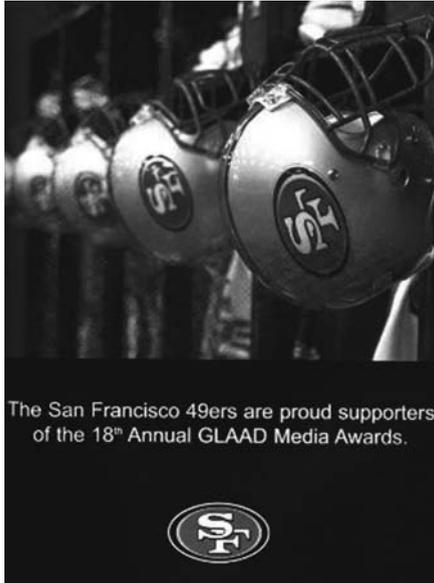
We'll start with the Ohio Mayhem. Despite losing six of their first seven games (plus three players to season-ending injuries), the Columbus-area coed team won this year's Chiller Adult Hockey League championship 4-0, in front of an overflow crowd in Dublin, Ohio. What's notable about the win is that no one in greater Dublin gave a flying puck that the Mayhem is a team of gay men, lesbians, and a few straight friends. All they cared about was watching a good game. That's the equality gay athletes have dreamed of for years. And the fact that it came in hockey - one of the planet's most traditionally antigay sports - makes it all the sweeter, honey.

Back in the early 1970s, Jackie Walker was an All-American linebacker at the University of Tennessee. He was the first black Southeastern Conference football player to earn that honor, and the first to captain an SEC team. But he was also gay - something he did not hide after graduation - so perhaps that is why he did not receive the recognition he was due. In 2002, as he was dying of AIDS, his brother vowed to get him inducted into the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame.

It did not happen when he was alive, and it still had not happened five years after his death. But this past summer, he finally made it into the Hall. Was the long delay just an

oversight? Was it homophobia? Racism? We'll never know. But Jackie Walker is now in the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame. And while that may not be the biggest honor around, it's one more sign that gay people are, indeed, everywhere.

Speaking of the gridiron, the San Francisco 49ers occupy a unique position. A football team with a powerful legacy, they represent a city with an even more storied reputation as a gay mecca. The club recognizes its commitment to all San Franciscans, and its inclusive approach was recognized this summer at the Commercial Closet Association's Images in Advertising Awards night. The Niners were honored for a print ad they bought in GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) program books around the country. Featuring a black-and-white photo of the team's football helmets, it noted that the 49ers were "proud supporters of the 18th Annual GLAAD Media Awards." The team also helps sponsor San Francisco's Pride parade and LGBT Center. For over 10 years, the team has offered benefits to same-sex domestic partners of employees. No player has yet requested those benefits - they're aimed more at front-office per-



opponents. Pretty, um, straightforward, until

sonnel - but that doesn't mean no one ever will. In San Francisco, gay fans have more reasons to root for the 49ers than the mere fact that they're jacked guys in tight pants.

Nike, meanwhile, made advertising headlines of its own. The company known for "just doing it" rolled out a campaign for its new Hyperdunk shoe that showed basketball players dunking over

customers pointed out that nearly every photo showed the dunker's crotch rubbing against the dunker's face. Captions include tag lines like "Isn't That Cute" and "That Ain't Right." Some people saw the words as homophobic - what, they wondered, is wrong with a crotch shot? Others read them as ironic. Nike, of course, was not talking. However, for \$3,000 - the top retail price of the Hyperdunk shoe - perhaps the company's intended market was upscale consumers looking to make a fashion statement. In other words, gay guys.

Finally, a look back at Beijing. Who can forget the two proudest gay moments, both courtesy of Australian platform diver Matthew Mitcham. First he set a 10-meter Olympic scoring record, beating heavily favored Chinese diver Luxin Zhou. Then, after the medal ceremony, Mitcham jumped over a few empty seats, climbed a wall, stepped on a barricade, kissed his mother - and, with the cameras rolling, smooched his boyfriend, Lachlan, too.

Happy Thanksgiving!
* 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. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

Q Classifieds

PERSONALS

Trans

"SWEET TRANSVESTITE" MTF, 51, smiling, slim, healthy, balanced, love to shop, garden, cook, kayak, kiss. Looking for a GG as sweet as me to ride off into the sunset with. Contact "Jennifer" at: j.nytop@yahoo.com.

Men 4 Men

Hey, 18 yo looking for a man in Western MA, for romantic relationship... under 20 ONLY. Thanks. Contact: Josh at PrynceShybo@gmail.com

I am open-minded, nice, intelligent, good looking in an old fashioned way, youthful and historical. Contact Douglas at Droross51@yahoo.com

BiCurious

SWBIF looking for friendship and possibly more in Springfield/NoHo area. Very new to scene and testing the waters. Great sense of humor and kind heart. College educated and intelligent. Contact Ashley at honour_huston@hotmail.com or call 413.883.0396.

Women 4 women

Looking to meet women in the Springfield/Northampton MA area for friendship and fun! Diva's, Oz, dinner/coffee/drinks in NoHo or Springfield. Movies, the beach, you name it let's get together and do it! Contact Kris at dolphinstarlight@yahoo.com

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.

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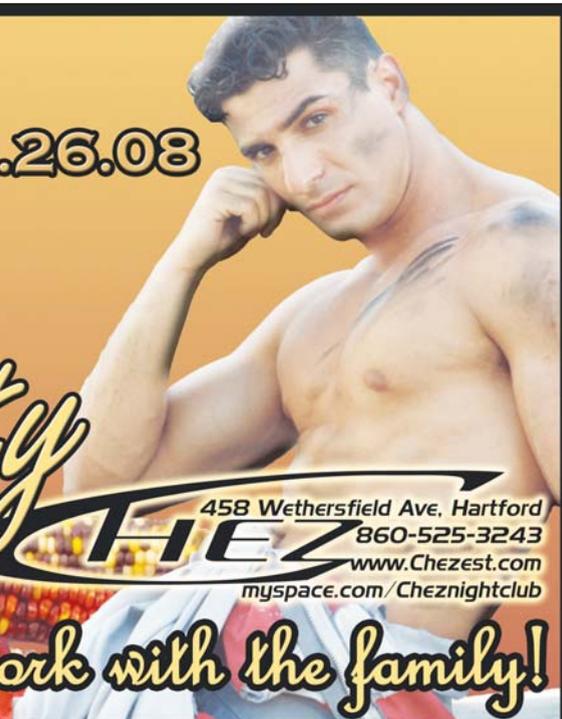


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