

The Rainbow Times

The Freshest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Newspaper in New England

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IT'S MAYOR WALSH!

Marty Walsh
Becomes Boston's
Mayor-Elect **p3**

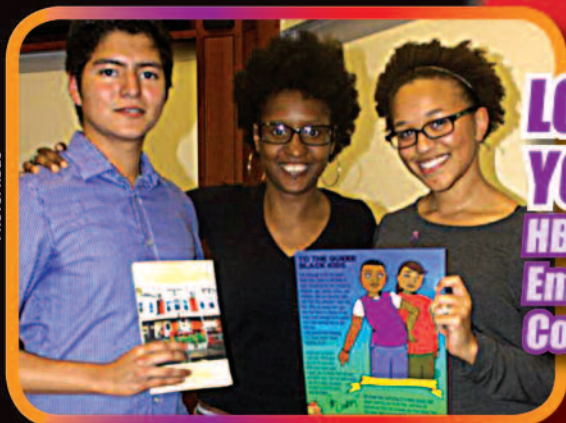
PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT/TRT



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PORTRAIT: CRAIG BAILEY/PERSPECTIVE PHOTO

Boston's new Mayor: Marty Walsh

By: Nicole Lashomb*/TRT Editor-in-Chief

OPINIONS In the election to replace long-term iconic Mayor Thomas M. Menino, State Rep. Martin J. Walsh scored a narrow victory against rival and City Councilor John R. Connolly. Just after 9 p.m. on November 5th, Connolly conceded, marking the historic win in over 20 years.

Though questionable tactics and outside funding sources have often been a source of contention by the campaigns, one thing is for certain, Boston's LGBT community matters in the post-Menino era.

In a recent report by *The Rainbow Times* in October, Walsh said he views the gay community as a vital constituency. His actions have always supported that ideology.

In his work as a State Representative, Walsh claims that one of his proudest votes ever was to defend gay marriage, especially during a time when it was not the popular stance to do so.

According to *The Rainbow Times'* October report, "During the same-sex marriage

struggle (from 2004 to 2007), state Representative Walsh, age 46, of the 13th Suffolk District, served as floor whip for MassEquality, persuading colleagues not to advance an anti-gay ballot measure that would have rolled back marriage gains ushered in by the historic Goodridge decision," it read.

Fast forward to election night 2013 – the LGBT community is still on the Mayor Elect's mind. Now that gay marriage is secure in the Commonwealth, "concerns for equality have taken a different turn," he said in a phone interview last month with *The Rainbow Times'* reporter, Chuck Colbert.

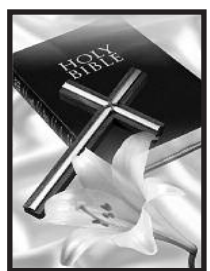
"The issues of concern to the gay community are a lot different than 20 years ago," he continued. "Concerns about equality today, 'are just the same as everyone else.' Families with gay children want good quality schools. We have educated people who are worried about employment opportunities, [and] not being able to find jobs."

See Walsh on page 11

Bostonians are lucky to have been given the opportunity of choosing between John Connolly and Marty Walsh; two democrats who are ardent advocates for the LGBT community and other oppressed people within city limits ...

A Survivor's Guide to Biblical Basics, Part Two

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist



Last month's column made overall observations regarding the Bible's references to homosexuality and their various ways those references have been interpreted, including those from Genesis 19: 1-5. This

month, I will discuss six other misunderstood passages used to marginalize God's LGBTQ children.

Leviticus 20:13 (<http://tiny.cc/a8yt5w>) states "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination." At this time in history, life expectancy was low. Big families were necessary to help farm, run a family business and eventually care for aging parents. Wanting children had as much to do with survival as the joy of a family. In addition, abomination can mean to "detest" or to "abhor." God detests and abhors deceit, divorce and gossip. Some scholars believe abomination in this context means something "culturally unacceptable," though

In the same chapter references putting to death adulterers; prohibitions on eating pork,...seafood; We should keep scripture in cultural context or it makes little sense...

not having the passionate vitriol specifically directed at LGBTQ individuals as social conservatives insist. In the same chapter references putting to death adulterers (20:10); prohibitions on eating pork (11:7); rabbit (11:6) and some seafood (11:9-10); and proclaiming the day of worship as Saturday, not Sunday (23:3). We should keep scripture in cultural context or it makes little sense, especially if taken literally.

Deuteronomy 23:17 (<http://tiny.cc/fbzt5w>) states "... none of the sons of Israel shall be a temple prostitute. You shall not bring the fee of a prostitute or the wages of a male prostitute into the house of the Lord ..."

This refers to sex honoring Canaanite fertility gods, particularly in a holy, sacred space dedicated to the God of Moses. Would you want a guest defiling your home? This passage has more to do with respect and paganism, not being LGBTQ. Deuteronomy also directs adulterers (22:22) and rebellious children (21:18-21) be stoned to death; wool and linen not be woven together (22:11); and women falsely claiming to be virgins prior to marriage be put to death (22:13-20).

children (21:18-21) be stoned to death; wool and linen not be woven together (22:11); and women falsely claiming to be virgins prior to marriage be put to death (22:13-20).

See Biblical Basics on page 14

Op-Ed: Why is Gay Inc. ignoring Chelsea Manning & CeCe McDonald?

By: Keegan O'Brien*/Special for TRT

CeCe McDonald and Pvt. Chelsea Manning (formerly known as Pvt. Bradley Manning before recently coming out as transgender) are queer freedom fighters and political prisoners. The movements to free and defend them are two of the most significant queer struggles of our time, but have remained largely sidelined from the mainstream LGBTQ movement. CeCe McDonald is a black transgender woman from Minneapolis who faced life in prison for defending herself against a racist transphobic hate crime. Activists built an international solidarity campaign to free her, and although they did not win her release from prison, they managed to get her sentence reduced to two years. Pvt. Chelsea Manning is a name most Americans are probably more familiar with, as her case has become international news in recent years. Pvt. Manning leaked thousands of "classified" military documents to Wikileaks, and as a result helped expose hundreds of war crimes and violations of international law the U.S. had committed.

While grassroots movements have emerged in recent years to free these brave women, shamefully, both have been largely ignored by mainstream LGBTQ organizations, often times referred to as Gay Inc. But why do they ignore these causes and what should we do about it? To answer that, we need to address why these cases should even concern the LGBTQ com-

munity, let's start with CeCe McDonald. On the most basic level, this is a case regarding the rights of oppressed people, including queer folks, to defend themselves, by any means necessary, against hateful and bigoted violence. No one should be punished for defending themselves against a hate crime—it is that plain and simple. But it's more than just that. CeCe McDonald's case is just one example of an all too frequent reality of discrimination and violence experienced by trans women, disproportionately trans women of color. According to a 2010 National Center for Transgender Equality Study, trans women make up 40 percent of hate crimes victims every year. For many trans women, simply walking out the door and stepping into the public world puts them at a tremendous risk of violence, harassment, and sexual assault.

But the problems don't stop there. CeCe McDonald's case illustrates how racism and transphobia permeate every level of America's criminal justice system. While George Zimmerman was set free and eventually found "not

**To read the rest of this story visit:
<http://tiny.cc/ely25w>**

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

[Re: Endorsements] I am saddened by the choice of *The Rainbow Times* to endorse John Connolly. Marty Walsh is the only one that is talking about issues that effect hard working people in city! This race should not be about what you will do, but it should be about what I have done. Wrong Choice.

—Henry Paquin, Online

Dear Editor,

[Re: Op-Ed by Keegan O'Brien, Why is Gay Inc. ignoring Chelsea Manning and CeCe McDonald] Manning was a whistle blower revealing widespread government corruption, cover up, and war crimes. She should be pardoned. And Snowden shouldn't be hounded any further, as he did all of us a favor by revealing the truth behind NSA spying. We are still a free country that values an informed citizenry. Aren't we?

—Pete Perry, Online

Dear Editor,

[Re: TRT Endorsements] Well, isn't that what we vote people on? We vote them for what they promise to do. We've done that with Pres. Obama, some older folks did it for Clinton, and millions have voted on the same concept of hope. We vote and hope that they'll deliver. Some, like Clinton, who claimed to be pro-gay rights equality for all, changed once he won and didn't deliver. Instead we were given DADT. So, track record is important but doesn't mean anything if, when needed after election time, it's not there. Like South End News, I think the choice of *The Rainbow Times* is a wise one. I am for education too and this seems like a perfect fit for me, my family.

—Alex McGregor, Online

The Rainbow Times

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Walsh triumphs in Boston mayor's race in a minority-majority vote

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

IN THE LIMELIGHT

BOSTON, Mass. — State Representative Martin J. Walsh emerged victorious in the Boston mayor's race Tuesday night, Nov. 5, capturing 52 percent of the vote to City Councilor at Large John R. Connolly's 48 percent.

Fewer than 5,000 votes separated the two, with Walsh, 46, who goes by the name Marty, grabbing 72,514 votes to Connolly's 67,606.

Overall turnout was 38 percent of registered voters, with more than 141,000 ballots cast.

Both candidates were enthusiastically supportive of LGBT rights and equality, as Walsh and Connolly worked hard for support from the gay community even as LGBT issues did not play a major role in the race.

Still, Walsh made headlines in mainstream media, trumpeting his support for marriage equality on Beacon Hill as "my proudest vote."

Walsh played a key role from 2004 to 2007 as lawmakers debated a proposed amendment to the state's Constitution, one that if advanced to voters and approved, would have rolled back same-sex marriage rights ushered in under the Supreme Judicial Court's 2003 *Goodridge* decision.

Also, in mid-October Walsh held a press conference at his Jamaica Plain field office where he outlined a plan to protect gay youth. His approach called for "safe spaces," as well as transitional housing for homeless

youth, and improved training for police officers handling domestic violence, according to *Boston Globe* reporting.

Along with the story, the *Globe* ran a photo of Walsh sporting a rainbow-colored campaign sticker, flanked by two high-profile LGBT community leaders. They were state Representative Liz Malia and longtime gay-rights activist, Arline Isaacson, who lobbied lawmakers in the Legislature to protect *Goodridge* against any anti-gay constitutional amendments.

Just who won the majority LGBT vote is anybody's best guess, but Connolly was endorsed by two of the region's LGBT publications, as well as the *Boston Herald* and *Boston Globe*.

Both campaigns ran ads in local gay media and hosted meet-and-greet campaign events in reaching out for gay community support.

Understandably, Connolly backers who gathered at the Westin Copley Place were disappointed their candidate fell short.

"John would have been a fantastic mayor," said David Bancroft of South Boston at the Westin. "He had a progressive vision for the city to move us beyond the last 20 years. I think he would have been a better mayor."

Like Bancroft, Edward MacLean of the South End, also voiced disappointment with election results at the same time he acknowledged both Walsh and Connolly, 40, were big-time LGBT community boosters.

"Both candidates were 100 percent behind the gay and lesbian community, which is an amazing accomplishment for the community to have achieved," said MacLean at the



Mayor Marty Walsh, new mayor of Boston.

PHOTO: MIKE RITTER

Westin.

"Kudos for us," he added. "At the end of the day, I don't think there was any difference" between the two on LGBT issues."

"I supported John because of his understanding that a solid education is really what unites us, creates safe neighborhoods, and a strong economy," said MacLean.

More than a decade ago, MacLean met Connolly who reached out to him, offering pro-bono legal work to the Pride Lights, a non-profit bridge-building organization that provided gay and lesbian people an opportunity to share their understanding of themselves with the larger community. At that time, MacLean served as Pride Lights executive director; and Connolly assisted the

non-profit in transferring assets to AIDS Action Committee in a merger.

"To his credit, he initiated contact with us," said MacLean. "He sought us out and took an active interest in learning more about the gay and lesbian community."

By and large, the Walsh campaign outmaneuvered Connolly's operation in a ground game that fielded several thousand get-out-the-vote troops, compared to Connolly's one thousand.

To this end, organized labor played a pivotal role as Walsh racked up margins in Hyde Park, Mattapan, Roslindale, Dorchester, Roxbury, and South Boston.

Connolly's best showings were in West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Back Bay, South End, and Charlestown.

Allston-Brighton and East Boston were split between the two candidates.

Endorsements from three preliminary-race mayoral candidates, Charlotte Golar Richie, Felix G. Arroyo, and John F. Barros — all people of color — gave Walsh an edge in securing votes in the new Boston, a majority-minority city.

Money — particularly outside cash — was another factor. During the past several months, the *Globe* reported, nearly \$4 million in outside backing poured into Boston, with Walsh benefiting from at least \$2.5 million in TV ads, mailed campaign literature, and paid field workers.

For Walsh, much of the cash came from labor.

Education groups, by contrast, promoted

See Mayor Walsh on Page 8



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HBGC hosts 3rd annual LGBTQ Youth Conference

By: Lauren Walleser/TRT Assistant Editor

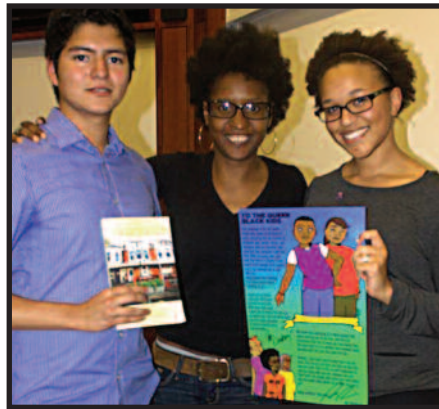
LGBTQ YOUTH

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) hosted their third annual LGBTQ Youth Empowerment Conference—a free space for LGBTQ youth of color to connect with each other, share resources and gain useful skills for navigating life—last month at Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. The conference is the largest gathering of its kind for LGBTQ youth of color and their allies in New England.

“HBGC’s annual LGBTQ Youth Empowerment Conference creates a positive space for LGBTQ youth of color under the age of 25 to build community and exchange resources,” said HBGC Executive Director Corey Yarbrough. “The conference also offers practical tools for creating social change through skill sharing with other LGBTQ youth and young adults of color from different ethnicities and experiences.”

According to Yarbrough, the first conference took place in 2011 at Epiphany School in Dorchester with 95 youth and bumped up to 135 youth at MIT in 2012. This year, the conference welcomed 211 youth and young adults.

“Events like these are especially important, not only to the LGBTQ community, but to the community as a whole,” said Lindsey Allen, who organized the HBGC youth conference along with Diego Huerta. “We have to understand that community and camaraderie [are] such an important part of life. Youth deserve a place to belong, to be heard and to feel safe, which is a goal of the conference. At the same



Lindsey Allen and Diego Huerta pose with Mia McKenzie after her keynote address at HBGC's 2013 Youth Empowerment Conference. PHOTO: HBGC

time, this conference, and conferences aimed towards the LGBTQ community should also enhance conversations, as well as encourage the sharing of ideas that stretch beyond the LGBTQ community. LGBTQ youth of color should know that they're not alone and that their seemingly insurmountable issues are experienced by other youth of color.”

Yarbrough also shared why he believed the event was important for LGBTQ youth of color.

“Many youth have also mentioned that the conference is a unique space where they can bring nearly all of their identities to the table in a welcoming environment,” said ...

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://wp.me/p22M41-2sT>



Participants unite at GLSEN conference in Western Mass.

GLSEN Brings New Annual Conference to Western Mass.

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

AMHERST, Mass.—The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) welcomed 180 people to a day-long conference at the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst late last month. Intended to be an annual event, this first conference offered participants the opportunity to share “passion, knowledge and hunger for change,” according to the conference planning committee.

“We have been hosting an annual conference in Boston every spring for the past several years and wanted to host a similar event for those in Western Massachusetts,” said Hillary Montague-Asp, a member of the board of directors of GLSEN Massachusetts and a graduate student in the UMass Social Justice Education Department.

GLSEN Massachusetts—formerly GLSEN Boston—recently changed its name, signaling the organization’s commitment to bring-

ing its programming to the whole state. In planning the event, the organization recognized the need for more large-scale LGBTQ youth events in Western Mass. The planning committee drew together more than 20 youth and adults from area organizations, including the Amherst College Queer Resource Center, Amherst Regional High School, the Youth Action Coalition, the National Conference for Community and Justice, as well as UMass Amherst’s Stonewall Center, Residential Life, the Social Justice Education Department, Department of Student Development, and the College of Education, which served as lead sponsor. With the help of these organizations and programs, the GLSEN event was able to reach its target audience of people in K-12 schools, with youth making up roughly half the attendees.

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LGBT Latin@s largest minority, fastest growing, new report shows

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

There are an estimated 1.4 million adult LGBT Latin@s in the U.S., according to a recently released report from a Southern California-based think tank. With 4.3 percent of Latin@ adults identifying as LGBT, that number means they are the largest ethnic or racial minority, including LGBT African Americans and LGBT Asian/Pacific Islanders. The numbers for African Americans and Asian/Pacific Islanders are 1 million (or 3.7 percent) and 324,600 (or 2.8 percent), respectively.

"There's a common stereotype in LGBT community that the number who identify as racial or ethnic minorities is somehow lower than in the white community," said Gary J. Gates, a co-author of the studies.

According to Gates, "In looking at the details of the report, these minorities in the LGBT community, like in the U.S., are younger. What we are seeing is that LGBT's are coming out at a much earlier age, and that's true in racial and ethnic minorities," which explains "the higher levels of LGBT identification."

"The rate of identification as LGBT is twice as high among under 30 than among 30 or older," said Gates.

Gates is a distinguished scholar at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. The Williams Institute published all three reports in the past two months. The studies were based on a Gallup Daily tracking survey, 2008-2010 American Community Survey, and adjustments to Census 2010 same-sex couple data.

In all, nearly 60 percent of LGBT Latin@ adults in the U.S. live in California, Florida, New York, and Texas, according to the Williams Institute report. The number of **LGBT Latin@ individuals** in same-sex relationships is 146,000, with 29 percent of the Latin@ same-sex couples raising children. These couples tend to live in areas with higher proportions of Latin@s in the general population. For example, a third of Latin@ same-sex couples live in New Mexico, California and Texas. The top three states for percent of LGBT Latin@ individuals are Texas, Nevada and California.

In other key findings, certain subgroups within the Latin@ LGBT population show signs of socioeconomic vulnerability, the study found. For example, reported median household incomes for Latin@ same-sex couples raising children are 20 percent below the income of same-sex couples without children. At the same time, while individuals of Spanish or Cuban ancestry report higher education levels, Mexican, Salvadoran and Puerto Rican individuals report lower rates of college graduation.

In another key finding, LGBT Latin@ in-

dividuals in same-sex relationships are more likely to be U.S. born (59 percent) than Latin@ individuals in different-sex couples (37 percent). The top three locations of origin for Latin@ individuals in same-sex couples born off the U.S. mainland are Mexico, Puerto Rico and Cuba.

LGBT Latin@-specific data to Massachusetts and New England are not included

in the Williams Institute study, but local gay Latino activist Wilfred Labiosa said, "The Williams Institute Report on LGBT Latino/a individuals and same sex couples doesn't surprise me as Latinos are the highest growing group in our nation."

He added: "Many of the Latino/a in the state of Massachusetts also reflect some of the findings of this report in regards to raising children, highest rates of underemployment or unemployment, depression/suicide attempts, and of struggling among our communities, that being the Latino community or the LGBT community."

Labiosa is regional representative of Unid@s: The National Latin@ LGBT

Human Rights Organization. He is also a Spanish language columnist for The Rainbow Times.

"For many years, Latin@s struggle[d] between these two worlds," Labiosa said. "There are some who successfully can fit in one or the other or in both, but this is the minority and not the majority due to the '-isms' that still exist among our society, such as homophobia, classism and racism, among others. As a community, we must unite and work together to find support and resources available to us in order to find the strength that is within us, but that is hard to find when feeling isolated and marginalized."

In other news, *The Rainbow Times'* **specific demographic data** from Community Marketing Inc.'s 7th Annual LGBT Community Survey for 2013 indicated that anywhere from 15 to 25 percent of the publication's readers identify as Latin@.

The Rainbow Times is one of few LGBT publications nationwide with Spanish language editorial content. Accordingly, for LGBT media outlets, Gates said, there lies a challenge "to go beyond tokenism."

"What more contemporary data shows is that as social acceptance increases, the demographic differences we associate with LGBT people are starting to lessen because they are starting to look more like the general population," said Gates.

Gates said years ago, people who came out tended to be "somewhere on the economically advantaged side, who could take the

LGBT Latin@ individuals in same-sex relationships are more likely to be U.S. born (59%) than Latin@ individuals in different-sex couples (37%).

See LGBT Latin@s on Page 11



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ENDA Clears Procedural Hurdle

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

The U.S. Senate invoked a motion for cloture this afternoon, 61 to 30, just one vote more than the 60 it needed to force the chamber to take up debate and consideration of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

It is not clear whether the Senate will begin debate tonight or later this week, but its passage seems almost certain, given that the procedural vote drew at least eight Republicans to join Democrats and Independents to support its movement to the floor.

The bill seeks to prohibit negative employment actions against employees or applicants due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (To watch Senate action tonight, go to C-SPAN 2 or c-span.org.)

Even before the Senate convened, The Hill newspaper predicted ENDA would move to the floor thanks to an announcement Monday morning by Republican Senator Dean Heller of Nevada that he would support the measure.

But House Speaker John Boehner also made clear Monday morning that he had no intention of allowing ENDA to the House floor. Through a spokesman, he said ENDA would increase "frivolous litigation and cost American jobs." The comments were not a surprise; Boehner has said previously that "There are ample laws already in place" to deal with workplace discrimination.

President Obama's Organizing for America group says there are 29 states where there are no laws protecting employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. They include Alaska, Alabama,

Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

In addition to his own essay in support of ENDA, published Sunday night at huffingtonpost.com, President Obama's organization sent out an e-mail to its supporters asking them to sign a petition for the measure.

Senate Majority Leader Reid said the existing "patchwork" of state laws prohibiting sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination is not good enough. He said House Speaker Boehner should take his cue from 56 percent of Republicans nationally who do support ENDA. And 81 percent of all Americans approve the measure.

Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), who has championed the bill in his Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP). Harkin said more than 56 percent of Americans live in states that give "no recourse under law" for discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Harkin credited Senate sponsor Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) for mustering the 60 votes the bill needs to pass the motion to put it on the floor and championing it. Harkin likened consideration of ENDA to that of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

"Here we are taking one more step to make

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://tiny.cc/zo725w>



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall, recipient of GLAD's 14th annual Spirit of Justice Award.

GLAD honors SJC Chief Justice Margaret Marshall

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

November marks the tenth anniversary of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) ruling that made the state the first in the nation where same-sex couples could legally marry. The Court's decision jump-started the freedom to marry movement nationwide, which now includes 14 states and the District of Columbia. The ruling also infused the larger LGBT equality effort with enthusiasm, determination and momentum.

In celebrating the landmark *Goodridge vs. Department of Public Health* decision of November 18, 2003, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders' (GLAD) 14th annual Spirit of Justice Award Dinner drew more than 1,100 people to the Boston Marriott Copley Place on Friday, October 25, including *Goodridge* plaintiff couples. GLAD also honored the author of that historic ruling, the Honorable Margaret H. Marshall, who served as chief justice at the time.

GLAD selected Marshall for its Spirit of Justice Award for her life-long commitment to justice, demonstrated by her fight against apartheid, belief in civil rights for all, and dedication to the rule of law. She was the first woman to be appointed chief justice and the second woman appointed to the SJC. The author of more than several hundred decisions, Marshall has written opinions on child welfare, against disability discrimination, and safeguards for criminal defendants, among others. However, her most famous, of course, is *Goodridge*.

"This is the biggest dinner ever," GLAD's Executive Director Lee Swislow told the gathering.

In fact, the flagship event raised a whopping \$718K for the legal rights group that brought not only the *Goodridge* lawsuit, but also two legal challenges to the 1993 Defense of Marriage Act, which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down earlier this year in *Windsor*.

"This is the first time in years that I will not be telling you about the need to take down DOMA," said Swislow.

That line drew sustained applause. The theme of the evening's celebration was "Celebrating Victories, Work to be Done." GLAD's Civil Rights Project Director Mary Bonauto, who argued on March 4, 2003 before the SJC on behalf of seven *Goodridge* plaintiffs, introduced Marshall and presented the award to her.

"The opinion could not have been more eloquent," Bonauto said in her remarks, going on to quote from *Goodridge*: "The Massachusetts Constitution affirms the dignity and equality of all individuals. It forbids the creation of second-class citizens."

The opinion's "Constitutional analysis lifted the dignity of every LGBT person," Bonauto explained.

The Spirit of Justice Award recognizes individuals whose work and achievements reflect a profound dedication to our ideal of a just society.

Read the rest of this story at:
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Ken Salem
Butterfly Armoire
Salvaged Wood



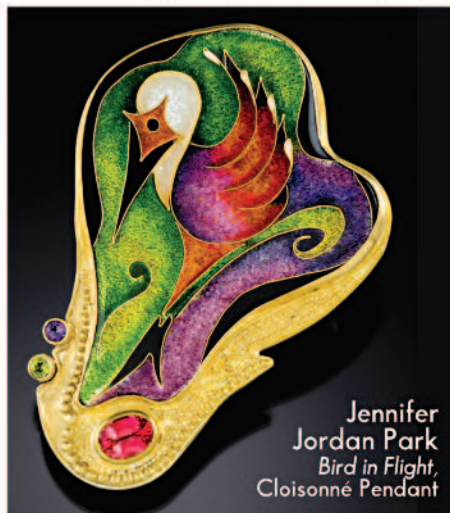
Roger DiTarando
Herons - Bronze, Copper, Steel: 52" tall



Ed
Branson
Selva Leaves
Blown Glass



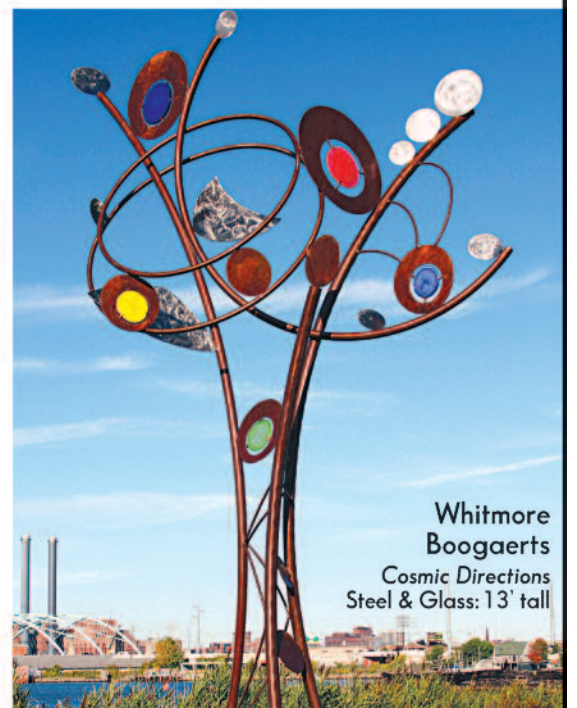
Soli Pierce
Apples and Pears - Salad Sets



Jennifer
Jordan Park
Bird in Flight,
Cloisonné Pendant



Maija
Neimanis
Victorian - Gold,
Aquamarine & Peridot



Whitmore
Boogaerts
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Steel & Glass: 13' tall

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Mayor Walsh From page 3

Connolly to the tune of \$1.3 million, according to the *Globe*.

Another important piece to the Walsh win was his ability to craft a life story that resonated across the city's more than 200 precincts.

The son of Irish immigrants, Walsh fought off childhood cancer and later in life entered recovery for alcoholism.

His working-class, man-of-the-people appeal was also important to his backers.

As Susan Moir of Jamaica Plain put it before the preliminary election, "He has done more to create jobs for women and people of color in this city than anyone ever has done in the past," she said over the telephone. "That's why I am with him."

In some measure, by playing a class-warfare card, Walsh supporters also succeeded in painting Connolly as an "elitist" — out of touch with working people.

Sure enough, LGBT backers of Walsh could not have been more pleased with election-night outcomes.

"Marty Walsh is the next mayor of Boston! We did it! Mayor will be the mayor for everyone!" said Craig Winskowicz, posting on Facebook.

In a pitch for post-election harmony, he added, "Welcome to Boston where diversity and the working class are important. If you



At the Westin Copley Place, City Councilor At Large John Connolly R. Connolly concedes in race for mayor of Boston.

forgot those values during this campaign we welcome you back. Unity is something Marty Walsh will do regardless of the negativity, division or skepticism! Welcome back fellow Democrats and Bostonians!"

Meanwhile, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Walsh told his spirited supporters, "For this kid from Taft Street in Dorchester, you've made Boston a place where dreams come true."

"Together, we're going to make Boston a place where dreams come true for every person, in every corner of this city," he said.

DELICIOUS! TRULY TALENTED! AT THE TOP OF HIS GAME! (NY TIMES)

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photos by Henry Bergwald

Lady Gaga, Ellen Page, Sophia Grace, Rosie & DeGeneres, Ben Whishaw

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special to TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Lady Gaga cooks another Thanksgiving Special

A Very Gaga Thanksgiving must have pulled in some decent ratings because she's doing it again, this time

with the Muppets on *Lady Gaga and The Muppets' Holiday Spectacular*, set to air Thanksgiving night on ABC. True to its name – one where the show's holiday content will straddle Thanksgiving and Christmas but is sure to be used as evidence by right-wing lunatics that there's an ongoing "war" on Christmas taking place – Gaga will co-host alongside the Muppets. There'll also be plenty of guest stars in the 90-minute musical special, including Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Kristen Bell, RuPaul and Elton John. In other words, awesome TV. Do we start calling it ThanksGaga-ing now? Thanksgaying? Both would work.

Ellen Page and Evan Rachel Wood go *Into the Forest*

Evan Rachel Wood (official status: bisexual, married to Jamie Bell) and Ellen Page (official status: not talking about it, photographed by paparazzi hanging with *Argo*'s Clea DuVall) – which, should totally settle it, right? – and also with guys like Alexander Skarsgard, which totally unsettles

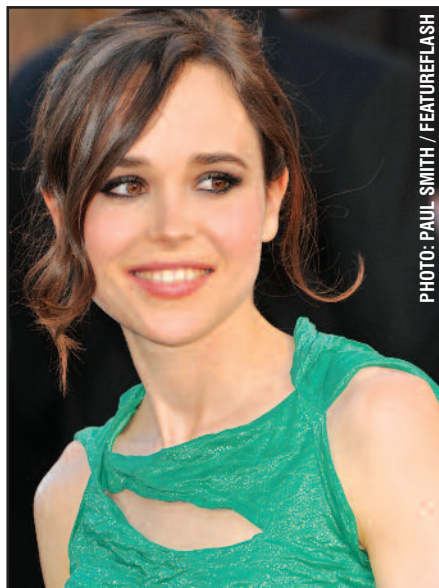


PHOTO: PAUL SMITH / FEATUREFLASH

Ellen Page

it) are making a film together. It's called *Into the Forest* and the project is to be directed by lesbian filmmaker Patricia Rozema (*I've Heard The Mermaids Singing*). She will also adapt the screenplay from Jean Hegland's novel of the same name and Page will produce. It's another not-too-distant-future apocalypse scenario in which Page and Wood, playing sisters, will struggle to survive, *The Road*-style. Or even *Mad Max*-style, which would be way more exciting. Maybe someone can convince Tina Turner to come out of

retirement for more Aunty Entity antics. A gay can dream.

Ellen DeGeneres wants Sophia Grace and Rosie as next Olsen twins

Their careers began with a YouTube video. British cousins Sophia Grace Brownlee, age 10, and Rosie McClelland, 7, sang Nicky Minaj's "Super Bass" and became overnight sensations when they appeared on *Ellen*. Since then they've appeared on the show multiple times, charming audiences with every appearance and gathering big ratings for the show. They've interacted with Reese Witherspoon, Minaj and Taylor Swift and are now poised to be breakout stars on their own. DeGeneres is producing a sitcom pilot for the girls, set up now at NBC, and a direct-to-video movie in which they'll star as versions of themselves. It couldn't be more in line with the Mary-Kate and Ashley template if those two sisters had written a how-to handbook. And with DeGeneres in their corner, they're likely to become huge stars. Quick, someone get the actual Olsen twins on the phone for advice on how to navigate that Hollywood child star shark tank.

Queen wants Whisham

Ben Whishaw is pretty busy these days. The recently out actor will soon appear in Terry Gilliam's *The Zero Theorem*; *Days and Nights*, which is a modern version of Chekhov's *The Seagull* (and co-stars Katie Holmes); Ron Howard's *The Heart of The Sea*, where he'll play *Moby Dick* author Herman Melville; and, of course, *Bond 24*, continuing his role as "Q." But Queen wants him

in their movie, too. As Freddie Mercury. After Sacha Baron Cohen dropped out of the project – they felt the *Borat* comic's big personality would distract, overshadowing the role – the band recently threw their collective begging power into publicly wish-listing Whishaw. There is no other information suggesting that this will actually happen. But come on. Queen is asking you to be Freddie Mercury. Who can say no to that? Somebody with some pull should be arranging something – a meeting, a tea party, whatever happens in these sorts of situations. Make this happen!

**Romeo San Vicente is the champion, my friends. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyn-dicate.com.*

Trans* Day of Remembrance NE

Boston, MA
Nov. 17; 4-7pm; The Cathedral of St Paul; 138 Tremont St., Boston, MA

Northampton; 129
Main St, Northampton, MA

Portland, Maine
TDOR Candle Light Vigil; Nov. 20; 6pm; Monument Square, Portland, Maine

Providence, RI
Nov. 21; 6:30pm
Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence, RI

Hampshire, MA
Nov. 19; 5:30pm; First Churches of

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For our deceased brothers and sisters in honor of *Transgender Day of Remembrance*

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



Every November, we hold a Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR). It's the day we memorialize all of the transgender people who

have lost their lives, especially those within the past year. Many of these transpeople were brutally beaten, stabbed multiple times, shot, stoned until their skull was crushed, beheaded, burned, strangled, hung, tortured, bludgeoned with a hammer, or run over by a car. This year, one of the deceased was tied to a block of concrete and thrown into a body of water. Another body was discarded in a dumpster. The respect for the life of these transgender people completely vanished. Why? What happens? How can there be so little or no regard whatsoever for another human life?

This is not true for all cases, but often the violence unfolds when a cisgender man meets a transwoman and they make love. After the love has been made, something happens to him and he snaps and brutally kills his lover.

Many folks believe that the man snaps because he thinks that he is going to make love to a genetic woman, but when he discovers that she has a penis, he panics and kills her. That's not always the case. Often, the man knows the woman is trans and she is exactly who he wants. They make love, but soon afterward he unravels and kills her, most often

into the nightmare of being brutally murdered. How could this happen? What made him commit this horrible act? I can't say for sure. All I know is that it happens.

On this *Day of Remembrance*, we also memorialize our brothers and sisters who took their own lives. We can't say exactly why they took their own lives, but we can assume that

It may be hard for someone who is not transgender to understand what life is like for a transgender person. I can tell you that we have to work through stages of confusion, shame, guilt, fear, and finally, acceptance.

using very grisly methods.

Can you imagine being a woman with a man and things begin to click? First there is kissing, then foreplay and then you are making love. Everything is like a dream. You are a woman with your man, and it's wonderful. After the love act, you may be lying there with your head upon his chest, with him holding you, and suddenly he inexplicably physically attacks you. Your moment of bliss turns

it was too much for them to carry on. Let's face it: the burden of being trans is not slight. You are often forced to deal with having a body that does not match who you really are. If that's not enough to drive you crazy, consider that you are forced to deal with others who don't understand your situation. They may make fun of you, humiliate you, bully you, call you crazy, or refuse to even associate with you. You may feel that you are detached

from society, on the outside of life, left all alone, and it may be too much to take anymore.

It may be hard for someone who is not transgender to understand what life is like for a transgender person. I can tell you that we have to work through stages of confusion, shame, guilt, fear, and finally, acceptance. This is all work that we do on the inside to finally get our life together. Then we move to the outside work with friends, family, coworkers, and peers. Sometimes problems in the outside world send us back to the stages of the inside work.

I suggest attending a Transgender Day of Remembrance event this year. Prepare to be shocked and to feel a deep sadness, as it can get pretty intense. To experience it further, I urge you to partake in the program by asking to read aloud the sentence or two about one of the transpeople who lost their life. It's a moving experience and it will help you to be more aware. If you can't make a TDOR event in person, then at least please visit the official site (<http://tiny.cc/pcr5w>). You will be moved by exploring the information and stories there.

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

Ask a Transwoman: Should we boycott the 2014 Sochi Olympics due to Russia's anti-LGBT law?

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



There's this question I've been getting a lot for the last few months, and until a couple of days ago, I honestly didn't have an answer. The question is: should we boycott the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics in response to Russia's anti-

LGBT "propaganda" law? Since you're reading a paper called *The Rainbow Times*, I assume you're already pretty conversant with the details.

In the off chance you aren't aware; maybe you've been driving a team of sled-dogs across the Arctic tundra. This law, which claims to ban the distribution of "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations" among minors, effectively criminalizes all LGBT activism and public displays of affection or identity. This falls within the context of a country where homophobia and transphobia appear to be quite rampant and pervasive.

Still, despite this being a clearly awful situation, until now I haven't had a clear answer about whether or not we should boycott the Sochi Olympic Games. It's a far more complex question than it might seem to be on the surface.

Let's consider the 1936 Berlin Summer

vincingly, that the athletes who participate in the Olympics have trained for this event for years, often their entire lives, and that depriving them of this opportunity would make all that effort come to naught. Given the nature of athletics, it's a small window and most never get the same chance again. I have heard

I believe we must not only demand a boycott of the Sochi Olympics, but we must do everything in our power to help our TBLG brothers, sisters and others in Russia.

Olympics. Hitler was reaching the height of his power in Germany. Then, as now, there were those who called for a boycott and those who opposed one. The main argument was that the Olympics should not reflect political views. That same argument can be heard today.

It has also been argued, perhaps more con-

this argument movingly offered by our own LGBT athletes. They say they would rather show their opposition to Russia's discriminatory laws by competing proudly as openly LGBT athletes and being the best they can be while the world is watching.

To return to the 1936 Berlin Olympics, there is the fine example of African-American track and field athlete Jesse Owens, who left Germany as the most successful athlete of those Olympics with four gold medals. He himself argued against the boycott of the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics. It is also worth noting that the Olympics can be an excellent stage for protests as they are heavy with symbolism and historical significance. The Black Power salute defiantly given by athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos during the 1968 Summer Olympics is an excellent example of this. Though both were suspended from the U.S. team, this has gone on to become an indelible image of protest.

Given these arguments and examples, it is possible that the Sochi Olympics could become the scene of some extremely powerful and highly visible protests on the part of international LGBT athletes and spectators, but at what risk?

Taking the example of Smith and Carlos above, protesters certainly risk expulsion

from the games, if not worse. In addition, despite the assurances of the Russian government, any LGBT attendees of the games risk running afoul of these horrific Russian laws, not to mention danger to their physical safety. Still, the question is complex, and despite its importance to the larger LGBT community, not one I thought was appropriate for this column.

That is, until this past week, when news of the suicide of a Russian transgender woman began to surface on my news feeds. Because her employers feared violating the new law, Dasha Shtern was fired from her job. She had also recently been rejected by her parents and kicked out of her home. There are many who are calling her the first casualty of Russia's anti-LGBT law, but I somehow doubt this.

While researching this story, I came across a video I had missed of another trans woman being beaten and humiliated by a gang of men in a public park. A visit to YouTube will fill an entire evening with disturbing images of similar atrocities being gleefully committed against Russian gay people, particularly gay youth, and often in full view and with the at least tacit support of the general public.

Therefore, I can sit on the fence no longer. We can no longer afford to be indecisive. I believe we must not only demand a boycott of the Sochi Olympics, but we must do everything in our power to help our TBLG brothers, sisters and others in Russia. It has become impossible to choose the path of passive protest any longer. How many more trans people must die while we hope to see who is the fastest skier? How many gay youths will be beaten as we consider whether rainbow pins on athletes will be an appropriate and effective statement?

In 1936 we chose to ignore the plight of Jewish people in Germany in favour of "good sportsmanship." We all know how well that worked. Let's hope we don't repeat the same mistake today.

**Lorelei Erisis is an activist, adventurer and pageant queen. Send your questions about trans issues, gender and sexuality to her at: lorelieiris@gmail.com.*

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La política: Hay que participar

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa*/Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

El diccionario define política como el proceso y método que los grupos usan para tomar decisiones en la sociedad. Para algunos/as, la política es un evento que molesta y una serie de eventos organizados por grupos de personas que sólo se ve una vez al año o cada otro año cuando alguien que no conoce le pide "su voto por cambio" o por su voto para "un nuevo tipo de liderazgo". Para otros/as la política es algo de lo que no se habla alrededor de la mesa, entre familia, grupos de compañeros/as de trabajo para evitar ofender a alguien o crear conflicto innecesario. Para muchos/as la política es una actividad divisoria que solamente hombres y mujeres con poca ética eligieron como profesión para conseguir lo mejor que puedan del "sistema" o del gobierno. No importa cual es nuestra inclinación o definición del sistema de política o de los que están en este deporte de la política. La política es el proceso y el método por el cual las pólizas y leyes son determinadas por personas que son electos/as a este sistema y el conocimiento que aprenden, lo saben usar para hacer cambios a nuestro gobierno.

Para algunos segmentos en nuestra sociedad, la política es lo que usan para dictar, no sólo sus pensamientos o como ellos/as

creen que el gobierno debe funcionar, sino que también como les debe de proteger. Como latinos GLBT, los actos de política y las posiciones de los/as políticos son críticos relacionadas con nuestro movimiento. Ellos/as pueden ayudarnos y empoderarnos como comunidad a través de la abogacía para nuestra causa. No podemos quedarnos tranquilos o simplemente o mantenernos lentos mientras que los que se oponen a nuestro sustento y causan el miedo de lo desconocido, se organizan y conducen el cambio político para alterar nuestras libertades, vidas, y justicia. Como personas latinas GLBT debemos adoptar también este proceso de tomar decisiones como el medio que afecta nuestra democracia y nuestro sistema judicial. A través de la política debemos exigir la igualdad de derechos, tratamiento judicial equitativo, y trabajar para que mejore todos los aspectos de nuestras vidas.

Como latinos/as luchamos los continuos ataques en contra de nuestras raíces inmigrantes y de nuestros esfuerzos para crear una vida mejor para nuestras familias. Como hombres y mujeres GLBT, luchamos para asegurar justicia, equidad y los mismos derechos bajo ley para nosotros como individuos y en nuestros "hogares". Cada una de nuestras comunidades no debe sentir temor en utilizar el sistema político para defender nuestros/as temas y derechos sino que también debe utilizar el sistema para crear la clase de cambio que se desea ver en el mundo presente.

Lea el resto de esta historia en:
<http://wp.me/p22M41-2t4>

Pregúntale a LL: Tú y La Ley de Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio

Por: Leslie Gabel Brett/Directora de Educación y Asuntos Públicos



Q: Yo soy transgénero y también tengo el VIH, y me pregunto si Obamacare es una opción – no he tenido seguro médico en mucho tiempo. ¿Qué establece la ley para gente como yo?

R: Gracias a la Ley de Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio, las personas LGBT y las personas que viven con el VIH tendrán acceso al seguro médico sin exclusiones basadas en condiciones pre-existentes. En muchos estados, la expansión del programa Medicaid ofrecerá cobertura sin costo a más personas con ingresos muy limitados.

Aquí hay algunas cosas importantes que debes saber:

- A partir del 01 de octubre 2013, hay un período de inscripción de seis meses, hasta el 31 de marzo de 2014. (Cada año después de eso, habrá períodos de inscripción más cortos.) Si te inscribes, tu nueva cobertura de seguro podría iniciar tan pronto como el 1ro de enero 2014.

- No se le puede negar seguro médico o cobrar más por tener una condición

pre-existente, como el VIH o el diagnóstico de disforia de género o simplemente por ser LGBT.

- Las aseguradoras ya no pueden poner un límite de por vida en la cobertura, aún si tienes una condición médica crónica como cáncer, asma o el VIH.

Inmigrantes indocumentados no califican para la Ley de Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio pero podrían calificar para programas locales o estatales como clínicas comunitarias o para inmigrantes, hospitales públicos, y programas de salud específicos (tratamiento para enfermedades contagiosas como tuberculosis, VIH, u otras ETSS; vacunas).

Lea el resto de esta historia en:
<http://tiny.cc/td025w>

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Walsh from page 2

Walsh also noted that there are public safety concerns depending on where people live throughout the city, some neighborhoods being "tougher than others."

I look forward to how the new Mayor-Elect will contribute and continue make this city for everyone, not by maintaining the status quo already established, but by bringing about change, innovation and unity, a promise made throughout the campaign.

Bostonians are lucky to have been given the opportunity of choosing between John

Connolly and Marty Walsh; two democrats who are ardent advocates for the LGBT community and other oppressed people within city limits with track records that are indisputably positive for the direction of Boston.

The Rainbow Times congratulates Mayor-Elect Walsh on his victory on November 5.

*Nicole Lashomb is the co-founder/owner of The Rainbow Times. She has an MBA from Marylhurst University and a Bachelors from SUNY Potsdam. Nicole can be reached at: editor@therainbowtimesmass.com

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
We're so grateful for you & your loyalty!

LGBT Latin@s from page 5

risk sooner." These days, he said, "The perceived risks are not necessarily as high, and people don't perceive as bad a risk now" in coming out.

"We are getting more racial and ethnic diversity, more socio-economic diversity, and that means, for media at least, this idea of an exclusive LGBT demographic, [editors and publishers] will have to think a little more carefully because it's getting as diverse as the general population," Gates explained.

For Gates, there is another major takeaway message.

"The notion that the percent of LGBT's across these racial and ethnic groups doesn't differ counters what a lot of minorities experience within the LGBT community, which is that there are openly gay minorities," said Gates.

In other Williams study findings, no New England state made the top ten for individual LGBT African Americans or same-sex couples with African-American householder. However, Massachusetts ranked ninth among states for same-sex couples with an Asian/Pacific Islander householder.

For more information, please visit <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/>.

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Biblical Basics from Page 2

Obviously, death in these cases is not administered in a civilized society.

In Romans 1:26-27 (<http://tiny.cc/4cz5w>), it is written that "... women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women ..." There is scholarship suggesting this is about homosexual acts, perhaps by heterosexuals, venerating pagan gods. Romans, comparable to the passage in Corinthians below, has nothing to do with a loving relationship of two people who happen to be of the same gender. It has a lot to do with selling and marketing a new religion while ever mindful of an environment where death and disease were common and procreating for survival was vital.

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (<http://tiny.cc/jez5w>), it is written that "... fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers" will inherit God's kingdom. This can mean persons who are unethical or had "soft morals." Contrary to the soft morals of some heterosexuals, an LGBTQ per-

son can be ethical, hardworking and devoted to God. Just ask an LGBTQ Catholic, Episcopalian, Wiccan, Unitarian, Buddhist, or Muslim, among others. They are good, contributing citizens both to greater society and a faith community.

In 1 Timothy 1:9-10 (<http://tiny.cc/igt5w>) states Law is made "... for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane ... for fornicators, for abusers of themselves with men ..." Some translations use "sodomite" in this passage. This is a reference to Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodomite put in cultural context refers to greed, inhospitality and failing to help the poor, among other things, shown by the residents. There is no evidence suggesting the cities were destroyed because of homosexuality. Wives, widows, grandparents, and children perished in the destruction.

And finally, in Jude verse 7 (<http://tiny.cc/2hzt5w>), citizens of "Sodom and Gomorrah ... [gave] themselves over to fornication and going after strange flesh" and suffered ... "the vengeance of eternal fire." Verses in this book refer to the sexual immorality of angels and humans who have sex. Strange flesh is a reference to angels and generally humans, not LGBTQ. God gave humans free choice and not angels. Hence, humans have the choice not to sleep with angels and break God's law or compromise the divine creatures from heaven.

The Bible is a complicated book culturally, sociologically and theologically. Multiple biblical translations exist. Read several. Do so in conjunction with the work of scholars and theologians. You might be pleasantly surprised.

*Paul is an author, attorney and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. His latest book, *The Vampire Benning Wentworth and the End of Times - the War Between Devils and Vampires* (<http://tiny.cc/6izt5w>) is now available.

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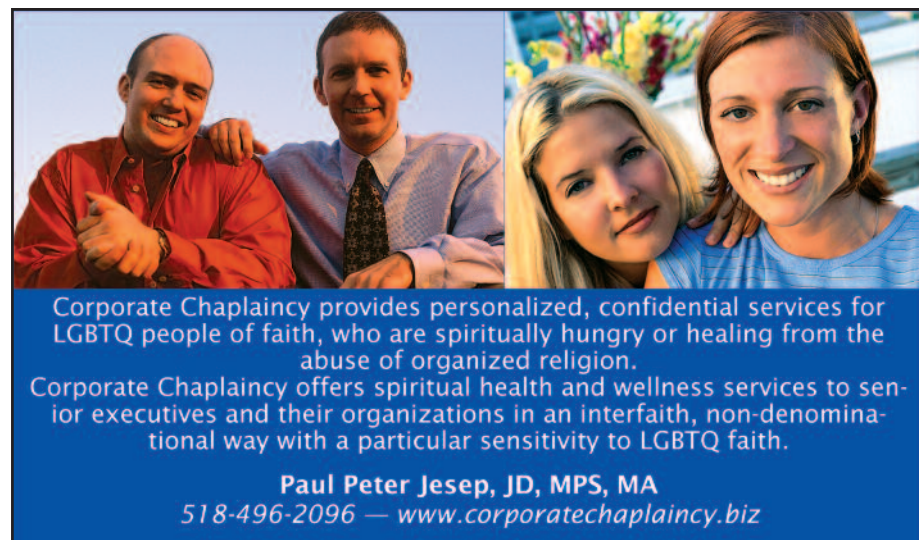
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Dixon's non-apologetic take on oppression

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

BOSTON, Mass.—Twenty-something year old nationally and internationally acclaimed Boston film maker, Amir Dixon, is no stranger to oppression and the ramifications of such a concept. As a black gay man, fighting against the mainstream "norm," Dixon knows all too well what it means to be discriminated against, even along the freedom trail. In this exclusive TRT interview, Dixon unveils his non-apologetic approach to ending oppression of marginalized communities. Some may consider it radical, and others, enlightened and honest. An indispensable role-model in the LGBT community, this man with a vision also earned a spot in *The Advocate's* 40 under 40 honors and also received the 2013 NYC Black Pride Award.

The Rainbow Times: What motivated you to be a filmmaker?

Amir Dixon: I have always been a writer. In 2009, I decided that I wanted to take my art to the next level. And for me, that was film. I started my production company, Nu Nation Now Productions, out of a need to create work that told the stories of marginalized and oppressed people. With and through our own voices, I find that much of the work out there that talks about people like us, look nothing like us [people of color]. So, I felt it was time that I take back my voice and not wait around for others to attempt to tell my story. I got my hand on every resource I could find and educated myself. I felt it; I wanted to bring my words to life in ways that on paper I could not. I wanted to paint a picture. From there, all things fell into place.

Q. Why did you create your film, *Friend of Essex*?

A. I needed to produce the film to survive. It may sound melodramatic to some but it is the truth. The CDC released a report that HIV among young black gay men was up more than 50 percent. At the same time, close friends around me were finding out they were positive. HIV was no longer just statistics to me, it became real. All of this took a huge emotional toll on me. In my mind, I started wondering when it would be my turn. At the same time, I am dealing with navigating a racist, sexist, [and] classist world. All these things came together and I needed to capture the stories of young gay, bisexual, queer and same-gender loving men like myself. If I had not followed that voice and produced the film, I honestly don't know where I would be today.

Q. Femmephobia is a devaluation, hatred and fear of anything feminine, whether it's used for lesbians or gay men. In your work, you refer to femmephobia too. What do you mean by it and what communities are you particularly concerned



Amir Dixon

with when it comes to femmephobia?

A. This is an amazing question, and thank you for asking me this question. Let's get clear about something. Oppression in all its forms is birthed out of religious doctrine. And, its first born child is white supremacy and white supremacy's children are racism, sexism, homophobia, classism and anti-ableism. So, for me and every person out there who is truly doing the anti-oppression work, this is the fight of our lives, this is David and Goliath! And, to be honest, the fight against oppression in our community is a fight we are losing. Some of the most racist, sexist, homophobes are other LGBTQ people especially gay men. So to speak directly to the fight against femmephobia, it first has to be a fight "in house" meaning in our community where it is so prevalent. As LGBTQ people, we hate men who are perceived as feminine and all together hate women and this is born out of white supremacy, which gave us our marching orders from a book called the Bible! It is my belief that some people consciously and some unconsciously hate all things feminine because people believe it to be a form of weakness, deeming people who are feminine to be second class citizens. We have to address this now among ourselves, otherwise, all the work we do outside of our community is pointless and a waste of time.

But, to truly irradiate oppression, we have to chop its head off. We have to find our ...

See Dixon on page 15

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. Concussion - Digital Only
2. Margarita
3. Lost Girl: Season 3
4. Cloudburst
5. Passion
6. Breaking the Girls
7. Mosquita & Mari
8. The Lovers & Friends Show
Season 5: The Final Season
9. Molly's Girl
10. A Perfect Ending

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

GAY TOP 10

1. The Perfect Wedding
2. Petunia
3. Old Dogs & New Tricks:
Seasons 1 & 2
4. Bridegroom
5. Four
6. The Falls: Testament of Love
7. Behind the Candelabra
8. I Do
9. A Portrait of James Dean:
Joshua Tree, 1951
10. White Frog

Dixon from page 14

collective voice and address our internal \$hit to get the work done. How do we do that? By knowing that everyone gets a seat at the table and understands that all of our oppression is directly connected and get to the work. We have to get in the ring together and write our stories on the wall of the ring in the blood of our oppressors. Who is our oppressor: Religious homophobia and white supremacy. I am constantly accused of being anti-white, which is not the case. I want to be crystal clear when I say this white supremacy does not discriminate on who its followers can be; people of color, men, women and people from different creeds and backgrounds are all a part of holding up white supremacy. In the LGBTQ community our hate of all things feminine is simply us projecting our own self-hate outward onto others who dare to be themselves.

I truly hold anti femmephobia close to my heart because I have two sisters and I hold my mother close to my heart and I see the effects it has on them. I know I must address this, and as a gay man, I have an obligation to address all agents of oppression.

Q. What can you tell us about your trip to Uganda? How was your film received?

A. To speak about what was going on in Uganda in *Friend of Essex* was not optional, it was a must because these are my brothers and sisters and their stories needed to be heard. The screening in Uganda was well received. What I thought about was how conversations in different cities around the world are so different. In Uganda, people connected too and wanted to talk about religious homophobia. At Morehouse in Atlanta, people were drawn to addressing femmephobia. Uganda was special to me because the activists there are facing life or death and they dared to get in the ring and get the work done. While here in the states, we are lost in marriage equality. We have politicians trying to make sure we don't get health care, while we have trans folks being killed, our sisters being raped and harassed on the streets. We have to get our priorities in order.

Q. We know you were also the director of Brotherhood TV, which was filmed prior to *Friend of Essex*. Did that series influence your production of *Friend of Essex*?

A. Brotherhood TV was some of the most fun I have ever had on a project! I learned so much about myself as a leader, an activist and an artist. I am forever indebted to the other brothers who were on the project with me. Directing Brotherhood TV really was a catalyst to *Friend of Essex*. I cannot explain to you how many emails, tweets, calls and things that I have received from others in the LGBTQ community thanking me for the show, as well as sharing their own story. We talked about many taboo things that we simply do not talk about in our community, like domestic violence. As a survivor, I understood it was imperative that we tell the truth about who and what we are and I took that same understanding to producing *Friend of Essex*.

Q. Do you think that the Boston LGBTQ community understands the needs of the LGBTQ black community?

A. No! Boston is a very racist city, sucks to say, but it is very true. I grew up in South Florida, where people were blatant with their racism. Here in Boston, people are racist and will try to convince you that being [that] they are gay themselves, they cannot be racist or will try to tell you because they voted for President Obama, they are not racist. I feel Massachusetts really represents who and

what we are as a nation. We have our very conservative parts and we have Boston that says they are Liberal. But overall, as a state, we are the land of the have and the have nots. We make sure that "certain" people stay in "certain" places. It is an understood rule that people that are not welcomed in certain neighborhoods and from experience, and from stories I have heard from others, people will go out of their way to make sure you know that.

Q. The film discusses the importance of black LGBTQ people to demand a seat at the table of what traditionally has been a white role within mainstream LGBT organizations. How can people of color do this and what can the white LGBTQ community do to collaborate so that all voices are heard, understood, educated and celebrated?

A. One of the people in the film said it best, "if you are not at the table you are on the menu." As people of color we have to put our gloves on, take off the rose colored glasses and get our a\$\$es in the ring. There is a fight happening outside that we seem to often not to be engaged in. Growing up, my mother always told my sisters and I, "When going into battle, don't worry about winning. Stay focused on fighting for your life." Although when she was telling us this, it was not about social justice, I feel this saying can be applied to social justice [too]. We have to not think about winning or not getting scarred. We have to think about just getting in the game and fighting for our lives, especially being that the game was not built for people of color or women. We have an obligation to get in there and fight, if not for ourselves, for those that will come after us.

As for white LGBTQ people, do not try to speak for people of color. Plain and simple; because you end up representing yourself while saying, "I did it for 'them.'" Look at the mainstream LGBTQ agenda push towards assimilation. This in itself is killing our culture, and making us into carbon copies of white heterosexual men.

Q. How can white LGBTs effectively advocate on behalf of people of color? What can they do to join in the fight for racial and ethnic equality that you speak about?

A. First off, I think as a community, we all need to get clear about what is our collective fight, what is our collective struggle, and we need to get to the work of doing that. As for white LGBTQ folk, they have to first understand where they stand in terms of their privilege and start there. It's about talking to the people that look just like them, speaking to the white power structure about white supremacy. Since the start of the movement for racial justice, people of color have been coined as overly sensitive [or] overly dramatic when we bring up racial injustice. It will take people of color and white LGBTQ people having those uncomfortable conversations among ourselves and white LGBTQ folks doing their part to stand up to those that uphold racial inequality in their own homes, in their families, [and] in their institutions. Because, their silence on the matter basically affirms racial injustice.

Q. In the film, there is a discussion about winning the "Grand Prize" in relation to having a partner who is white. Do you think that black LGBTQ men are still seeking that grand prize to be a part of the majority, or is the message changing with the younger generations of black gay men? How does racism tie into the grand prize concept?

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://wp.me/p22M41-2sX>

Sochi Olympics: Kick butt & take names

By: Dan Woog*/Special to TRT



Another year, another threatened Olympic boycott.

As Russia criminalizes LGBT people — a new law threatens jail for anyone even acknowledging gay people on the Internet or in a classroom — a broad swath of people has called for a boycott of the Winter Games in Sochi. The Olympics begin on Feb. 7, 2014.

The list of boycott advocates includes current and former athletes, human rights organizations and Russian activists. Tony Award-winning Broadway star Harvey Fierstein's fiery op-ed piece in the New York Times helped fan the flames.

But support for a boycott is hardly universal. And many of those opposed to such a step are gay themselves.

Openly gay American figure skater Johnny

In 1936 it was the Nazis. In 1980, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. 1984 brought retaliation for 1980. This year, it's treatment of gay people.

"... it's absolutely embarrassing that there are countries and people who are that intolerant and that ignorant,"
— Bode Miller

Weir calls Russia's anti-gay laws "heart-breaking and a travesty of international proportions." However, he says, "there isn't a police officer or a government that, should I qualify, could keep me from competing at the Olympics."

Weir has a special dog in this fight. He is married to a Russian man.

John Carlos agrees. He too has an intriguing perspective. In 1968 — after placing third in the 200-meter race at Mexico City — Carlos and gold medal winner Tommie Smith raised black-gloved fists during the American national anthem. Smith described the act as a "human rights salute," not the "Black Power" gesture it was assumed to be. But the overtly political act has resonated since then.

Carlos says, "If you stay home, your message stays home with you. If you stand for justice and equality, you have an obligation to find the biggest possible megaphone to let your feelings be known. Don't let your message be buried and

don't bury yourself. To be heard is to be greater than a boycott. Had we stayed home,

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://tiny.cc/svk35w>

GLBT Trip to Cuba: Educational & Humanitarian Opportunity

A unique GLBT trip to Cuba, "Diversity in Cuba," is expected to take place from May 8-19, 2014. Latino organizer and scholar, Wilfred Labiosa, PhDc, will be the trip's key coordinator.

This year, the program will follow the calendar of events of the *Cuban National Campaign Against Homophobia* and tour cities and towns from Havana to Santiago.

Molly, a 2012 participant recognized the benefits of such an experience.

"I went last year and it was an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience. Mr. Labiosa knows Cuba's LGBT diverse community inside out. He knows the people, the history, nightlife, and culture. He knows how to see Cuba. I highly recommend this trip."


The outing will begin with days spent in Havana and will include stops in the towns of

Santa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Bayamo, and Holguin, and conclude in Santiago de Cuba. Experience the culture, lives, and community of this vibrant emerging GLBT movement. Participants in the program will meet with some of the most involved and outstanding GLBT leaders and allies, including artists, community organizers, spiritual leaders, educators, writers, bloggers, musicians, social workers, psychologists, and sexologists, involved in the Campaign and the GLBT Cuban Society.

To participate in this GLBT adventure or to find out more, email gltcuba@gmail.com.

The trip, organized by Wilfred Labiosa and P & G Travel, meets all U.S. Federal regulations. P & G Travel, the travel company offering quality travel planning solutions since 1998 to unique regions of the world.

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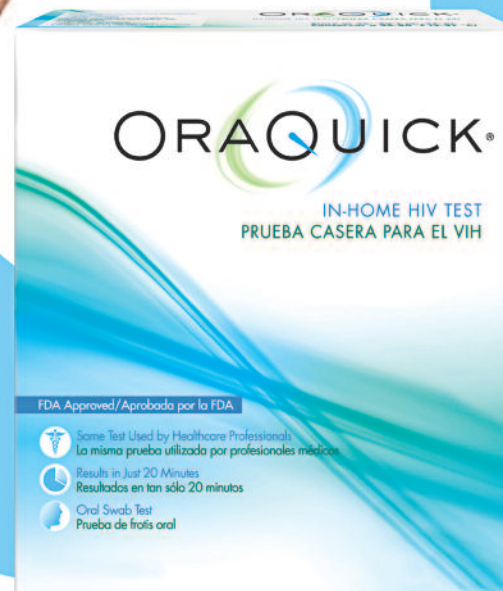
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