

The Rainbow Times

• Your LGBTQ News in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut & Vermont •



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

Comedian/Actress
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shares a cameo with
the Boston Pride
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PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

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GUNNER SCOTT
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PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

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Check out our newly revamped website @ therainbowtimesnews.com



PHOTO: JOSEPH SMILEUSKE

"SuperHetero"
Scott
Herman
Fights for
Gay Rights

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Education starts within our community: Let's all work together to get the word out!

By: Grisel M. Ocasio*/TRT Publisher
OPINIONS It feels as if we always had to be vigilant. All of us in the LGBT community have to be on guard, for otherwise things can really go wrong, or our existences can be briefer on this earth than usual. We do not have to look around much to see the sadness involving the suicides of our young people, due to bullying, misunderstanding, shame, discrimination, etc. The perpetrators are specific individuals in each instance, but overall it is a sick society at peril. We are all society's victims.

When individuals have to point fingers at other people's lives, it means they are being judgmental. Doing so consistently and in a manner that becomes a taunt, should be against the law. Questions like "Are you gay? Where are you from? How come you don't wear make-up?" and statements such as "Boys don't cry or you are a girl, behave like one; make-up is not

for boys and you should be tough about things, etc." are cruel and send a message that something is wrong with that individual. Furthermore, they are direct messages of separation at home (amongst siblings), which also extend to the neighborhoods (repeated by children), infiltrate into the classrooms and everywhere in life. What happens next? Next, you read it in the news — the story of the gay boy who killed himself after being taunted in school, or you read it at a homophobic School Official's FB page—read McCance—where he openly makes deprecating remarks about gays and how unimportant our lives are, in his view of it. These sick comments lead to the same suicides and homicides that we also see against the Transgender community. These situations affect us all in the LGBT community.

However, if we are struggling for people to accept us, to value us, to understand us and

See Education on page 3

Queeries: Looking for a second date, but don't want to have to beg to get one!

By: Steven Petrow*/TRT Special
ADVICE "Teaching kids of gay parents"
Q: I teach fifth grade, and every fall we study genealogy and create what are called "family trees." I have a new student this year who has two dads, and I think he's adopted. How do I handle this topic appropriately in class?

A: First of all, kudos to you for being sensitive to this subject—the family tree project can be a tough one for adopted children — actually for anyone whose roots don't match the classic format, whether that means kids with two LGBT parents; single parents of any kind; or grandparents and any other adults serving as their guardians.

The wisest approach is to discuss the lesson with the child's parents in advance so you

can develop a plan as partners. In fact, don't be surprised if the dads approach you directly about how the larger topic of how their sexuality may affect their child at school. No doubt, they're worried about potential name-calling or bullying. As for the family tree lesson, this topic has likely come up for them already, so they may have some good ideas on how to handle it smoothly. Let the parents know that you respect their family structure and want to honor it in a way that instills pride in their child—which is, after all, the whole point of the lesson. Finally, when it comes time to start the project, do your best to explain to the entire class that families come in all different shapes and sizes, even presenting some varied examples that include gay families and others. And then see

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CABO looks ahead to 2011, welcomes new ideas and members

By: Jenn Tracz*/CABO's Executive Director

CABO's three-year anniversary celebration has come and gone and now we look to what our fourth year will bring us. Everyone at CABO is proud of the work that we have done in the LGBT business community and the Connecticut business community at large. Each month I thank our membership and corporate partners for everything they have done to help us succeed and grow.

If you are not doing business with the following organizations yet, Aetna, Foxwoods, Murtha Cullina LLP, Comcast Business Class, Bearingstar Insurance, Clear Channel Radio and The Rainbow Times, I absolutely encourage you to start today. Each of them has something great to offer and their commitment and support to the LGBT community is what separates them from the rest. As a member of CABO there are certain specials and discounts available to you through many of our members and partners that you should take full advantage of.

Always remember that CABO is your resource to doing business with those who support the community. You can shop with confidence when you see the red and purple CABO logo displayed in a storefront window or on a member's website. Our 2011-printed member directory is available and we encourage you to consult it first before doing business anywhere in Connecticut. If you cannot find a copy near you, contact me, jtracz@thecabo.org and I will



Jenn Tracz

get one out to you.

We are always looking for ways we can improve and maximize our relationships with members, partners, supporters and friends. If you have a suggestion for what we can include in this column each month, don't hesitate to let us know. The better we can serve our audience the better we can serve the community.

CABO holds regular monthly events in the New Haven and Hartford areas and will be introducing monthly events in Fairfield County starting in January 2011. For more details on CABO events in your area, visit www.TheCABO.org If you have any particular questions or comments, I am always available via e-mail and would be happy to talk with you. Send me an e-mail today at jtracz@TheCABO.org.

**In her role as Executive Director, Jenn is responsible for maintaining and growing membership, developing strategic business partnerships and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. In addition to being CABO's executive director, she also is a small business owner specializing in marketing and design services.*

Portrayal of LGBTQ, women, and non-majority groups in media is both skewed and offensive

By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist

Iam in love with mainstream television shows. I watch far more of them than I really have the time to. Sometimes I watch House when I should be calling my best friend. Other times I'm watching Gossip Girl when I should be doing my laundry. I have definitely been found singing along with the characters on Glee when I should be getting ready for family events. I should be embarrassed by these choices, but trashy television simply jumps to the top of my priority list over and over again. I have dozens of great justifications for watching so many shows. For instance, I like to find the time to watch any show that gives me a glimmer of queer characters. I started watching 90210 because I heard sexy tennis player Teddy was going to start playing for my team. Really Jason, 90210? Indeed. Feel free to judge.

There is, however, continuous other problems that go along with watching all of this television. For some reason it is entirely okay for television to continue to be racist, patriarchal, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, etc. The rampant oppression that is meant to be funny in these shows should be enough to make me press the power button on my TV remote or close out the HULU window. Unfortunately it is not. The last episode of Modern Family I watched, one of my favorites because I'm in love with my new gay best friends Mitchell and Cam as well as the beautiful Gloria, crossed all sorts of lines in

offensiveness. I must say I was laughing along as it was suggested that Mitchell and Cam should not stress that they couldn't get their child into preschool because every preschool wants



Jason Lydon

to claim how diverse they are. For those who do not watch the show Mitchell and Cam adopted an Asian child (the question of transracial adoption/abduction will be an article for another time). This tongue in cheek jab at "diversity" was great and could not be more accurate for liberal children's schools. Diversity, as long as it does not actually impact the strongholds of power are a favorite for multicultural advocates, a much more accurate term is tokenization. However, Cam's incredibly racist interpretation of an Indigenous person simply played into white culture constructions and theft of Native people's identities. Mitchell's character could roll his eyes as much as he wanted, the choice of the show creators to go this far with the "joke" stopped being funny and became racist.

The question of what is okay and what is not

See Media on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The last edition and the Publisher's endorsement of Gov. Deval Patrick was something that I salute you for, since you took a stance that included all of us, especially considering the trans community. Thank you for an issue filled with political information that finally helped me make up my mind, here in Jamaica Plain.

—Arturo González, Jamaica Plain

Dear Editor,

It's a shame that TRT endorsed Gov. Patrick, when Charlie Baker is pro-gay rights and not so much for the cuts and craziness that Patrick is for, hopefully, leaving behind. We need to get rid of the Democrats who talk a good talk. I wish you had endorsed Baker, but what can we expect, you also endorsed Clinton and Obama.

—James Roseland, Worcester, MA

Dear Editor,

What an amazing website! I love the new look and how it all can be sent to friends, to Facebook, Twitter and all of the other social networks. I like that I've seen your FB coverage and it is frequent and to-the-minute. That's great work! I also like being able to read the paper online too, but this other way gives such a clean access to your site. That is a very user-friendly site and I'm proud of it as a loyal reader of the Times.

—Johanna Schmidt, Cambridge, MA

Dear Editor,

I was expecting an article about Anderson Cooper coming out of the closet and was disillusioned when I just happened to read that he may be taking over the daytime hosting of yet another show, once Oprah leaves. But, if there's someone that can, that'll be AC. I just wish he'd

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Transgender Awareness Week 2010 to be commemorated in November

From East to West, Gunner Scott, MTPC's Executive Director, and Genny Beemyn, UMass Stonewall Center director, share their thoughts on TDOR

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Transgender Awareness Week 2010 will be observed from November 13th to November 20th. This week will be dedicated to educating the public about the transgender community and the pressing issues that are currently facing transgender people in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC) has announced that events and educational opportunities will be planned around the state by MTPC and a variety of other organizations and community groups. The Network/La Red is co-sponsoring this year's Transgender Awareness Week 2010.

"Public education is the key to any policy change.

While passing legislation is extremely important, it is also essential that we work to eliminate unfair myths and negative stereotypes that exist about transgender people," said Gunner Scott, Executive Director of MTPC.

The week will conclude on November 20th with the observance of International Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) with events being held nationwide, including Boston on November 20.

International Transgender Day of Remembrance is a time when transgender and allied communities gather to memorialize victims of anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder in Boston on November 28th, 1998, kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Rita Hester's murder — like most anti-transgender murder cases — remains unsolved.

"Violence and discrimination against trans-

gender people need to be addressed because they are rampant," said Genny Beemyn, Director of the Stonewall Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

"At last year's Day of Remembrance, we recognized more than 100 people from around the world who had been killed in the previous year because of their gender identity or expression. And these were just the people we knew about because the police considered their deaths to be bias crimes, the media covered their murders, and activists picked up on it," Beemyn added.

Discrimination is also a problem. Last month, the first national report on the climate for LGBT people at college campuses, entitled *The State of Higher Education for LGBT People*, was released. It found that 39% of the transgender and gender nonconforming respondents had experienced harassment on their campuses and 63% hide their gender identity to try to avoid intimidation.

Previous events for Transgender Awareness Week have included: book reading and signings, worship services, and film screenings.

Organizations, congregations, college groups, civic groups, and community members are encouraged to increase their awareness and knowledge about transgender communities and issues transgender people face by attending one of the community events or by planning one of their own, such as a transgender movie screening, a book discussion, or a panel of transgender speakers.

For more information on Transgender Awareness Week, please contact MTPC at info@masstpc.org, by phone at (617) 778-0519 or visit their website at <http://www.masstpc.org>. For other TDOR Vigils across the nation, visit: www.transgenderdor.org.



PHOTO: TRT ARCHIVES/GLENN KOETZNER

Gunner Scott

Education from page 2

see past our sexuality, we have to be equally empathetic with other groups that surround us as well. Our community must be aware of the other circumstances that border on racial, ethnic and gender-based discrimination. What is happening with the LGBT community and the lack of pluralism in our society is simply repugnant. It is not right to have such division and to categorize humans as cattle. We must stand strong in that we do not accept bigotry, segregation, bullying, hate speech, prejudice, etc. within any marginalized community. This is what permeates everywhere and what gives these sick people, like McCance (the Arkansas School Board Vice-President) the idea that his "truth" is accepted and that anything else outside of his naivety and close-mindedness is not. The barriers of ignorance, hatred and prejudice must be lifted altogether, so that we can also start moving towards cohesion collectively. Separation of differences even exists in within the LGBTQ community and that should not be the case.

This month, when I attend TDOR meetings, I am going to ensure that I stand for full, across the board inclusion. That means inclu-

sion of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, credo, etc. We cannot afford to fight individually for this cause. We must unite in this battle. Anything less is not acceptable.

My most sincere thoughts go to all of the Trans victims of abuse, rape, and murder this month. We, at TRT, join the Trans community to show that we care and that we are in this struggle together. I hope you see that throughout the pages of The Rainbow Times. Most importantly, I hope that you join your local TDOR and other non-majority LGBT groups if you are Caucasian, or if you are not, join more mainstream groups. It will be advantageous to build bridges at various levels, without bias and with understanding and acceptance.

In solidarity,

Gricel M. Ocasio

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



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Mohegan Sun a world at play

Faith, Family, and God: *But the World Goes 'Round*

IN THE NAME OF GOD By: Paul P. Jesep*/TRT Columnist

Life happens. It has been a challenging several weeks. Many of you can understand. It became so stressful that I fell off the wagon again. I had one of my infamous, notorious, and unbelievable pastry swine-outs. I dropped a small fortune for cholesterol-clogging, butt and belly enhancing poison. I live a leisurely fifteen minute walk from a world-class bakery. Yet I drove four minutes to get the heart-stopping, stroke inducing narcotic.

The next day greeted me with one hell of a sugar hangover. The headache, dry mouth, and nausea from too much frosting, custard, glazed fruit, and sweetened ricotta cheese can match any alcohol hangover. After looking in the mirror with one eye intentionally shut, I felt as if I gained ten pounds. I stepped on the scale with one foot and kept the other firmly on the floor. I felt better. Fortunately, I don't have pastry swine-outs on a regular basis. Otherwise I'd have hips the size of candy-ass mountain. Of course now I'll have to eat bunny food for the next four days.

Unhealthy food is a crutch. Although tem-

porary, it provides a false sense of comfort and security. Yet it's a heavy rock on the soul that keeps an individual stuck in time and place. It prevents the natural, inherent need to let go and move on. I know better than to have swine-out on rich, creamy pastry. I always hate myself in the morning. It's not because of the sugar hangover or even the potential of weight gain, but because of the torturous days ahead eating salads.

Perhaps I do it subconsciously. Perhaps there is a yearning to do it. Every time I do and get back on the wagon I have a bit more perspective and spiritual growth. *But the World Goes 'Round* is one of Liza Minnelli's most famous songs. It sometimes helps to get back on track. It's a reality check. The sun will come up no matter how angry, annoyed, or frustrated I feel. The planets still spin no matter how broken hearted, chaotic the work place, or overwhelmed I might feel. In short, the trivialities of life are not bigger than any of us because we're all children of the infinite universe.

Challenges that bring our spirits down keep us stuck in time and place. These are limitations. Time and place, one form of structure that can limit the individual, enables pain, hurt, frustration, or disappointment to over stay their welcome. Time and place limit the chance for

a personal, mystical experience. There is a tendency to remain in the moment that caused the negative feelings.

If you're aware of it you can usually break free. Stepping beyond time and place lifts you to a higher consciousness. It is deification. You are a child of the Maker of the Universe

The next time you are tempted to have a food swine-out, too many cocktails, or a shop till you drop night to soothe your soul find a quiet place, take deep breaths, clear your mind, and envision yourself in a place of safety instead. Imagine yourself at the ocean, high in the mountains, or a bird soaring over a majestic forest.

Whether you're having the best or worst day of your life, the world will still go round. Enjoy the trip even if it is a bit bumpy. It's the rough times that provide the opportunity for inner growth that leads to a greater holiness as a Creation of the Creator.

**Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. His book Crucifying Jesus and Secularizing America – the Republic of Faith without Wisdom, is available on Amazon.com. He may be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.*

Letters from page 2

come out of the closet and not pull a Ricky!
—Gary Johnson, Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,
Strong issue on bullying! We enjoy the broad topics you explore. We read your paper all the way here in Canada!
—Tristan Reynolds, Toronto, Canada

Dear Editor,
I will start to say that Mr. Colbert's story on Gov. Patrick was outstanding. Mr. Colbert used the LGBT Fundraiser, Pres. Obama's visit, and the students and attendees' reactions to put together a beautiful piece of reporting very worthy of reading. I commend you and your staff for a great job at bringing quality, diverse and much variety and sizzle to our community again. We've really been lacking it!
Yours,
—Tommy LaFontaine, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,
My comment is about the TRT HEROES Miss Kitty Litter's story. She is the most amazing human being that I've known and I was glad to see that TRT recognized her in the work she does here in Rhode Island. I liked the questions that Joe Siegel asked. Miss Kitty Litter is right, we should volunteer more to end HIV/AIDS.
—Jessica Myers, Providence, RI

Dear Editor,
Yes! The Leslea Newman article about anti-bullying was great. Her stories were touching and the report was very well developed by your reporter. I wish, however that you had included other prominent figures in your report.
—Janice Mendez, Northampton, MA

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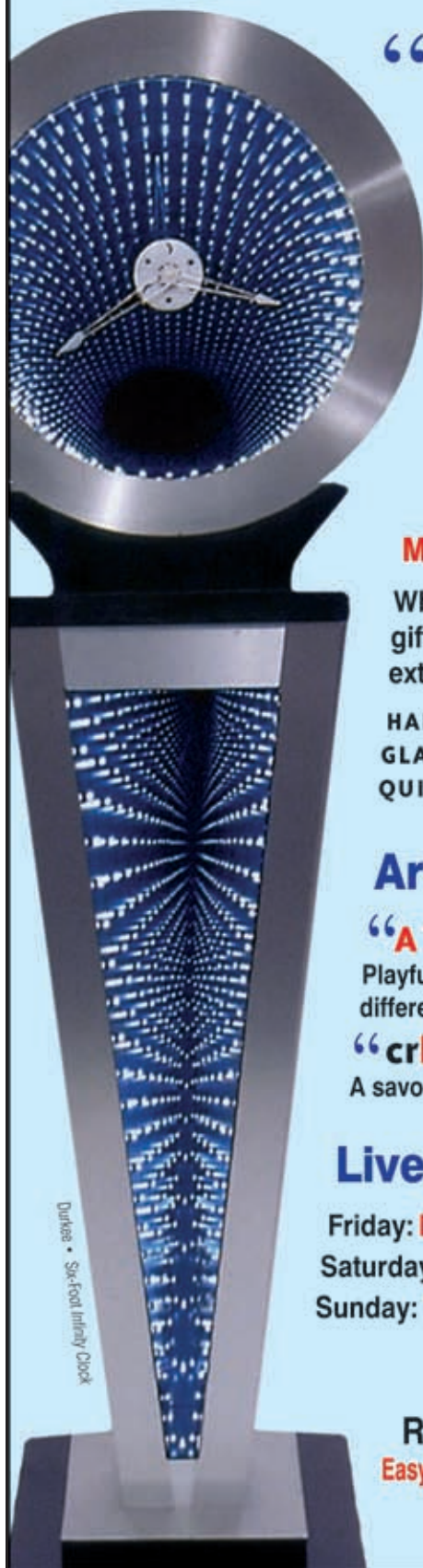
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GLAD to LGBT Youth: 'It does Get Better; But know that you have rights now!'

MASSACHUSETTS NEWS

BOSTON, MA—Last week, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), released its contribution to the national "It Gets Better Project," an internet campaign aimed at spreading a message of hope to young people who are struggling because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. In GLAD's video staffers share how life as an LGBT person does indeed get better, but they also tell LGBT youth they have legal rights they can exercise right now to ensure their safety and well-being if they are being bullied or harassed at school. (The video can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/glad-better>.)

"It's the school's obligation to keep you safe," says Senior Staff Attorney Karen Loewy in the video. "You have tools that you can use, that the law gives you to advocate for yourself. You can remind the school that it is their job to respond to harassment based on sexual orientation, based on gender identity or expression, or even because the people who are harassing you think you might be LGBT."

GLAD's video also includes Transgender Rights Project Director Jennifer Levi, who shares her story of being a 12-year-old living in Miami, Florida in 1977 when Anita Bryant, a right-wing

beauty queen, launched her notorious crusade to repeal Miami-Dade's gay-inclusive non-discrimination ordinance.



PHOTO: INFINITYPORTRAITDESIGN
Karen Loewy



"My life changed. In school classmates and teachers talked about the immorality of the so-called 'gay lifestyle' and how terrible it would be to be gay," Levi recalls in the video. Later Levi says, "Now I get to represent gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. I can proudly stand in front of a judge and say that it's wrong for kids to pick on other kids, and there's law that protect us."

Other staff members who offer proof to LGBT youth that, "It gets better," are Webmaster Ruthie BenDor, CFO Eva Boyce, Senior Legal Assistant Jamal Brown, and Special Events Manager Robbie Samuels. The team of volunteers and employees that staff GLAD's Legal InfoLine (800-455-GLAD) also make a cameo to remind youth there are steps they can take now to make life better for themselves.

"If you're being bullied or harassed at school, you're not alone and you can take action," InfoLine Manager Bruce Bell tells viewers. "GLAD's Legal Inf Line can help. It's free and confidential. You have rights and we're here to make sure that you know what they are."

The It Gets Better Project (itgetsbetterproject.com) was founded by openly gay journalist and author Dan Savage in September and went viral

See It Gets Better on page 16

Young people step up to take the lead in Springfield vigil for bullying victims

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

Just before dusk on Friday, October 29th, a group gathered on the steps of Springfield's City Hall with lit candles and somber expressions. Unlike many recent anti-bullying events, this vigil consisted predominantly of young people. Organized by the MacDuffie School Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), it was held to honor "fallen victims" of bullying and to raise awareness of the tremendous toll bullying and harassment take on youth.

Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno was on hand to voice his continued commitment to making schools safer for all children—and shared his admiration for young people leading the way to raise awareness about bullying.

For MacDuffie students, the recent bullying-related suicides of LGBT youth hit close to home. The current President of the GSA is Dominique Walker, whose brother Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover was a Springfield youth who committed suicide last year after being the target of bullying that included anti-gay slurs. Walker said that she had not been involved with the GSA before her brother's death but, like their mother, Sirdeaner Walker, she was moved by their family tragedy to get involved with the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and its efforts to combat bullying.

Joan O'Brien, History department chair at The MacDuffie School and advisor to the GSA, said that the GSA experiences an "ebb and flow" but observed that Walker has energized the group over the past year.

"Dominique goes to GLSEN events and comes back full of ideas," O'Brien said. "She brings that energy back to the GSA."

O'Brien said that the students took it upon themselves to organize the event, from network-



PHOTO: TYNAN POER

Area youth give voice to victims at vigil.

ing with other students on Facebook to contacting the Mayor's office and media.

Walker let others do much of the talking at the vigil, but took her turn at the megaphone to remember her brother, Carl, and to thank those who came.

"It means so much to me to see all of you here," Walker told those gathered in warm jackets and scarves on the chilly October night.

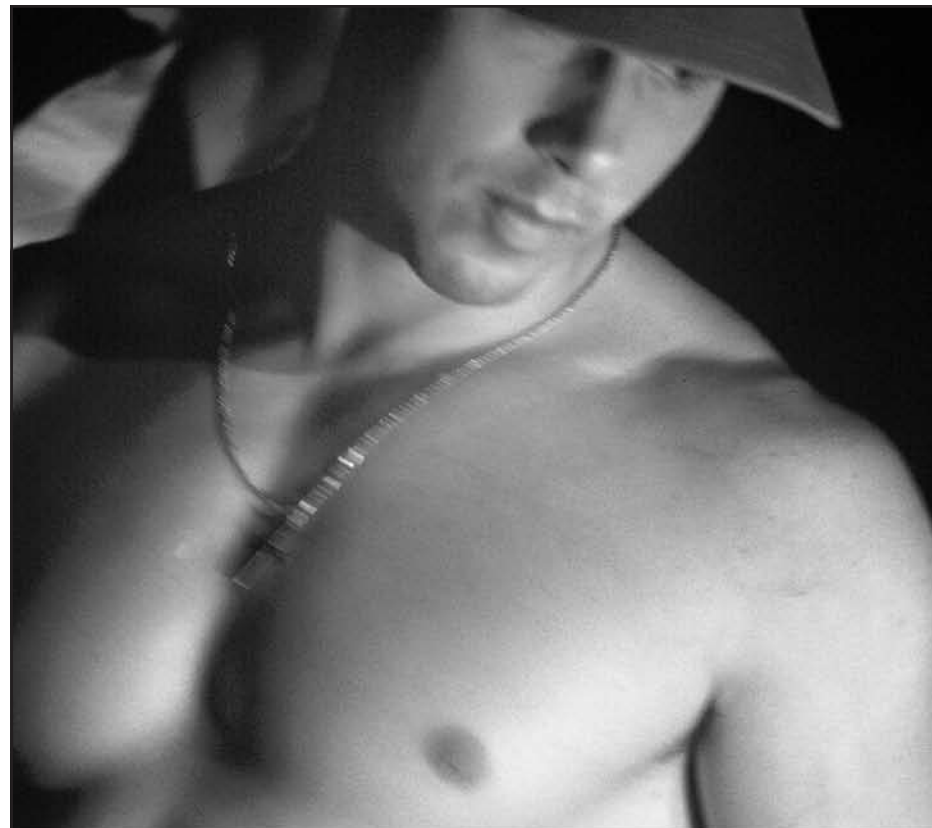
All the MacDuffie students involved were pleased with the event, O'Brien reported.

"The Mayor is a big deal to them," she said. "I think they felt validated."

"We've had a lot of support," Walker said, sounding pleased. "We got support from a lot of local schools."

"It's great for the kids to stand up for each other and support each other and take the lead," O'Brien said. "At the same time, it's important for adults to be involved."

"I hope," O'Brien said with admiration, "these kids grow into parents who teach their kids to do this, too."



THE FACT IS, 63% OF ALL HIV/AIDS CASES IN THE U.S. ARE IN GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN AND HIV INFECTION RATES ARE RISING AMONG MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN.

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Free workshop session on preventing health risks and promoting healthy outcomes among our LGBTQ youth

LOWELL, MA—The HIV Prevention Program of the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and the American Psychological Association is offering a workshop on November 15th in Lowell, MA, which aims to build the capacity of school counselors, nurses, psychologists and social workers to prevent risky behavior and to promote healthy outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. The workshop is built around active learning and includes small group activity, role-plays, video presentation, and lecture. Participants will assess personal strengths and biases in working with the population, gain an in-depth understanding of the school professional's role in addressing health and mental health needs of LGBTQ youth, and identify action steps to take in the school setting. Special attention will be paid to the HIV prevention education needs of LGBTQ youth. This workshop does not teach classroom strategies for addressing LGBTQ educational needs, but teachers who wish to enhance their skills for counseling individual students may register.

The Expected Learning outcomes will be (what

school professionals will be able to work on):

- Be exposed to the most recent research and data on the unique health needs of LGBTQ youth
- Assess personal strengths and biases in working with this unique student population
- Understand the school professional's role in addressing health and mental health issues of LGBTQ youth using relevant policy statements, standards of practice, and codes of ethics
- Identify action steps the school professional can take in her or his own school through a process of climate/district assessment and development of an appropriate action plan
- Increase personal self-efficacy to provide direct services related to meeting the health and mental health needs of LGBTQ youth.

The workshop starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. and is free to the public. It will be especially important to school counselors, social workers, psychologists or nurses, and GSA advisors. To register, visit: www.doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=741

For more information contact Joy Robinson-Lynch, 781-338-6331; jrobinson-lynch@doe.mass.edu.

Paradise City Arts Festival announces the People's Choice Award winners for Outstanding Outdoor Art at NoHo show

Upcoming show in Marlborough, MA in November

NORTHAMPTON, MA —The Paradise City Arts Festival was held at the historic Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton, MA on October 9, 10 and 11. The new show will be held in Marlborough, MA from November 19-21.

The Northampton event celebrated the 16th year of the Festival and its ranking as the #3 arts festival in America. Over 15,000 patrons traveled from all over the country to view and purchase one-of-a-kind works of fine art and craft from 275 exhibiting artists from 30 states.

Every year attendees vote on their favorite works installed in the extensive Sculpture Garden and Courtyard at Paradise City. This year's "People's Choice Awards for Outstanding Outdoor Art" honored three very different works.

Robert Alan Hyde, of Washington, Massachusetts won the 'Best in Show' award. This was Hyde's very first showing as an exhibitor at Paradise City. His winning sculpture was actually made up of two pieces: a life-sized "Wolf" walking with a six-foot "Native American." Working in steel, copper and brass rods, Hyde slowly wraps the metal into an intricately layered skeletal and muscular armature until they attain a totally realistic form. His work was a photo opportunity for visitors to the Sculpture Garden and a constant source of conversation.

Hyde, who will also be in the Paradise City Arts Festival event in Marlborough, expressed that he "felt the Paradise City Arts Festival was a wonderful venue to present his art work. I was very impressed with the professionalism and helpfulness of Lynda and Geoff Post the staff and volunteers."

"I am very honored and grateful for the award. This positive reinforcement for a novice, exhibitor has encouraged me to continue creating and exhibiting," said Hyde in a TRT interview. "The Native American and his wolf companion were created following a number of commissioned pieces with Native American themes. I wanted to create something more grand and challenging. The free standing, Native American was completed in 2004 and the wolf in 2005."

Hyde intends to present more pieces that he deems his favorites at the Marlborough Show, one of which is also a Native American piece.

"My two favorite pieces that I intend to show are: 'Blithe Spirit', a four foot female nude that suggests simplicity and movement and my 'Fancy Dancer,' another Native American piece that stand four feet tall," Hyde said proudly. "The 'Fancy Dancer' is bedecked with feathers and an intricate, feather, bustle. Conversely, this sculpture also expresses movement in its extreme intricacy."

Hyde, who emphasizes he uses brass, steel and copper rods to work and not wire, sells his art also via his website: www.robertalanhyde.com.

Other awards went to Easthampton, Massa-



PHOTO: COURTESY OF PARADISE CITY ARTS FESTIVAL

Paradise City Director Linda Post presents the "People's Choice Award for Outdoor Art" to Robert Alan Hyde, a brand-new sculptor. His life-size "Wolf" and "Native American" were clear front-runners all weekend for the popular vote.

chusetts sculptor Matthew Johnson for "Medusa," a striking 16-foot tall steel sculpture. James Kitchen, from Chesterfield, Massachusetts, won Honorable Mention for his seventh placement in the Paradise City's People's Choice Awards.

Paradise City, founded in 1995, produces award-winning shows of contemporary craft and fine art. Paradise City's shows are highly competitive, and showcase the works of some of America's most prominent craft designers, painters and sculptors. For the past six years, Paradise City has been voted among the top ten of all art fairs in America by the arts, culture and travel magazine *AmericanStyle*.

The Founding Directors, Geoffrey and Linda Post, are also practicing artists. They bring over thirty years of experience in marketing both fine art and designer craft to the production of Paradise City shows. The Directors consistently support new avenues of artistic expression and create fresh opportunities for the furthering of artists' careers.

Paradise City presents 175 of America's most notable craft designers and artists for attendees delectation and delight this November, at Metro Boston's most exciting show of fine and functional art. Whether you are spicing up your home for the holidays, amassing a collection, hunting for affordable gifts, or searching for a "wow" accessory for that New Year's Eve ensemble, you'll find it all at Paradise City in Marlborough, MA.

The Paradise City Arts Festival next show will be at the Royal Plaza Trade Center, located at 181 Boston Post Road, West Marlborough, Massachusetts. The shows are: Friday, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is: adults: \$12; \$10 for seniors; \$8 for students; and children under 12 attend for free. A three-day pass costs: \$15. All admissions include a free full color program, free parking, and are handicapped accessible. Group discounts are available. To find out more about the Marlborough, MA show visit: www.paradisecityarts.com or call 800.511.9725.

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Items of interest in your local gayborhoods and the surrounding areas

NEWSBRIEFS By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Eastern Massachusetts News:

• The 29th Annual Human Rights Campaign (HRC) gala will be held on November 13 at the Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston. Tickets are \$225 per person and \$100 for Federal Club members. For more information, please visit www.hrcboston.org. Sean Bielat, the Republican challenger to Congressman Barney Frank, recently caused a stir when he compared gays in the military to short people not being able to serve.

"There's no absolute right to serve," Bielat said. "Men under the height of 5 feet, 2 inches can't serve...I don't see anybody protesting. Where are the people standing in front of the White House, the short guys standing in front of the White House? You don't see it. We understand that there's no absolute right to serve in all these other areas."

Worcester News:

• The Transcending Boundaries Conference is a lively weekend of education, social activism, research, and support for persons whose sexual orientation, sexuality, gender identity, sex, or relationship style do not fit within the binary confines of male or female, gay or straight, monogamous or single. The seventh Transcending Boundaries Conference will be held Friday November 19 through Sunday November 21 at The DCU Center and the Worcester Hilton Garden Inn.

Everyone who is interested in the issues surrounding living life as bisexual, omnise-

pansexual, queer, transgender, transsexual, cross-dresser, transvestite, genderqueer, or intersex, as well as those who practice consensual polyamorous and/or kink relationships is invited to attend. Even those who have never quite found a word to describe themselves will enjoy this weekend celebration of who we are.

Rhode Island News:

• Youth Pride, Inc. presents Live Out Loud on Friday, November 5 at the Providence Biltmore. The cocktails and silent auction will be at 6:30 p.m.; dinner and dancing at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$70 at the door. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (401) 521-5626.

• Equity Action presents the Julie Pell Awards on Wednesday, November 10 at The Rhode Island Convention Center. Honorees include Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank, who will be presented with The Julie Pell Justice Award for Community Leadership. 5:30 - 6:00 Sponsorship meet & greet reception and cocktail reception, 6:30 - 7:00 Awards, 7:00 - 8:30 Food stations, music & celebration. To purchase tickets or for sponsorship information go to <http://guest.cvent.com/d/xdq5r7/4W>.

Connecticut News:

• There will be a Wine Tasting on November 5 to benefit the New Haven Pride Center. New Haven Pride Center, 14 Gilbert St., West Haven. Send a check to NHPC, P.O. Box 8914, West Haven, CT 06532. For more information call 203.387.2252 and leave a message, or send an e-mail to nhgccc@gmail.com

• The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective will be presenting their 8th One Big Event (OBE) on Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Hil-

ton Hartford Hotel. One of Hartford's most distinctive benefits, it brings in a tangy mix of the old guard, the hip crowd and drag queens out in full force. One Big Event is a fundraiser for the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, the largest organization in the state devoted to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities. The funds raised from the evenings' festivities go toward programs and services. One Big Event is an evening with cocktails, dinner, live and silent

auctions and dancing with the fabulous Shaded Soul Band. Michael Wilson, Artistic Director of *The Hartford Stage*, will serve as emcee. The evening starts with cocktails at 6:00pm and ends at midnight when the band plays their last song. Tickets are \$125, \$175 and \$225. Once again, ING is the biggest sponsor at \$10,000. The Honorary Host for the gala is openly gay Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra. For more information, visit: www.onebigevent.org.



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Nationally-Renowned DJ Skribble joins Mohegan SunDayz on November 14th

Monthly GLBT party also features Rainbow Games with Jackie Steele, drink specials, hotel packages and more

CONNECTICUT NEWS

UNCASVILLE, CT—Mohegan SunDayz welcomes DJ Skribble on Sunday, November 14th inside Lucky's Lounge at Mohegan Sun. A once-monthly GLBT party, Mohegan SunDayz includes Fleur at Lucky's Lounge, celebrity appearances, hotel packages and more on the second Sunday of each month.

Fleur at Lucky's Lounge

The party gets started at 8:00pm with drink specials like Melted Popsicle Martinis, Coconut Cream Martinis and Whipped Shots. At 8:30pm, Jackie Steele hosts Rainbow Games with trivia challenges, contests and prize giveaways including gift cards, concert tickets and hotel stays.

Rainbow Games are followed by a dance party until close, which this month features Queens, New York's own DJ Skribble. Skribble has been rocking crowds for over two decades and is known for being one of the first celebrity DJs. He's been seen on MTV and in the pages of Billboard, Rolling Stone, Playboy, DUB Magazine, US Weekly and more and heard on Hot 97, 103.5 KTU and in some of the hottest and most famous clubs across the country. For more information on DJ Skribble, visit www.skamartist.com/djskribble.

There is no cover charge for Fleur at Lucky's Lounge. For more information, please call 860.862.5825.



PHOTO: COURTESY MOHEGAN SUN

DJ Skribble

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For additional hotel packages available on Mohegan SunDayz and throughout the year, visit mohegansun.com/exclusive.

See Mohegan SunDayz on page 22

Upcoming events at the Jorgensen Center

Michael J. Fox, 'an Incurable Optimist,' to Lecture at Jorgensen

The perpetually boyish Fox will deliver a free lecture, entitled, after his latest book, "Always Looking Up: The Adventures of an Incurable Optimist," on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. at Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

Fox launched the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research in 2000 in an effort to raise much-needed research funding and awareness for Parkinson's disease. Along the way, he has been an informed spokesman in the national debate about stem cell research.

Don't miss the chance to see "Back to the Future" star Michael J. Fox for free at Jorgensen. Call 860-486-4226, or visit jorgensen.uconn.edu for more information. Convenient parking is available across the street in the North Garage.

Co-sponsored by University of Connecticut Student Union Board of Governors (SUB-OG) and the Connecticut Leadership Legacy Experience

The Venice Baroque Orchestra and Robert McDuffie Premiere Glass's 'Seasons' Concerto on World Tour

In a unique musical pairing, the Venice Baroque Orchestra with violin soloist and leader Robert McDuffie will perform the new Violin Concerto No. 2, "The American Four Seasons," by Philip Glass along with its inspiration, "The Four Seasons" by Vivaldi, played on period instruments.

Glass's new work, written specifically for McDuffie, will be heard at Jorgensen on Tuesday, November 9, at 7:30 pm. There will also be a pre-performance concert talk at 6:45 pm led by Michael Lankester, former music director of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and Hartford Chamber Orchestra.

Call 860-486-4226, or order tickets (\$28, \$30) online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Free, convenient parking is available across the street in the North Garage.

Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet Takes Movement to the Movies ... and to UConn

The ultra-hip, New York-based dance company, under the artistic direction of Benoit-Swan Pouffer, will shake up the Jorgensen stage in its first Connecticut appearance Friday, November 12, at 8 p.m.

Cedar Lake attracts cutting-edge choreographers because of its risky, edge, explosive physicality. Film director George Nolti is featuring Cedar Lake in his upcoming science-fiction thriller "The Adjustment Bureau," starring Emily Blunt and Matt Damon, with over-the-top dance sequences.

The performance at Jorgensen will include the new work "Hubbub" choreographed by Alexander Elkmann, "Sunday Again" by Jo Stromgren, and "Unit In Reaction" by Jacopo Godani.

Call 860-486-4226, or order tickets (\$25, \$27, \$30) online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Free, convenient parking is available across the street in the North Garage.

online calendar of events @ therainbowtimesnews.com

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TRT Heroes: Glenn Koetzner, the Hero behind the lens

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

Glenn Koetzner doesn't consider himself a hero—but to the LGBTQ community whose struggle for rights he has documented for years, he certainly is one.

"I am an ally by definition, but most often I feel like I'm part of some wondrous family," Koetzner says. "One large, loving, dysfunctional and diverse family."

A freelance photographer based in Sharon, Connecticut, Koetzner's lens captures the struggles and celebrations of the LGBTQ community.

"For years I have been dedicated to documenting the march to equality in the LGBTQ community," Koetzner says, "I have always believed that positive exposure, as often as possible, is one key to acceptance. I feel that, whenever I cover an event and my photos are shown in some public forum, I'm saying to everybody 'these are my friends, your neighbors, your equals. We all belong here.'"

Koetzner moves among his subjects with ease, his camera always at hand. His work, though, goes far behind his amazing photography.

"I am proud to be on the CT Transadvocacy Board of Directors, and the Love Makes a Family PAC Board. It was an incredible experience to be involved with LMF when marriage equality passed in CT," Koetzner says. "And I am proud to volunteer every year for the Transgender Lives Conference."

What motivates Koetzner's seemingly boundless energy for activism and documentation? A desire, he says, for "pure and unadulterated equality."

"It's something that everybody is owed and due. I cannot accept a society where my friends don't have the same rights I do. It is sad that we have to fight for it, but I'm here to add my voice to the fight."

Koetzner has his own heroes in that fight.

"Anne Stanback and Carol Buckheit from Love Makes a Family fought every day for same-sex marriage rights and won. Matt Blinstrubas and Gannon Long were community organizers on steroids—I loved them for their energy, commitment and successes! Jerimarie

Liesegang and Diana Lombardi from CTAC have been working every day since I met them on transgender rights and education. Robin McHaelan started and runs True Colors. Kamora Herrington and Hillary Weiss are just amazing with the kids there," Koetzner says. "All the people at HGLHC from Linda Esterbrook



PHOTO: SHONA CURTIS/SHONARTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Glenn Koetzner

to Jamie Bassell and her ever-present bag of condoms; Tony Ferraiolo and Dru Levasseur who started The Jim Collins Foundation; Grisel Ocasio and Nicole Lashomb who started and run The Rainbow Times, an LGBTQ newspaper; Cid and Bear White who put on the best celebration ever with NoHo Pride; Sally Tamarin whose seemingly

boundless energy pulls together the coalition that is ctEquality; the people at CWEALF and Planned Parenthood... All these people, in one way or another, make it their job to fight for equality. "Most importantly," Koetzner says, "I have to mention my wife. For all she does for me and for our family, and for giving me the opportunity to add my voice to the fight for equality, she is my hero."

Along his journey as an ally, Koetzner has clearly crossed paths with many of the dedicated change-makers in the LGBTQ community. While many have left a lasting impression, a couple stand out.

"I've met both Kate Bornstein and Donna Rose and thought they were the most amazingly inspirational people," Koetzner says. "Kate's book *Hello Cruel World* should be required high school reading."

"Everybody I meet who has had the courage to come out or transition and live their life the way they were meant to live influences me and makes me want to stand up and be counted with them in the march to equality."

Right now, much of Koetzner attention is on passing anti-discrimination legislation based on gender identity and expression in Connecticut. Beyond that, he says, there are many issues that still need time and attention.

"HIV/AIDS awareness, research and education; passing an inclusive ENDA; repeal of DADT; repealing DOMA; violence against gay, lesbian and transgender people; LGBT suicide," he says, listing areas of concern. "I know we need to create an atmosphere where it is easier for kids to come out. We need to train educators to recognize and deal with bullying in the schools. We need to stand up to bullying and hate-speech with every opportunity—not just [LGBTQ] community members, but allies too. Maybe even more importantly allies."

Koetzner believes consistent and persistent efforts will make a difference.

"I think we just have to keep being there," Koetzner says, "taking a seat at the table. Legislate equality whenever we can. Teach diversity in schools and not give an inch to bullying in any form, anywhere. Twenty years from now it will be a different society altogether, I'm sure."

Koetzner has some final advice for anyone who cares about LGBT issues.

"First, revel in the diversity and don't buy the binary. Then volunteer. There are so many great LGBT organizations working to fill so many different needs that if you can't find something to give your time and energy to then you're just not looking hard enough."

Glenn Koetzner's photos can be found on the pages of The Rainbow Times (www.therainbowtimesnews.com) and on his website at www.crazydogphotos.com.

therainbowtimesnews.com

Media from page 2

okay in media around depictions of queer people is constantly taken into account by GLAAD and other organizations around the country. GLAAD president, Jarrett Barrios, Anderson Cooper, and others have been challenging Vince Vaughn for his anti-gay lines in the upcoming movie, *The Dilemma*. There is debate going on about censorship and what is appropriate for marginalized communities to ask for from the mainstream about our representation in film or other media. Does saying, "that's gay" give legitimacy to bullies who torture young queer kids in school? Does Cam's racist portrayal of a Native man support the ongoing genocide of the people Indigenous to this country? In *Glee*, Artie's character is played by an able-bodied actor and his performance is called crip-drag by many in the disability justice community, is his portrayal perpetuating invisibility of actors with disabilities? Many feminist media organizations have challenged viewers to count how many times in an episode female characters speak to one another about something other than men and how often their ideas and desires are the focus of the episode without relying on their sexuality.

I love watching TV and go to no less than one movie per week. Escaping into some mainstream flick gives me a break from the rest of my life. However, the break is less and less enjoyable as the media is more and more offensive. Rather than give the solution of censorship I would rather ask the question, what would our media look like without being this offensive? Could comedies still be funny without making entire communities of people the butt of the jokes? Can people truly be represented in all of their complexities? Would we all still like to escape into our favorite shows if they were less offensive yet still funny or tear-jerking or suspenseful? If we could then how do we get our movie and TV show creators to write those shows?

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New critical study finds direct link between school victimization of gender-nonconforming LGBT youth with both depression and quality of life in adulthood

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—New research has found that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth who do not conform to societal gender norms have compromised mental health that is clearly linked to the bullying and harassment they receive in school. The study, to be published in the November 2010 edition of *Developmental Psychology*, is the first to thoroughly analyze the relationship between the victimization suffered by gender non-conforming LGBT students and their psychosocial adjustment as young adults.

Analyzing data from the Family Acceptance Project's young adult survey, the authors examined the school-related experiences of 245 LGBT young adults, ages 21 to 25. They found that LGBT young adults who did not socially conform to gender roles as adolescents reported higher levels of anti-LGBT victimization, with significantly higher levels of depression and decreased life satisfaction in young adulthood. This research shows that the negative impact of anti-LGBT school victimization affects both quality of life and the LGBT young adult's capacity to enjoy life. Most crucially, the findings show that anti-LGBT bullying in school largely accounts for this psychological harm.

The study calls for schools to take action to address the bullying, violence, and social isolation that gender-nonconforming LGBT youth face, including the implementation of education programs for students and faculty, offering support programs including Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs), and protecting students through robust nondiscrimination policies.

Co-author Stephen T. Russell said: "There is increasing attention on anti-LGBT bullying in schools. Our research makes it crystal clear that anti-LGBT bullying is a major reason that youth who don't conform to gender rules or expectations have poorer mental health later in

life." Added co-author Russell Toomey: "Clearly, gender nonconforming and LGBT students need protections in schools that are specific to their sexual orientation and gender identities to interrupt the strong link between bias-victimization and poorer mental health."

By proactively supporting gender-nonconforming and LGBT youth, the authors conclude that schools can change the hostile and harmful environments these adolescents face each day, and prevent future tragedies such as the suicides of Asher Brown in Texas and Seth Walsh in California and the 2008 murder of fifteen-year-old Lawrence King.

Concluded co-author, Caitlin Ryan, Director of the Family Acceptance Project: "Each day we see tragedies directly related to anti-LGBT school victimization. This study provides clear evidence of the lasting effects of school bullying related to gender expression and LGBT identity. Schools can no longer turn a blind eye to these problems without being held accountable for the mental health problems these children suffer."

The Family Acceptance Project is a community research, intervention, education and policy initiative that studies the impact of family acceptance and rejection on the health, mental health and well being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. Results are being used to help families provide support for LGBT youth; to improve their health and mental health outcomes; to strengthen families and help maintain LGBT youth in their homes; to develop appropriate programs and policies; and train providers to improve the quality of services and care these youth receive in a wide range of settings. The Family Acceptance Project is based at San Francisco State University. For more information, please visit <http://familyproject.sfsu.edu>.

Catholics for Equality: Committed to equality across the spectrum, focuses on online effort

By: **Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter**

The voice of church hierarchy from Maine to California — and now in Minnesota — is shrill but clear: Oppose all LGBT equality, especially gay marriage.

And yet support for full LGBT equality among the Roman Catholic laity has risen dramatically. A recent Gallup poll, for example, revealed a solid 62 percent thought gay and lesbian relationships were "morally acceptable," a view diametrically opposite to church doctrine. Four years earlier, support for those relationships stood at just 46 percent.

So what's a pro-equality Catholic supposed to do?

Become active in a new national organization that seeks to mobilize "the more than 62 percent of Catholics who support freedoms for all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity," thereby funneling "that support into action for legislative, political and cultural change."

Based in Washington, D. C., the name of the group is Catholics for Equality (www.catholicsforequality.org), which formally launched on Sept. 14.

The newly incorporated not-for-profit group is a 501(c)(4), an IRS designation that allows it to direct up to half of its activities to political causes including participation in state ballot measures, lobbying and endorsing candidates in partisan elections. Donations to it are not tax deductible.

Catholics for Equality also established a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit entity to which donations are tax deductible. It will engage in public education and advocacy and have limited participation in ballot measure campaigns. Both entities are subject to state laws of incorporation and well as the IRS rules.

Charles Martel, a Boston-based psychotherapist, serves on the board of directors for the organization and is a founder.

During the same-sex marriage battle in the Commonwealth, "a declaration in support of civil marriage equality, that Catholics signed here in Massachusetts, gave public visibility to the reality that support very much existed in our faith community," said Martel, referring to an effort initiated by the Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry. "Catholics for Equality is committed to this same goal, and this effort will be critical in states like Rhode Island, which has a significant Catholic population."

During a recent teleconference, new group organizers acknowledged, it won't be easy. "We don't have the capacity to use the church halls" or parish bulletins to organize, said founding board member Father Joseph Palacios, a sociologist, adjunct professor of sociology at Georgetown University, and priest of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Palacios, who is Latino, also identifies as a celibate gay man. He was active in marriage equality work in Washington, D.C. last year through Catholics United for Marriage Equality, which he organized.

Instead, Catholics for Equality is relying on "a state of the art website and a strategic use of social media" — including a soon-to-be-rolled-out smartphone app — to provide as

board member Aniello Alioto said, "American Catholics with role models, facts, and tips on how to have a family discussion, how to challenge misinformation in our parishes, and how to ensure as Catholics their voices are heard."

Initially, Catholics for Equality plans to rely on the power of social media.

"We've built our website so that every page a supporter views, every time a user takes action, he can share that with friends on Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Gmail, and other popular social networks and services," explained Alioto. "Our main goal from now until the end of the year focuses on encouraging and providing support for Catholic families, parishes, and communities to have honest and rational discussions about LGBT equality."

Catholics for Equality has received assistance from several national LGBT organizations, including Dignity, a group for LGBT Catholics, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination, and the Human Rights Campaign.

HRC spokesman Fred Sainz said that the organization lent Catholics for Equality meeting space and "supported some of their start-up costs at less than \$10,000."

A former HRC staffer, Phil Attey is presently the unpaid acting executive director for Catholics for Equality.

Catholics for Equality is not focused on church ministry or pastoral support programs. Rather, its aim is to facilitate netroots and grassroots political activism in pro-equality state legislative and ballot measure campaigns.

"We [also] are not a church reform group," said Father Palacios. "We are not going to handle doctrine. We can't change that. That is the church's thing. We don't even have the illusion that we as Catholics can do that."

Accordingly, he added, "What we are doing is public action and public education on public issues. We are helping the Catholic movable middle rethink their positions. They are a fair-minded people. They want to do the right thing from their American core values and the heritage of Catholic social justice values."

A specific way to facilitate conversation, Catholics for Equality suggests, is for supporters to host parish brunches or coffee hours in homes and restaurants where "people-in-the-pew" Catholics, what organizers call the "moveable middle," can hear from community and parish leaders and LGBT equality boosters.

In Maine, for example, the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination has obtained a grant to set up conversations among parishioners, meeting in small groups after Mass during coffee hour.

"The idea is to bring gay and lesbian couples and straight couples together one-on-one," with the objective of reaching "people not opposed to marriage and LGBT rights, but who are uncertain what that would look like," said Catholics for Equality board member Anne Underwood.

"We are finding creative ways to have dialogue in places where it is being suppressed," said acting executive director Attey.



PHOTO: LOUIS FOISY

Boston psychotherapist Charles Martel serves on the board of directors for Catholics for Equality, a newly formed national organization advocating full LGBT equality from a faith perspective.

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Partnering up to fight sexual & domestic violence

By: Lauralee Sampere-Gagnon*
/TRT Special

The Town of Amherst Police Department was awarded a grant for \$173,643 from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Woman this past September. The success of this award was also contingent upon the alliance with the UMASS Everywoman's Center (EWC) and the UMASS campus police. With this grant the town of Amherst will have a foundation model of successful prosecution, cultural competence, and the inclusion of a Civilian Advocate in its partnership to fight sexual and domestic violence.

The partnership doesn't stop there. There is a strong realization that the community of Amherst is diverse. As a result, these changes will provide an increased sensitivity to and an understanding of the needs of the survivors with disabilities, who are immigrants/gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender.

The Stonewall Center at UMASS and Safe Passage will provide outreach and training to the Amherst and UMASS police as it pertains to sensitivity and understanding. The Stonewall Center is an educational resource center for the bisexual, gay, lesbian, queer and transgender community. Safe Passage provides counseling, advocacy and outreach for victims of domestic violence with specialized services for survivors with disabilities as well as Latina and immigrant survivors.

There are three other organizations that are also essential to this grant. Those organizations include The Domestic Violence Unit of the Northwestern District Attorney's Office,

the Eastern Hampshire County Court, and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner-Western Region. They will provide training and support to the Amherst and UMASS police on successful prosecution.

Amidst all of this training on cultural competence and successful prosecution there will also be a Civilian Legal Advocate. This advocate's responsibilities differ from other counselor advocates for rape crisis survivors. First, they are specifically hired by EWC to work with the Amherst and UMASS Police departments. This allows for a more efficient method to support a survivor of an assault. Finally, it works to avoid loop holes and misunderstandings often found in the system. This Civilian Advocate will also coordinate monthly partner meetings to ensure that the intended goals for this grant are being accomplished.

Chief of Police, Scott P. Livingstone made the following statement, "This funding will be put to very good use. Having an advocate that has an office within our police departments, who can immediately begin to work with survivors for support and resources is instrumental in these cases. We have seen that not only will survivors get the resources that they need, in a timely fashion, but they are more likely to allow us to follow through with court prosecution, thus ending the cycle of violence." This grant helps to solidify all of the monetary needs to put this goal into action. There is more work cut out for all of the organizations involved. However, this hard work towards a strong foundation will now lead to a future where all survivors of sexual assault will be treated with more respect and have their vocalized needs met.

See Amherst on page 17

13th Annual Trees of Love fundraiser, lighting ceremony

NORTHAMPTON, MA—On Sunday, Nov. 21 at 4:30 p.m., community members are invited to Cooley Dickinson Hospital's main entrance to participate in the lighting of more than 2,000 lights as part of the 13th annual Trees of Love & Thanksgiving project.

Community members are encouraged to pay tribute to someone special by donating to the Trees of Love & Thanksgiving project. A gift of \$10 will sponsor a light in honor of or in memory of someone special. The names of those honored and the donors' names will be posted at Cooley Dickinson Hospital's main entrance.

Money raised this year will fund infant car beds – used instead of car seats – for underweight newborns, palliative care kits to enhance end-of-life care and other patient care services and equipment needs.

Proceeds from the 2009 fundraiser were used to purchase sofa beds for family members of patients admitted to the Critical Care unit. Proceeds were also used to purchase equipment for the Patient Care Services department, such as a cart of supplies to treat patients with MRSA, a type of bacteria that is resistant to some types of antibiotics, and infant car beds for underweight newborns.

The Trees of Love & Thanksgiving project is sponsored by the Pastoral Care Committee and the CDH Auxiliary. Donor forms are available at hospital information desks and in the Pastoral Care Office, or to download a form visit www.cooley-dickinson.org/auxiliary/trees-of-love-and-thanksgiving. For more information, contact Betsy Belden, Trees of Love committee member at (413) 247-0250 or call the CDH Public Relations Office at (413) 582-2421.

Silent auction and afternoon of sweet treats to benefit AIDS CARE/Hampshire County program

NORTHAMPTON, MA—On Sunday, Nov. 7 from 2 to 5 p.m., community members are invited to attend the 17th Annual Chocolate Dessert Buffet and Silent Auction that will be held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center. Proceeds from the event benefit AIDS CARE/Hampshire County, a program of Cooley Dickinson Hospital. More than 100 sumptuous chocolate desserts will be available for sampling, and over 200 auction items ranging

from fabulous weekend getaways, to locally crafted jewels and fine arts, tickets to the arts, treats for kids, and something special for the kid in each of us. Tickets can be purchased at the door for a \$15 donation per person, or in advance by calling 413-586-8288 ext. 5.

AIDS CARE/Hampshire County provides comprehensive support services for people living with HIV/AIDS throughout the Pioneer Valley.

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Telling Stories: I AM an improviser, an adventurer, and I am ALSO a transgender woman

TRT OP-ED By: Lorelei Erisis/TRT Columnist

My name is Lorelei Erisis. I am an improviser, an adventurer, and a pageant queen. I am also a transgender woman. Although I've lived all over the country, I am a native New Englander who was born in Northampton, grew up on Cape Cod, and currently lives in Holyoke. I am a valued member of the communities I belong to, as well as society as a whole. And yet, in my life I have sometimes been treated as less than that.

After I began my transition, I found that my job prospects virtually disappeared immediately. I lost my job of several years and was unemployed. I was determined to find work and so I treated finding a job as if it was a job. For months on end, I wrote cover letter after cover letter. I sent out scores of applications. I scoured craigslist and other local job boards. I picked up every local classifieds section. When I visited jobsites I could fill out all the applications I wanted to. No one was foolish enough to turn me away directly but I could never talk to the hiring manager. Although I have held a wide variety of jobs in my life, and honestly, was overqualified for many of the jobs I applied for, no one would interview me. I walked into places that had "Help Wanted" signs right in the window only to be told that, well, they weren't actually hiring right now. Of course they would be happy to keep my application on file, just in case. I couldn't even get anyone to look at my resume, which by the way, is stellar.

Fortunately for me, my story has a happyish ending. Despite the low level discrimina-

tion I experienced, I did not let myself become discouraged. In the meantime, I volunteered with non-profits and community organizations. I networked like crazy. Finally, a local psychologist, Dr. Shelley Woodson, put out an ad looking for an Administrative Assistant for her expanding practice. We corresponded via email and she asked me to meet with her. She was the first person to interview me the entire time I job-hunted, and the first person to treat me as a potential employee. She ended up hiring me practically on the spot.

Despite her own acceptance, Dr. Woodson still had to face negative responses from her colleagues. They warned her not to hire me and said that it would hurt her practice to have a transgender person sitting at the front desk. She did not heed this warning. She took a chance on me, and it worked. I am still employed there and her business continues to thrive. I am lucky, because I found the one person in a thousand willing to actually look at me as a person. I want the world to know that transgender people are people just like everyone else. We possess degrees and skills. We have the necessary qualifications, and we want to work. While legal protections are an ultimate goal, in order to secure jobs, the public's opinion of transgender individuals needs to change.

In the middle of November, the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC) will be launching a new multi-media public education campaign entitled *I AM: Trans People Speak*. It will center around a website of the same name (transpeoplespeak.org) and feature video, audio, written, and photographic stories created by transgender individuals, their families, and allies of the trans community. This


I AM:
An Improviser
An Adventurer
A Pageant Queen
And I am ALSO
A Transgender
Woman



collection of recorded stories aims to challenge some of the stereotypes and misconceptions that people have about transgender individuals by highlighting the realities of their lived experiences. It will allow transgender people, whose voices have too often been silenced, to share their story while simultaneously showing the public the real stories of transgender people—not the disrespectful, sensationalized stories too often presented by the media.


Having been involved in this project as a participant, I can say with utmost certainty that *I AM: Trans People Speak* will change the way people view transgender individuals. This

project will be ongoing. It will begin in Massachusetts with a launch party on Nov. 14 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Bella Luna/Milky Way at the Brewery Complex in Jamaica Plain with the premier of the website, www.transpeoplespeak.org; videos, and materials from the campaign. This Massachusetts campaign also has the spark and potential to become an international project. We are looking for participants to tell their stories. If you are a member of the transgender community or an ally and are interested in this project or would like more information please go to www.transpeoplespeak.org, or email info@transpeoplespeak.org.



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Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Program, and
The Rainbow Times

Co-sponsored by Jeff Cox and Bill Love. The event is made
possible in part by funding from the Five Colleges, Inc., the
UMass Arts Council and an ECSA grant from the
UMass Center for Student Development





The Who's Tommy: Director's notes from behind the scenes

NORTHAMPTON, MA—The Who's Tommy is an intricate rock-opera masterpiece. As a child I grew up listening to the Who's album, Tommy, and singing along with "See Me, Hear Me", "Sally Simpson", and "Eyesight to the Blind". In fact, my brothers and I used to beg my mom to sing us "Cousin Kevin", which she did, and knew every word to. This may seem strange to an outsider considering the difficult and dark themes present in Tommy, but to us it all made sense.

The music of "Tommy" is energetic, sweet, seamy, and beautiful. It is a musical collage of a wide range of emotions that help to form the plot. Listening to just the instrumental sections alone fill the cast with excitement which builds as the vocals are introduced. Any "Tommy" fan can attest to this aspect of musical genius. As you may have guessed producing "Tommy" has been a dream come true. Making imagination a reality on stage has been an enormous creative challenge because the images of each scene have been in creation since the first time I heard the album and realized the story at 7 years old. In the overture alone, 8 different scenes transition from one to the next fluidly to form the prologue. "Tommy" is an "Amazing Journey" that encompasses the audience in past, present and future at the same time to create a fantasy-like reality for a young boy who has experienced the worst from early on.

Many parents have asked me if this show is appropriate for their young teens. Some themes in Tommy i.e. drug, alcohol, sexual, and physical abuse are tough for parents to talk to their kids about. This show gives families



PHOTO: JAMES ETHAN

Tommy actors at the Acid Queen dance rehearsal

the perfect conversation opener to talk safely and comfortably about these topics. These darker themes are juxtaposed with positive themes of forgiveness of others and one's self, belonging, and the ever present struggle to obtain a happy balance.

As you can tell, I am immensely excited to have embarked upon this adventure. I could talk endlessly about themes, music, character developments etc. because everything in the show is a metaphor or a deeper meaning to wrap your mind around. I strongly encourage everyone to not miss this wonderful opportunity to see a truly rockin' piece of live art. "Tommy" will be performing one weekend only at the Academy of Music in Northampton, November 11-13, 2010. Tickets can be purchased online, over the phone, or at the box office. For tickets please contact: www.academyofmusictheatre.com, (413) 584-9032, or visit the box office at 274 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060.

Art Beat: Enormous success for AIDS Care Ocean State

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Art Beat, an art auction to benefit AIDS Care Ocean State, was held Friday, October 15 at the Providence Biltmore. The 14th Annual event emceed by drag queen Miss Kitty Litter and Mayor David Cicilline, featured works from several local artists. There were sculptures, pottery, and paintings depicting popular regional attractions.

The art presenters were La Diva Jonz and BB Hayes.

One of the featured items at the live auction was a Cocktail Party at the home of WPRI/Channel 12 news anchor Karen Adams. The winning bid was \$1000.

Other items were a 3-day Provincetown Getaway, valued at \$2000, and a South African Safari, valued at \$4000.

One of the flashier works of art was "Crystal Domino", by Steve Weinberg. The piece is the world's largest crystal domino from a

limited set of 49. The item, valued at \$3000, was sold for \$2700. Weinberg is a two-time recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant and has been casting and cutting glass in his Rhode Island studio since 1979. His work is represented in the permanent collections of more than 50 major art museums around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Musee Des Artes Decoratifs at Palais du Louvre in Paris, and the Smithsonian.

Other notable pieces were Theater by the Sea by Stephen Cook, Block Island Crossing by Christian Harder, Felix Diclo's Organic - an oil on canvas piece which is part of a series depicting the changes of nature and the ocean through the contamination of our planet, A Wax Piece by Robert Rusternier, and Celestial Encounter in Teal by Charlie Hall.

There were several items available for bids on online and at the event's silent auction, including Male Nude in Teak Wood, a teak wood male torso from Indonesia; The Hard



PHOTO: JOE SIEGEL

Kitty Litter and Mayor David Cicilline were the emcees of the Art Auction at AIDS Care Ocean State.

Rock Cafe, a painting by Lara Sebastian; DPW Platter, made up of recycled road signs, by Boris Bally; Coastal Storm by David Anderson, Jasper in the Park by Mac MacDougall, Fallen Angel by Victor Gadino, and Goat Island Lighthouse by Joseph Realbuto. Realbuto is a photographer who lives on Cape Cod. His subject matter is lighthouses, beaches, sunrise and sunset shots, nature/flower shots, windmills, boats, and outdoor scenery.

Other notable works included Pulsar Platter by John Fazzino, Claudius Ceramic Bust, a six inch piece named for the Roman Emperor, a photograph titled Turks Head and Glass by David Dadekian, and a Neil Drobnis Original Work - a piece of glasswork called Triade. Drobnis is an acclaimed artist who has had his work exhibited at galleries and museums

across the country, including the Rhode Island School of Design Museum and the Luniverre Gallery in Newport, Rhode Island.

All the proceeds from the auction will be donated for AIDS Care Ocean State's programs and services.

The organization's annual Mardi Gras fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2011. Tickets are \$75 in advance.

For more information about AIDS Care Ocean State, go to www.aidscareos.org.



PHOTO: JOE SIEGEL

La Diva Jonz and BB Hayes presenting one of the many auction items, "Theatre by the Sea."

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RI Pride Heroes honored at Spotlight Awards Gala

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

The members of Rhode Island Pride honored the organizers of the state's first-ever Gay Pride celebration with the Pyramid of Pride award at their 11th annual Spotlight Awards, held October 22 at the Blackstone Valley Visitor Center in Pawtucket. The event kicked off the 35th Anniversary of RI Pride.

Rodney Davis, the chairman of RI Pride, praised the marchers known as the "76ers", noting the LGBT community is "better, stronger and more visible because of their actions."

In June 1976, 40 people marched through the streets of downtown Providence in an effort to show the world that queers are here and are proud. The Police Chief at the time had opposed issuing a permit for the march, telling the Providence Journal: "This is the first time they've marched and I hope the last. It's a disgrace."

According to the Gay Community News, the Police Chief "stated privately that he did not want to be remembered as the man who brought faggots to the streets of Providence."

Thirty-four years later, the Mayor of Providence is an openly gay man (David Cicilline) who is the Democratic nominee for the state's First Congressional District.

"So much has changed," said Cicilline, noting the increased social acceptance of gays and lesbians in the past several decades.



PHOTO: JOE SIEGEL

Rodney Davis and the 76ers at the Rocky Horror Tribute.

That sense of history, and how far the LGBT community has come, was a key theme of the evening.

A slideshow titled "Great Moments in RI GLBT History," narrated by Jacqueline DiMera, was a rainbow-colored trip down memory lane, beginning with the Ocean State's founding in

1630 by Roger Williams, who sought religious tolerance.

Outgoing Democratic Congressman Patrick Kennedy was honored with the Spirit of Pride award for his support of LGBT issues during his time in Congress. Kennedy was one of the first legislators to openly support same-sex marriage and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

"If we do not have people like Congressman Kennedy elected, we will not be celebrating freedoms," Davis said, adding: "we have a lot of work to do."

Another Spirit of Pride honoree was the late Rosie DiNicola, who was a loyal volunteer for RI Pride and raised money for AIDS Care Ocean State.

"She was the volunteer I never had to call. She was just there," Davis said, calling DiNicola "loving, warm, and non-judgmental."

Awards were given to the groups featured in last June's Illuminated Nighttime Parade. The President's Award was given to Extraordinary

See RI Pride Heroes on page 17

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

Courtesy: wolfevideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. The Four-Faced Liar
2. My Normal
3. The Kids Are All Right
4. The Real L Word - Complete First Season
5. Mädchen in Uniform
6. Loving Annabelle
7. Hannah Free
8. 8: The Mormon Proposition
9. And Then Came Lola
10. Women's Coming Out 6-Pack

GAY TOP 10

1. Plan B
2. Pornography: A Thriller
3. Arizona Sky
4. Is It Just Me?
5. 8: The Mormon Proposition
6. David's Birthday
7. Howl
8. Bo
9. Men's Coming Out 6-Pack
10. Were the World Mine

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Creep of the Week: The Saline School Board

By: D'Anne Witkowski*/TRT Special

I think we can all agree that bullying is bad. No one likes to be bullied (Well, OK, some people do, but not, like, for real. That's why they have a safe word.), and no one wants their kids to get taunted and harassed while they're at school.

But if there's one thing worse than bullying it's anti-bullying. Because everybody knows that "anti-bullying" is really just code for "promo-homo" and is an attempt to indoctrinate children to hate Jesus and love leather daddies and bull dykes.

So congratulations to the Saline School Board for voting against adding "sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression" to the school district's non-discrimination policy. And double congratulations for holding this historic vote just days after a 19-year-old killed himself after attending a city council meeting in Oklahoma where person after person stood up to say how terrible gay people were.

Why did the Saline School Board vote 4-3 to keep LGBTs out of their non-discrimination policy? Well, they already have an anti-bullying policy, which supposedly covers that.

"We already have a policy in place," said board member Paul Hynek, who also acknowledged that "we don't live in a tolerant society."

Late September Hynek claimed, "The root of the problem is bullying; we need to get that under control." Surely getting bullying under control couldn't possibly start with adding "sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression" to the non-discrimination policy. I mean, to teach kids not to bully LGBT students it couldn't possibly matter whether the school district is willing to acknowledge that LGBT

students not only exist but are also worthy of protection against discrimination.

"I do feel that people have been bullied and harassed," Hynek told AnnArbor.com. "But I'm thinking they're not the only group in the high school that gets bullied and harassed." It is, after all, well known that a group cannot receive protection until they are the only group getting discriminated against for who they are.

Board member Chuck Lesch said that since Michigan doesn't include LGBT folks in the state non-discrimination laws, Saline shouldn't have to either.

High school science teacher Tom Frederick boldly spoke out against the change, worrying that banning discrimination against gays would "lead to future cases of discrimination."

POW! That's the sound of Frederick blowing your mind.

Think about it: Fight fire with fire, right? In other words, fight discrimination with discrimination. As Dan Savage wrote, "If you ban discrimination against LGBT students then you're going to wind up discriminating against the people who want to discriminate against LGBT students."

And those people usually claim that it's a God-given right to think homosexuals are disgusting, awful people and to treat them as such.

As Superintendent Scot Graden told AnnArbor.com, without changing the policy LGBT students could technically be discriminated against by school employees without recourse. He gave the hypothetical example of a student getting cut from the volleyball team for being a lesbian.

See Saline School Board on page 22

McCance resigns amidst the mounting pressure from almost all around him

70,000 people join "Fire McCance" FaceBook page in under 48 hours

The HRC, after having called upon Clint McCance—a Midland School Board Member from Arkansas—to resign following an anti-gay tirade he unleashed on Facebook in response to a rash of bullying-related suicides, received the news of his resignation late on October 29.

Last week, to push McCance to act, the Human Rights Campaign, HRC, placed a full page ad the Batesville Guard – the local newspaper in Independence County – calling on McCance to resign. The ad can be seen here: www.hrcbackstory.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/FireMcCance_ad-BatesvilleGuard.pdf.

McCance who had been re-elected in September to a four year term resigned on October 29, amidst much pressure from media, HRC, colleagues, Arkansas officials and a growing FaceBook page with almost 70,000 fans in less than 48 hours (www.facebook.com/pages/Fire-Clint-McCance/170421922968484). A letter from HRC president Joe Solmonese asking McCance to resign for the sake of the children in his community was part of the pressure mounted by LGBT groups and allies across the country. Pressure also mounted from McCance's colleagues on the school board asking them to join the tens of thousands of people across the country calling

for McCance's resignation.

Upon finding out about McCance's resignation, HRC President Joe Solmonese issued the following statement: "Clint McCance's decision to resign from the school board is a step forward for the community he represents. We are hopeful the wounds that were inflicted will soon be healed. What remains troubling is that Mr. McCance focused his regret on particular word choices not the animus behind those words. We hope he will take this time to reflect not only on the language he used but on what he can do to make the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people better."

This is a victory for safe and welcoming schools but also a reminder that we have a long way to go in battling the prejudice and hate that too often isolates LGBT and questioning young people. This is why it is important to select fair-minded leaders in our communities, and hopefully that is what will happen once the elections are over.

The FaceBook McCance messages were first brought to HRC's attention by R. Anthony Turner, a 1998 graduate of Midland High School. A PDF of the Facebook page with the message is at: www.hrcbackstory.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/ClintMcCance-Facebook-image.pdf.

It Gets Better from page 6

following a spate of tragic suicides in recent weeks by LGBT youth who had suffered bullying and harassment at school. More than a thousand videos from advocacy organizations, LGBT people, and their supporters have been uploaded

to the site, including one last week from President Barack Obama.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders is New England's leading legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status, and gender identity and expression.

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Latino AIDS Awareness Day celebration

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

On October 15, which has been designated as National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, AIDS organizations across the country held events to draw attention to the high level of HIV infection among the Latino community.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) was created in 2003 to unite organizations at the local level in an effort to help stem the tide of HIV/AIDS in the Latino communities.

Currently, Hispanics/Latinos comprise 15.3% of the U.S. population, (U.S. Census Bureau) but account for 24.3% of the new HIV infections in the U.S. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Since AIDS was first recognized, an estimated 106,000 Latinos with the disease in the United States, Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories have died through the end of 2007.

Several factors, such as cultural norms (discrimination, language barriers) and familiar norms, act as obstacles to prevention efforts and thus contribute to the high level of HIV infection.

"Among individuals with diagnosed HIV infection, Latinos have the second highest death rate of all racial and ethnic groups," according to Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health.

Women of color, including Latinas, are among those at highest risk for HIV infection in the United States. Latinas acquired HIV at nearly four times the rate of white women in 2006 and were diagnosed with AIDS at five times the rate of white women in 2007.



"A disproportionate number of our clients are Latino," said AIDS Project RI executive director Stephen Hourahan. "We're seeing this with our own caseload. We are looking at ways to more effectively break down barriers for treatment and prevention in the Latino community."

Rhode Island's 2010 "Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan" names Hispanic/Latina women who live in Providence and Kent counties as a priority population, as are Hispanic/Latino youth across the Ocean State.

Hourahan said the state's Department of Health has provided funding for the agency which will allow APRI's staff members to interact with Latina women and determine the problems regarding HIV treatment and testing for that population. The goal is to help Latina women overcome the stigma of being diagnosed with HIV and to provide better treatment, Hourahan noted.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local public health agencies, and Hispanic/Latino communities have increased efforts to address the effects of the epidemic. Initiated in 2003 by the Latino Commission on AIDS and the Hispanic Federation in partnership with faith and community organizations, NLAAD raises awareness of issues concerning HIV/AIDS with the Hispanic/Latino population living in the United States and abroad.

This year's theme, Save a Life; It May be your Own. Get Tested for HIV addresses the important role HIV testing and prevention education play as a result of late testing realities faced by Hispanic/Latino communities. The CDC's web site - www.cdc.gov - provides suggestions for how the Hispanic and Latino communities can address the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Fenway holds Board of Visitors meeting

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

More than 100 people attended Fenway Health's annual Board of Visitors meeting on October 19, at Fenway Health's Ansin Building home at 1340 Boylston Street, Boston. The theme of this year's meeting was "Healthcare: Real or At-Risk?"

Congressman Michael Capuano provided an update from Washington that focused on healthcare, HIV/AIDS and LGBT issues.

The next few years are going to be tough for AIDS Service Organizations across the country. The attendees were told that they could expect a reduction in federal funding for HIV/AIDS programs.

Henia Handler, Director of Government Affairs for Fenway Health, noted that President Obama is expecting AIDS organizations to slash their budgets.

"We are in fiscal crisis. We will most certainly remain in fiscal crisis for the next couple of years," Handler noted. "There's very little likelihood there will be an increase in appropriations for (the) Ryan White (Care Act) and yet much planning has to go forward because the authorization will end on September 30, 2013."

Additionally, there is great uncertainty about federal AIDS funding due to a possible Republican takeover of Congress after the November 2 election.

Handler explained there was a "renewed interest in HIV/AIDS," particularly due to a CDC (Centers for Disease Control) report showing a large increase in new cases of HIV infections among young gay men of color.

Those statistics, along with the possible end of the Ryan White Care Act, "has lent itself to significant concern across the National HIV/AIDS community," Handler said.

Fenway Health is a Ryan White grant recipient and has also been treating AIDS patients since the first cases appeared in Massachusetts.

"We are rooted in the notion that (HIV/AIDS) really isn't over yet," Handler said, adding that although medications are helping patients to live longer, "it still is a lifetime condition."

Following Capuano's speech, Jeffrey Crow-



PHOTO: MARILYN HUMPHRIES

From left to right: Harold Cox, MSSW, Associate Dean of Public Health Practice, School of Public Health, Boston University; Douglas Brooks, MSW, Senior Vice President for Community Health and Public Policy, Justice Resource Institute; Henia Handler, Director of Government Affairs, Fenway Health; Jeffrey Crowley, MPH, Director, White House Office of National AIDS Policy and Senior Advisory on Disability Policy; Jean McGuire, PhD, Assistant Secretary, Executive Office of Health & Human Services, Disability Policy & Programs, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ley, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy and Senior Advisory on Disability Policy gave an overview of the National AIDS Strategy.

Crowley then participated in a panel discussion moderated by Harold Cox, MSSW, Associate Dean of Public Health Practice, School of Public Health, Boston University; Douglas Brooks, MSW, Senior Vice President for Community Health and Public Policy, Justice Resource Institute; Jean McGuire, PhD, Assistant Secretary, Executive Office of Health & Human Services, Disability Policy & Programs, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Carl Rosendorf, independent consultant and former President & COO of Gather.com and CEO of Smartbargains.com, is the Chair of Fenway's Board of Visitors. Established in 2005, the mission of Fenway's Board of Visitors is to heighten the visibility of Fenway Health and to provide additional expertise and experience to support the organization. Members are interested and influential members of the community, patients, donors, and friends who lend their contacts, connections, and goodwill to help advance Fenway's mission.

For more information about Fenway Health visit: www.fenwayhealth.org.

Amherst from page 13

For more information regarding these initiatives, please contact Amherst Police Captain, Jennifer Gundersen at (413) 259-3012 or by email at gundersenj@amherstma.gov, UMASS Police Deputy Chief, Patrick Archbald, at (413) 545-2121 or by email at archbald@admin.umass.edu, or Everywoman's Center Associate Director, Rebecca Lockwood at (413) 545-5832 or by email at rlockwood@stuaf.umass.edu.

*The author is a Springfield College MSW Graduate Intern at Every Woman's Center.

RI Pride Heroes on page 15

Rendition Band. RKO Army won the Committee Award. The award for Best Walking Unit was given to the employees of Lifespan. The award for Best Interpretation of Theme was presented to Girlspot/Club Gallery. The Best Illuminated Float was SeaQuel; and the Best Float award went to Dark Lady/Alley Cat.

There was a tribute to the cult classic "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" by RKO Army, and celebrity impersonator Eddie Edwards thrilled the attendees with a smashing medley of Bette Midler tunes.

A video retrospective of last June's triumphant Pride celebration concluded the evening.

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Deep Inside Hollywood: Oprah, Meryl and Sandra in the same movie?

ENTERTAINMENT

By: Romeo San Vicente*/TRT Special
Oprah and Meryl and Sandra in the same movie. No, seriously.

Michael Patrick King must be a wizard. Who else could foist something as terrible as *Sex and the City 2* on an unsuspecting world and bounce back this ferociously without even spending a little bit of time in Movie Jail? It's enough to make you believe in a Hollywood Velvet Mafia. But bounce he has with his latest untitled comedy that already features the slam-dunk casting coup of the year: the three-headed power-hydra of Oprah, Meryl and Sandra. That's right, you don't even need their last names at this point (For the record, though: Winfrey, Streep and Bullock, respectively.) The film in question is set up at Universal Pictures and is an ensemble piece set at a Home Shopping Network-like work environment featuring what will certainly be a glamorous trip into manic behavior and unreality. And really, as long as they don't all wind up running through Abu Dhabi in identity-concealing cloaks everything will be fine.

Johnny Depp would like a drink

Rob Marshall, the gay director of *Chicago* and *Memoirs of a Geisha*, has been working with Johnny Depp recently on *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*. And Depp must think pretty highly of him because the actor is itching to get Marshall to direct him in a remake of the classic comedy *The Thin Man*. Don't know what that is, young person? It's



Romeo San Vicente

the 1934 Hollywood high-water mark of witty banter starring William Powell as wealthy, always-drunk Nick Charles, who along with his socialite wife Nora, played by Myrna Loy, solve mysteries and down cocktails. In other words, the perfect offbeat starring vehicle for

Zachary Quinto wants Your Number

In his recent video contribution to the "It Gets Better" project, *Star Trek* star Zachary Quinto offered up heartfelt encouragement to gay teenagers and walked right up to the edge of a personal coming out (rumored to be gay, the actor keeps his private life out of the press). But his new feature film, the ensemble comedy *What's Your Number?* places him squarely in the realm of hetero romantic comedy. Starring Anna Faris — who realizes that she's had twice as many relationships as the average woman and cuts off all men, deciding instead to work backward through the guys she's discarded to see who should get a second chance — the movie also features every young, good-look-

ing guy in Hollywood right now as her sizeable team of exes. Joining Quinto will be Chris Evans, Ryan Phillippe, Dave Annable (of *Brothers and Sisters*), Joel McHale, Andy Samberg, *Parks and Recreation*'s Chris Pratt and *White Collar* star Matthew Bomer (who's seemingly openly gay but has still had his own share of is-he-or-isn't-he press). See who Faris reboots in spring 2011.

Rocky Horrifying

In its 35 year history, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* has gone from box-office flop to enduring midnight-movie sensation as well as seen its brazenly in-your-face pansexuality move from shocking to sweet-enough-for-prime-time tributes on Fox's *Glee*. So while it's not surprising that someone wants to remake the beloved weirdo musical, it's a little bit odd to see *Glee*'s creator Ryan Murphy in talks to take the movie's reins. As a screenwriter, the man is wicked with the sharp-tongued dialogue. He could rise to task. But is his directorial approach too sanitized and clean to take on the scruffy, deranged, rock 'n' roll world of Rocky Horror? Could he make it not just gay but *dirty*



PHOTO: COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

Sandra Bullock

too? Because if you're going to toucha-toucha-toucha touch Janet on the big screen, that's kind of how you need to be. At least they're not approaching Ron Howard, right?

**Romeo San Vicente is no virgin, Rocky Horror or otherwise. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.*



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Queeries from page 2

where your new student takes the exercise himself, with your guidance if necessary.

"How does my daughter know she's gay?"

Q: Last week my 17 year-old daughter told me that she's gay and has a girlfriend. I think she's really too young to fully understand her sexuality and want to ask her whether this lesbian relationship is really just a phase. Is that okay?

A: Not really. This question is usually posed as a means to deny or object to someone's true sexual orientation, and it can be perceived as either uninformed or at worst hostile. Even those who may "questioning" their own identity or experimenting have a right to decide whether they want to embrace some particular term or identity (and I'm not suggesting that's the case for your daughter). When someone comes out to you — especially a child of yours — keep in mind that she has given this matter much thought and has also put great trust in you. It's not likely to be a "phase," just as your own sexuality, when it first came into bloom, probably was not. And you probably knew at 17 that you were straight, right?

"My friends want to set me up with every gay guy they know"

Q: I moved east about six months ago as a single guy. While I do happen to be looking for a boyfriend, I find it very annoying that every straight person I've met knows one gay man to set me up with. You know the drill — the gay neighbor, the gay hairdresser, the gay mechanic, the gay lawyer. I certainly appreciate all the good intentions, but how do I explain that just because I am gay doesn't mean I want to be matched up with every gay man they know?

A: Hey, be thankful that you have so many friends who care enough to try and set you

up. And while another man's sexual orientation is not enough to make him the match of the century, it's also true that meeting someone through a friend gives you a leg up over a chance encounter online or at a club. Definitely don't be snarky with your matchmaker friends. Instead of giving them the "just because I'm gay" line, ask questions about the guy: How old? What line of work? Truly single? Funny? Smart? Red-headed? Why do you think we might be interested in each other? Don't make it into an inquisition, but find out a little about the potential date—besides the fact that he's gay. If you like what you hear, ask for an introduction—on email, through a social media site — or let your friend know it's okay to give out your phone number. And even if you don't end up going out with a particular fellow, thank your friend for trying to help you out. And keep trying.

"Looking for a second date but don't want to beg"

Q: I had a wonderful evening earlier in the week with this woman I met in the neighborhood wine store. The sex was great, too. I called her a couple of days later and haven't heard back. How many times can I call back before I look like a loser?

A: Give it one more shot. She may have lost your number, been out of town, or otherwise been distracted. If she still doesn't respond after a second attempt, it's much more likely that was a one-night stand and she's not interested in a second outing.

**Steven Petrow is a past president of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association and writes for the Huffington Post and The Advocate. He's also the author of "The Essential Book of Gay Manners & Etiquette." Learn more at www.gaymanners.com.*

SUPERHETERO: Scott Herman leads a charge to recruit straight allies to the gay rights movement

By: Larry Lazzari/TRT Special

Scott Herman is best known for flexing his muscles on MTV's *Real World* and on his weekly YouTube workout videos. But the blonde Adonis is now strengthening up for a new fight for gay rights.

Growing up in New Hampshire, Scott remembers words like "gay" and "fag" being part of the everyday vernacular. "When you're a kid, you don't realize the hate behind the words and how hurtful they can be to a whole community of people."

"Living in the *Real World* house opened my eyes," he continues. The season introduced not one, but three LGBT members to viewers including Katelynn, a transgender woman, who had the most impact on Scott.

"I had gay friends before, but during the show, Katelynn and I worked with The Center in New York City. It was the first time I really became aware of the struggles of the LGBT community. When I heard the stories of Sean Kennedy and Matthew Shepard, I knew I had to do something."

Scott is leading a charge to recruit straight allies to the gay rights movement. In addition to lending his celebrity to gay organizations including *Trevor Project*, *HRC*, and *GLAAD*, Scott is calling for straight men to prove they are real men by standing up for gay rights.

Larry Lazzari: Why is a straight man taking on gay rights?

Scott Herman: I have always been a seeker of truth and an advocate for justice.

LL: You sound like a superhero.

SH: I grew up knowing what it felt like to be left out of the crowd and picked on. I idolized the superheroes in my comics and thought that

if I could be more like Superman or Captain America, I could one day make a difference in the world.

LL: Why is it important that heterosexuals take on the gay cause?

SH: We live in a monkey-see, monkey-do society. One person standing up can inspire others. My nickname as a kid just happened to be Monkey.

LL: As a result of your stand, you've faced some discrimination yourself.

SH: Some wonder why a straight guy would fight for the rights of the gay community. They assume I must be gay.

LL: Are you ok with that?

SH: It doesn't matter to me what people think because true equality means we don't look at people as straight or gay, just people.

LL: In your opinion, why do heterosexuals have such a problem with homosexuality?

SH: The media portrays the gay lifestyle negatively and as a result, a lot of people have the wrong impression of the community. Even some young LGBT kids in the beginning process of coming out have the wrong idea of what it means to be gay.

LL: Were you ever opposed to homosexuality?

SH: When I was a kid I thought it was wrong only because no one was telling me it was right. I was never exposed to gay people.

LL: Was the *Real World* house your first exposure to the gay community?

SH: No, I met my first gay friends around 18 when I started working at a gym in New Hampshire. I even went to my first gay club around that time.

LL: What did you think when you first learned you would be living with a gay man?

SH: I thought it was sweet because gay men

always have the cutest girl friends.

LL: Did you have any fear that he might try to seduce you?

SH: Not at all. Whenever a guy hits on me, I smile. I'm thankful to be good looking enough to attract a gay man. They're ten times pickier than women.

LL: Were you nervous changing clothes in front of him?

SH: No, JD was a cool dude. Being gay doesn't mean you are going to be creepy.

LL: You also lived with Katelynn, a transsexual. Had you ever known a transsexual before?

SH: The only time I had ever heard of a transsexual was when Mr. Garrison became Mrs. Garrison on *South Park*. Even then, I thought it was a million dollar procedure that most people couldn't afford. I didn't realize the operation was so common.

LL: How did you relate to Katelynn?

SH: We were friends the instant we met. The show never really dove into the bond we had.

LL: What did you have in common with her?

SH: A lot, actually. We spent hours talking about mixed martial arts, *Ninja Turtles*, *Transformers*, *Dragon Ball Z*, *xBox*, and other things that only comic book dorks like us would know about.

LL: What is your relationship like today?

SH: We play catch-up every few weeks. Katelynn is getting married next year! I can't wait to go to her wedding.

LL: Why do you think you have become so popular with the gay community? Is it because of your looks?

SH: I think that just like in any relationship, it began with looks. But as relationships go on, looks matter less because there are plenty



PHOTO: JOSEPH SMILEUSKE

Scott Herman

more good looking dudes out there. I think the reason the LGBT community continues to support me is because they know my advocacy is legit. The same blogs who at first referred to me as a "hot piece of ass" now write thoughtful posts about me because they know I am genuine in my cause.

LL: Your Youtube workout videos have become quite a sensation with close to a million views on many of them!

To continue this story, visit us online at www.therainbowtimesmass.com/scottherman.

Bears, Twinks, Studs & Femmes: A Hartford LGBT discussion



TTrue Colors Inc., in collaboration with the Classical Magnet School Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) hosted *Bears, Twinks, Studs, and Femmes ... a community conversation discussing the LGBT community in Hartford, CT*. Panelists included Terise Barrett, True Colors alumni/ St. Joseph College Social of Work Student, Oscar Robles, local activist and gender non-conformist, Shawn Lang, Director of Public Policy at the Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition, Jamila Ball, founder and event coordinator of the Womyn Of Color Social Circle, as well as Joe Manetti, national activist & Mr. International Daddy Bear 2009.



PHOTOS: GLENN KOETZNER

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November brings the 12th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance

TRANS OPINION

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

It's November and sadly the time once again for the International Transgender Day of Remembrance observances. Beginning in 1998, it's observed on or around November 20 every year and its purpose is to recognize all those transgenders who have died within the past year. These people have died at the hands of others. As of the moment I wrote this column there were 26 reported murders of transgender people. The methods of killing so far this year have been: burned to death, shot in the head, blunt force trauma to the head, mortal stab wounds, multiple stabblings (one girl was stabbed 17 times), strangulation, dismemberment and mutilation, beheading, and forced drowning. The bodies were left on the road or in their apartments. One girl was thrown into a dump. These transwomen were from ages 23-64. There was a 16-month-old infant who was punched repeatedly with a closed fist and grabbed by the neck because the assailant said that he was "trying to make him act like a boy instead of a little girl." This poor little soul was murdered in Southampton, NY.

I really hate to write this column every year

because I break down into tears several times before I finish. It pains me to read how this continues year after year and the intensity of the violent deaths of our brothers and sisters. It's almost surreal to think about the way that these people die! How long must this go on? When will it end?

We observe the TDOR (Transgender Day of Remembrance) because we need to bring the awful reality of these horrible actions to the

public's attention. We must not be silent as year after year transgender people are shot, stabbed, dismembered and mutilated. The public must know about these atrocities!

If you've never been to a Transgender day of Remembrance I strongly urge you to attend one.

In Massachusetts there are TDORs in Boston, Northampton, Springfield, Waltham, Williamstown and Winchester.

My Springfield, MA Transgender support group, UniTy will hold our TDOR at 7 p.m. on Friday, Novem-

ber 19th at 3300 Main Street in Springfield. All are welcomed to attend. We encourage audience participation. Besides the transgenders who died violent deaths we will also recognize those LGBT souls who have taken their own lives in the past year. It doesn't matter if you are gay, lez, bi or trans, and it doesn't matter if you are killed by someone else or you take

"There was a 16-month-old infant who was punched repeatedly with a closed fist and grabbed by the neck because the assailant said that he was 'trying to make him act like a boy instead of a little girl.' This poor little soul was murdered in Southampton, NY."



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

your own life. All the deaths were rooted in others not respecting us and our lives.

Here is the TDOR list for Massachusetts as of late October. Please check this site out for other states and countries by visiting: www.transgenderdor.org/?p=62

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Will be holding a Transgender Day of Remembrance event on Saturday, November 20, 2010 at 6:00 p.m., at the Cathedral of St Paul, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. There will be an annual observance, with inspirational speakers, community speak out, candlelight vigil, and hot apple cider with snacks and camaraderie afterwards.

NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Will be holding a TDOR event on Sunday, November 21, 2010 at 5:00 - 6:15 p.m., beginning with a candle light vigil on the steps of the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence (220 Main St.). The Vigil will loop through downtown ending at First Churches (129 Main St.). For more information, email NorthamptonTDOR@gmail.com.

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Will be holding a TDOR event on Friday, November 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., at 3300 Main St, Springfield, MA. Refreshments will follow the

program. All are invited. For more information contact Deja at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.

WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Brandeis University will be holding a TDOR event on Thursday, November 18, 2010 from 9:00-10:00 p.m. at Brandeis University Peace Circle. TransBrandeis will be holding a vigil after the weekly meeting of Brandeis' queer organization, Triskelion. We'll start by lighting tea candles in the Triskelion Lounge and then walking them up to the Brandeis Peace Circle, where those who feel comfortable will share some words in memory and honor of those lost, and also words of inspiration. For more information: Co-coordinator Zachary Spence at spence@brandeis.edu. for more info.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Will be holding a TDOR event on Friday, November 19, 2010 from 7 - 8 p.m. at Williams College Paresky Center. FMI: <http://queer.williams.edu> or: justin.adkins@williams.edu

WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Will be holding a TDOR event on Friday, November 19, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Shir Tikvah, 34 Vine Street, Winchester, MA 01890. Taan Shapiro will be giving a sermon at Temple Shir Tikvah about TDOR, how part of the book of Isaiah views a person who's transgender and what can we all do to support people who are transgender?

**Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has 3 grown children and works at a local Fortune 500 company. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.*

Let common sense and compassion be your best guides

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist

Dear Lorelei,

The most pressing questions I have for you are in regard to what is okay to ask, and what is best left out of conversations with transgender people? I always have questions, because I want to be supportive and be an advocate. But, I worry that because I am personally open to the extreme, I don't completely understand the lines that I shouldn't cross with questions.

Eastern Mass Advocate

Friends, I have to tell you, this is one of the most common topics that I get asked about. With good reason; it's where we all have to start in our long slow climb towards understanding.

I personally believe that most people are inherently good. Or rather, more accurately, most people want to think of themselves as "good." Very rarely does the average person sets out to offend anyone or to cause other people harm. Even when they do, it's been my experience that they often have some interior justification for how they remain, themselves, "good."

When I encounter folks who are curious about my personal trans status or just transgender folks in general, I try to remember this. People are curious by nature and, again in my own experience, they genuinely want to understand. But they are often afraid to ask questions or to delve into the things they really want or need to know.

They don't want to offend/be seen as a big jerk. So instead of just asking, people tend to talk among themselves and reinforce or regurgitate the same ill-informed ideas about transpeople.

I try to keep all of this in mind when confronted with people's questions. And this part

of the column would constitute my words of wisdom for my trans-readers out there. Try to be patient. Try to be calm. Answer as honestly and accurately as you can. And when faced with questions that you find personally inappropriate, let the questioner know as politely, yet firmly as possible, that you are simply not comfortable answering. If you want to go above and beyond, you could even tell them why. Spell it out.

Now, do I think this is okay? Do I think transpeople should have to conduct themselves like this—like walking quiz masters? Answering potentially very personal questions?

No, not at all. In a perfect world, we would simply be accepted and understood; able to live our lives as large or as small as we like, according to our personality and desires. But, it's far from a perfect world and if we want to make things just a little bit better for the generation of transpeople who will follow us, we must each take the responsibility to educate the public—to shine the bright light of knowledge upon the darkness of ignorance. Whether that means, the Great Unwashed Hordes or just the folks you work and play with. We are each of us ambassadors.

That said, on to the cisfolks in the reading audience: the friends and advocates and potential advocates. My fine friends, half of whom are wondering what I mean by "cis" and half of whom are already hip to the knowledge. And one of you who is deeply offended.

I know that what you want are simple guidelines. Well, guidelines I've got. Simplicity, not so much.

First ask yourself what level of intimacy do you have with the transperson you are talking to? Is ze your spouse? Or someone you just met at the bus stop? Is ze a co-worker? A drinking



Lorelei Erisis

buddy? Your child? Your Mom???

Think about what you would be comfortable asking any of these folks if they weren't trans?

You might be okay asking a spouse or a potential romantic partner about the state of (or preferred state) of their genitalia. Not so much that

stranger at the bus stop, or your co-worker.

You can pretty much ask a drinking buddy whatever you want, so long as you're buying the next round! (Maybe that's just me...) But, maybe you don't want intimate details about your child or your Mom's sex life!!

Basically, what I'm preaching here is to use common sense and to think of us as people first and foremost; with the same interior lives as anyone else. We eat, sleep, fight, f&\$k and dream like anyone else. This is what I used to tell myself when I was Showroom Manager at The Hollywood Improv and I had to work with some famous person without freaking out. The same idea applies.

If you do find yourself with the opportunity to ask questions of some other transperson who is, to put it bluntly, not me. Try to educate yourself as much as you can first. Fire up Google, read my back-columns of TRT, prepare yourself.

Then go ask. Please. Don't be afraid. Try not to be awkward.

The person you are asking will tend to respond in-kind to your own demeanor, take your lead.

If you think what you have to ask might be offensive, but you have a reasonable expectation that it might be okay in the context of the situation and your relationship to the person you are asking, let them know that. Give them a polite "out" to not answer if they so choose. Then move on swiftly and politely if they prefer not to. It's entirely possible the transperson in question will appreciate your candor however.

Finally, proceed cautiously around labels. Words like "tranny" or "shemale" can carry ugly associations, though some choose to embrace them! If you don't know the label to use, again, I say ask. Then respect the answer you are given.

Most of all, be kind, be open-minded and be ready to let go of whatever you think you know.

Slainte!

**Lorelei Erisis, former Miss Trans New England, can be contacted at: loleleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.*



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To Cook is To Love: A Foodies Journal

By: John Verlinden/TRT Cuisine Columnist

¡MUCHO GUSTO!



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER
John Verlinden

Fab Food – Basement Prices

These are tough economic times: high unemployment, low consumer confidence and flat pay rates. The Great Recession has hit us hard, including our food budgets. I'm not a coupon clipper, I

don't study store circulars and when I go food shopping it's to buy and get it over with, not to compare prices. Who has the time? But, I have seen hard times before and have developed a few money saving habits I hope you'll try.

"Always make a list" and "Don't shop hungry" – these old admonishments are still good advice that can limit impulse purchases.

Look up, look down, look around – Supermarkets put the highest-priced/highest-margin items at eye-level, and brand-name manufacturers pay to place their products in that prime space because they know that's where we shoppers tend to reach. Don't pay for their advertising budgets; look for generic store brands.

Consumer reports couldn't tell the difference in quality or taste and you won't either. And you can save up to 30%.

Unit price labels – the food industry's packaging doesn't make it easy – is the 13-ounce box for \$1.79 a better buy than the \$2.39 1-pound bag, or is it the 1 liter can for \$3.59? Don't try to figure this out, your head will explode. Thankfully, the unit price labels located below the product on the store shelf do the calculating for us; telling us the price per unit (ounces, quarts, or per 100 sheets), and helping us get the most for our money.

Frozen fruits and vegetables – a great buy, but be sure to pick the ones without any additives. Because packers are located next to the fields, frozen veggies are actually fresher than the fresh produce which was picked weeks ago and trucked across the country.

Shop with a friend – buying in bulk can save money, but it can also be wasteful and unaffordable. Go with a friend. You can pool your resources, share that economy pack and treat yourselves to a glass of Pinot Grigio on the way home with the dough you saved.

Have questions? Need a recipe? Want to suggest a topic? Contact me: john@muchogusto.com or www.muchogusto.com.

Until next time – ¡Mucho Gusto! ¡Muchas Gracias! y ¡Buen Provecho!

Margaret Cho's LOGO Tour: Fundraiser launch pad for Boston Pride

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

Who knew that the season of Boston Pride extended all the way from the second Saturday in June through October and all the way to early December?

That's a fact, thanks to Margaret Cho, with her LogoTV.com - sponsored tour, serving as fundraising launch pad for the local Pride committee.

Sponsored by the W Hotel across the street from the Wilbur Theatre, a pre-show reception drew about 100 people who lined up one-by-one, in pairs, and small groups to have their photos taken with the gay-popular comedian and celebrity. The meet and greet took place right before her performance in the Margaret Cho Dependent Tour, held that night at the Wilbur.

Why Cho for Boston Pride? "She's a LGBT icon," said Keri A. Aulita, deputy director of the Boston Pride Committee, noting Cho's most recent television appearance where Cho wore a rainbow-colored roaring Twenties-style dress and spoke about being true to yourself. "Cho is obviously someone everyone loves," Aulita said. "She's hilarious."

Aulita is the Boston Pride's first full time staff person.

"It just seems fitting," added Pierce Durkin, Boston Pride board committee member. "Margaret Cho has had a long standing relationship with the LGBT community."

And with Asian Americans. On hand for the reception, Tai Sunnanon recalled first seeing Cho in 1994, when, at the time, he lived in Los Angeles.

"I was 14 years old and a freshman in high school," he said. "I watched her religiously." Sunnanon also said he lined up at the CBS studio to be an audience member, explaining, "Being a farm boy from Houston, Texas, and seeing her in LA was very overwhelming."

If Boston Pride still rocks and rolls in October, sure enough, Pride celebrations nationwide and around the world are growing.

Fresh off a big win for Boston, Linda DeMarco, long-time Pride committee board member and parade leader, could hardly contain her enthusiasm.

"We're just back from a trip last week to Long Beach, California," she said "where Boston's bid to bring an international Pride celebration won out over Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania."



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

Boston Pride Board Vice President, Wilfred Labiosa, BP Executive Director, Keri Aulita, Margaret Cho and BP Board President, Linda DeMarco pose with Cho at the W Hotel prior to The Cho Dependent Tour at the Wilbur Theater.

DeMarco was also quick to point out the winning effort had full support from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism and the Greater Boston Business Council, with both agencies providing maps and promotional brochures highlighting the Hub's historical and cultural heritage.

The honors mean that on Oct. 3, 2012, Boston will host an conference for InterPride. Founded in 1982, InterPride is an association of LGBT Pride organizers that produce Pride events around the world. Its membership is global.

More than 170 Pride committee members from all over the country and world assembled in Southern California. "The best part," DeMarco said, "was 50 percent were first timers" at the gathering, referring to Butte, Mont.; Tacoma, Wash.; and Eureka, Calif.

Pride is not just about partying and having a good time, DeMarco said. "We're out to educate people."

Of course, raising money for Boston Pride remains a priority, along with adding corporate sponsors. "Our insurance for Pride is \$20,000 alone," Aulita said. And plans are already in the works for 2011.

Meanwhile, a final Pride-related event, "Hustle and Bustle Casino Night," yet another fundraiser, is set for Saturday evening, Dec. 4, at Fanueil Hall Marketplace in the second floor Rotunda.

Casino and Cho: That's a wrap for Boston Pride 2010. "Boston Pride rocks," DeMarco said, referring to the largest LGBT celebration in New England that has drawn up to an estimated one million people throughout the weeklong schedule of activities.

Mohegan SunDayz from page 10

Mohegan SunDayz debuted in April and has included special appearances by recording artist Amber, DJ Escape, DJ Joe Bermudez, celebrity stylist David Evangelista, So You Think You Can Dance runner-up Brandon Bryant, Ross Mathews of The Tonight Show and E! Channel's Chelsea Lately, Alexis Arquette and Nick Mitchell of American Idol fame as well as Grace Nations and Angelica Nations. The event continues on the second Sunday of each month. Event photos and information can be found on Facebook at facebook.com/mohegansundayz.

Mohegan Sun, owned by the Mohegan Tribe, is one of the largest, most distinctive and spectacular entertainment, gaming, shopping and dining destinations in the United States. Situated on 240 acres along the Thames River in scenic southeastern Connecticut, Mohegan Sun is within easy access of New York, Boston, Hartford and Providence and located 15 minutes from the museums, antique shops and waterfront of Mystic Country. More information is available by calling 1.888.226.7711 or visiting mohegansun.com.

Saline School Board from page 16

But come on, it's one thing to put "no ass kicking" in an anti-bullying policy. It's another to put into writing that LGBT folks will get a fair shake in your school district. It's like putting out a welcome mat for the queers. Next thing you know, LGBT riff-raff will infiltrate the school.

And as more and more schools adopt inclusive non-discrimination policies, people are going to expect more from principals and school board members who don't do a damn thing to help LGBT kids until it's time to say, "So sorry for your loss" to parents at a kid's funeral.

Thank you, Saline Board members, for standing up against such a world.

**D'Anne Witkowski has been gay for pay since 2003. She's a freelance writer and poet (believe it!). When she's not taking on the creeps of the world she reviews rock 'n' roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister.*

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The OutField: Bike trek for youth suicide awareness



Dan Woog

By: Dan Woog*
/TRT Special

Most cross-country bike riders go west to east. Some take the more challenging route, into the wind.

Danielle Girdano bicycled north to south.

Gay people always seem to do things differently.

But the former marketing director-turned-cycling activist and

advocate did not devise her itinerary randomly. Ride the Arc – this summer's 1,300 mile, six-week journey from Minneapolis to Dallas – covered that route for a reason.

Girdano wanted to publicize the need for equal rights for LGBT people, and raise awareness about the high suicide rate for gay youth. To do that, she went to the place she thought needed it the most: America's heartland.

"If I rode coast to coast, I wouldn't spend all my time in places that had to hear this message," Girdano said. "This way, I was always there."

The first documented ride by a female athlete to cross the country from north to south, Girdano's ride paid tribute to a pioneer of social justice for another oppressed group. "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," Rev. Martin Luther King Jr said. That explains Ride the Arc's name.

The route and ride "mirror our struggle as a people," Girdano explained. "It's uphill, hard, long and requires a tremendous amount of preparation. It's not a race; it's a journey of endurance."

Girdano is no stranger to activism – or action. A former marketing director, in 2004 she spearheaded a \$140,000 project: a weekend honoring Marine veterans of Iwo Jima.

Ride the Arc was less about money than education. Along the way she gave countless newspaper, television and radio interviews. Wherever she stopped – for food and water, a bathroom break or the night – she engaged strangers in conversation.

Girdano is no stranger to small towns. Growing up in rural western Pennsylvania, she said she was "molded to fit into a role. Men hunted and drove pickups. Women cooked and had babies."

Women were not lesbians. She had no role models. When she finally realized it was OK to be "who I was" – after high school – she moved to gay-friendly Atlanta.

Though some family members have never accepted Girdano's sexuality, her father has. An 84-year-old Iwo Jima Marine – "Republican and conservative through and through" – he went so far as to join his daughter's bike ride in Tulsa.

"He can get through to people who would never listen to me," Girdano acknowledged.

She's done a pretty good job of getting

through herself. She received major TV coverage in Minneapolis, Des Moines, Topeka and Wichita. But Girdano is prouder that a dozen newspapers and radio stations that had never done a story on an LGBT person covered her ride. The teen and young adult angle particularly intrigued those outlets.

There were setbacks. Some stations sounded excited on the phone, but after receiving her press kit – and realizing what "LGBT" stood for – they backed off. "This wouldn't fit our readers," one person said bluntly.

A radio station in Missouri edited every "LGBT," "gay community" and "hate crimes" reference out of her interview before it aired. "It sounded like I rode across the U.S. for teen suicide in general only," she said.

But the positive personal encounters overwhelmed the negative ones. "Whether it's a small town of 150 people, or one of 10,000, it's still significant to say, 'I'm here,'" Girdano said.

One woman – who apparently did not know what "LGBT" meant – made a "those people" comment. When Girdano personalized the issue, the woman stammered, "But you don't look like..."

"It's an awakening," Girdano said. "Awareness leads to dialogue. Even if people don't agree, it's good to talk."

Hundreds of supportive e-mails poured in. A Facebook page enabled supporters across the country to talk with each other – and raised awareness even further.

Then there are the LGBT people themselves. A woman in her 50s told Girdano that she'd just come out to her boss that day – because of the ride. "She was so intimidated and fearful she'd lose her job," Girdano said. "And she'd

been with the company for 30 years. That was very empowering for her."

A girl who had recently tried to commit suicide joined a group ride for the final 10 miles into Dallas with Girdano. "Stories like that are the reason I did this," she noted.

"If we can save one kid, or give hope to one person, every mile would be worth it."

The cross-country rider added: "Martin Luther King went where he was not welcome. I'm not comparing myself to him, but I wanted to go where I wasn't welcome too. I have a right to ride anywhere, and to bring my message there."

"I rode, I waved. I wished you a good day. If you don't want one, that's your problem."

Note: For more information, click on www.ridethearc.org. Donations may be sent to **Kompetition Services, c/o Ride the Arc, 4503 W. University Blvd., Dallas, TX 75209. All money after expenses goes to LGBT organizations.**

*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.



Danielle Girdano

Es una temporada llena de gratitud

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa* /Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



Wilfred Labiosa

Noviembre ya está aquí y es cuando celebramos el Día de Acción de Gracias. Este año para nuestra comunidad LGBT ha sido uno increíblemente difícil, aquí en Massachusetts y a través de todo el mundo. Además, para mí personal-

mente, ha sido uno difícil pero a la misma vez uno de crecimiento y aprendizaje. Aunque ha sido un año lleno de problemas para nuestro movimiento y comunidad LGBT, debemos dar gracias y tener gratitud por lo que tenemos. ¡Con amor y gratitud todo se puede y con paciencia y fe todo se puede lograr!

En el ambiente LGBT nacional hemos tenido que lidiar con la alta incidencia de maltrato a nuestros jóvenes LGBT que en muchos casos lo/as han llevado al suicidio. Además, han habido personas en nuestra comunidad LGBT que han sido víctimas de odio y han muerto a manos de criminales lleno/as de odio y homofobias. Las personas "gay" y lesbianas que sirven en la fuerzas armadas de los Estados Unidos siguen siendo perseguido/as y discriminado/as por una política antigua y homofóbica. Además, como ciudadanos en nuestras respectivas ciudades hemos tenido un año de altas y bajas social y económicamente, pero con todo esto tenemos que ser agradecidos por varias razones. En este ámbito nacional, tenemos que dar gracias de que ahora los tópicos relacionados a nuestra comunidad LGBT se hablan y que políticos y personas en las agencias gubernamentales están tratando de tomar acciones a favor de políticas positivas para nuestra comunidad y a favor de nuestro movimiento LGBT. Ahora no se puede cambiar un canal de televisión o leer un periódico sin que los asuntos LGBT no se incluyan en las discusiones. Se está entendiendo lo que significa tener derechos para todos y lo que buscamos es igualdad. A pesar de todo lo negativo, se tiene que ver el lado positivo de las cosas. Cada moneda tiene dos lados. Demos gracias porque hay algunos avances en el ámbito nacional LGBT.

En al ambiente estatal tenemos más orga-

nizaciones y actividades enfocadas en la diáspora racial y LGBT. Hay más personas hablando sobre los asuntos que nos afectan como comunidad LGBT. Los políticos y directores de agencias tratan de aprender más sobre los asuntos que nos afectan y, poco a poco están tratando de traer cambios positivos. Demos gracias porque cada paso que damos es progreso, aunque sea un paso pequeño. Debemos tener gratitud por la lucha por los avances de nuestra comunidad Latina LGBT. Cada persona cuenta, así que ¡hazte contar. Cuando trabajamos junto/as para ser entendido/as como comunidad LGBT y Latina estamos construyendo relaciones; con estas relaciones estamos trayendo el cambio necesario a nuestras comunidades y estado mientras que al mismo tiempo construimos un mejor futuro.


En el ámbito personal doy gracias por tantas cosas, incluyo aquí algunas de estas. Primero, expreso mi sincera gratitud a todo/as ustedes que siguen leyendo esta columna. Segundo, doy gracias al poder supremo y a Elegua por hacer caminos para mi presente y futuro. Algunas veces estos caminos me han hecho pensar, pero salgo hacia adelante y aprendo de éstos. Tercero, doy gracias que mi pareja está bien y por el apoyo incondicional que mucho/as de ustedes nos han provisto durante unos meses difíciles para nosotros dos. Pero, ya los dos seguimos hacia adelante y vemos un futuro lleno de posibilidades y positivismo. Gracias doy por mis amistades, familiares, por el amor, por la educación, por la alegría y tristeza, por la vida ya que gracias a éstas me hacen la persona que soy. Así que durante el mes completo tenemos todo/as encontrar algo de resaltar en nuestras vidas y algo que agradecer. Debemos de tomar momentos donde podamos pensar claramente y encontrar en qué cosas podemos dar gratitud. Sé que suena raro, pero ¡les deseo a todo/as gratitud! ¡Les doy gracias a todo/as por ser lo que son! ¡Feliz mes de Acción de Gracias!

Escrito y traducido en ambos idiomas por Wilfred W. Labiosa, activista Latino LGBT, psicólogo y representante regional a Unid@s. Para información sobre Unid@s: La Organización Nacional Latina LGBT visiten: www.unidoslgbt.com.

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