

# The Rainbow Times

Your LGBTQ News in MA, RI, North Central CT & Southern VT

Year 3, Vol. 9 • Oct. 1 - Nov. 4, 2009

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

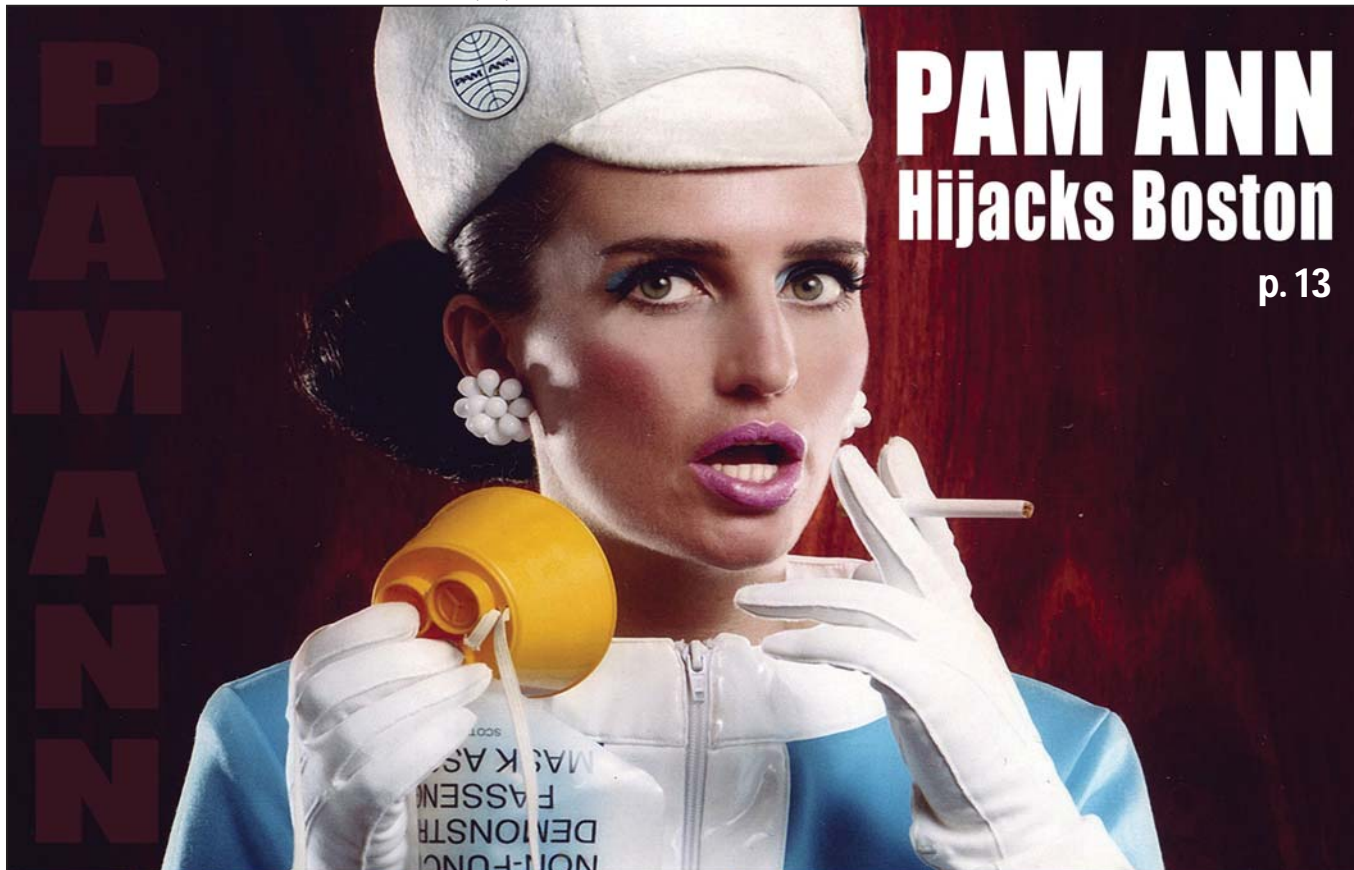
**FREE!**

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## Opinions

## Medford: Hatred in our backyard

**By: Grisel M. Ocasio** *TRT Publisher*  
Last month I was appalled to have received pictures that depicted more LGBT hatred in the form of "God's words and commands" by the New England Baptist Church, Salem St., in Medford, Ma. I wrote to the Medford Human Rights Commission's office, not merely as TRT and NightTime's publisher, but as a concerned citizen of the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Knowing that people who live just five minutes from Boston experienced such levels of hatred from a religious organization's signboard message reminded me of the KKK signs that I often saw in Cullman, AL. But, it does not only happen in AL. Ignorance is found anywhere—even in New England.

What I will never understand is how people call us sinners for living our lives as God has created and made us. I never expect people to fully understand, but I do not tolerate hatred either. Such are the constant covert and cowardly attacks on the lives of our community members. These messages carry more than just "religious" reformation as a meaning. They are enveloped by alleged

messages and judgment from a God that teaches nothing like that. Yet, this is done in "the name of God." But, who gives another human being (sinners at that, for we all sin at one time or another) the right to demean our lives, the lives of our loved ones, or to judge me for the natural act of loving someone of the same sex? Is there not some type of hypocrisy behind such messages?

A photo of the church's hate-filled signboard posted in Medford Square was posted on TRT's website immediately on Sept. 15, 2009. My email to the HRC's Office called for immediate action from their part. The church's message of loathing inflicted yet another "straight" blow to our LGBTQI community. Such expressions have been and are often misconstrued by others who are ignorant to our struggles. Others have taken similar messages against other groups, as our history has depicted, as a green light to mistake its already twisted meaning. And, others, like Eric Patten, have. Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley has taken it as extreme as Patten's acts were, according

See *Hatred in Medford* on Page 4

## C'mon Out – Just Ask! Advice column

**By: Tetty Gorfine\***

*Dear Ms. Gorfine:*  
*My relationship broke up five months ago. I did not want to break up with my girlfriend but she insisted that her feelings changed and that she was no longer in love with me. It's been five months and I can't seem to pull myself out of this depression. My friends say that I should get out there, meet new women and move on with my life. But I just can't do that. She is still on my mind all the time but I think I'm all messed up because I can't do what my friends say I should. Am I some kind of weirdo or what? Can you tell me anything I can do to feel better? Thanks, MJ*

**Dear MJ:**  
I am sorry for your loss. Break ups are always tough. People have different ways of coping with loss. There is no correct way to grieve. Each person does so in their own way.

Depression is a very common response to loss. How could it not be when you have lost someone dear to you? When you are in the position of not wanting the break up, it puts you in a position of vulnerability. You must not only come to terms with the loss of the person, but the hopes and dreams you had for that relationship. Often, people who have built lives with each other are also facing the loss of that life. This may include your partner's family, shared friends, things you did together, and much more. Grieving is not a simple and quick process.

Sometimes people want to bypass their grief and quickly move on to another lover. In the short run this may help this person not to feel the pain of the loss. Usually this process also bypasses the process of coming to terms with what went wrong



TETTY GORFINE

in the relationship. It interrupts the possibility of understanding more about yourself and the relationship. Only when we explore and understand the things that did not go well, are we given the possibility of not repeating the challenges the previous relationship encountered.

There may be times when people do not move on from their loss and hold on to the person who has left them. Endings can sometimes bring up other unresolved losses. Sometimes people can not let go because they are stuck in something that is not about the present. MJ, I am not saying that I think this is the case for you. Five months is not a long time to grieve. In time, should you find yourself not able let go, you might want to consider what is holding you back.

Trusting yourself and your process is key to grieving. We live in a world where "big" feelings are discouraged. Loss therefore, is something from which we should quickly get past. The truth is, if you give yourself time to feel it all even though it might hurt, it will allow you to truly move on, free from leftover issues of this recent relationship.

I wish you the best MJ. May this loss help you open, soften and grow. Tetty

*Hi Tetty:*

*I am in a wonderful new relationship with a woman. The only problem for me is that she is bisexual. I have been with two other women who were bisexual and my experiences have not been good. Ultimately they both ended up in relationships with men! I think they used me for some sort of personal*

See *C'mon Out* on Page 23

## The Controversial Couch

*Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something*

**By: Suzan Ambrose** *TRT Columnist*

**E**lton John: pop star, diva, knight ... father? Not in a million years if the Ukrainian government has their way. Could this be the end of the Yellow Brick Road for his Daddy plans?

A few weeks ago, Elton John and his long-time partner David Furnish were visiting a Ukrainian orphanage when their "hearts were stolen" by a 14-month old HIV-positive boy named Lev.

John, 62, who previously had never wanted children, said that they were "really taken" by Lev. This famous gay couple decided they would like to adopt him, HIV and all.

But wait just a cotton-pickin', GuessThat'sWhyTheyCallIt TheBlues moment; Elton John is too old, says the government. Adoptive parents can be not more than 45 years older than the child they wish to adopt.

Too old? Did anyone say that when Mel Gibson proclaimed himself an octo-dad recently with the 7 or 8 kids he's popped out? Or fairly old guy David Letterman? How about really, really old guy Tony Randall? Elton is sweet sixteen compared to them.

In addition, the government says, he is not married. Single people can't adopt. No matter the British rocker was one of the first to take



the same-sex plunge down the aisle in England. He's not recognized as a legal matrimonial product there.

Gay marriage: it's not the other white meat.

What are the churches of Ukraine saying? Surely, they must recognize that all children deserve a happy life, especially those who are hard to place. The joy of someone, anyone, stepping forward to say that they would be willing to care for a sick and impoverished child should be enough to elate the Creator's spokespeople ... right?

Hear it is, straight (and I do say that quite literally!) from the mouthpiece himself. Spokesman Father Gulyaev of the Donetsk Diocese of the Orthodox Church said: "Thank God it's impossible under Ukrainian law for Elton John to adopt a child. The Church is strictly against same-sex marriages, the damage they cause. It is a sin, it is against nature, and it represents the dead end of human development."

Now gay marriage is the end of human development? Perhaps we should be using it to counter terrorism, or used in military situations, since it apparently can destroy everything and anything in its path.

See *Couch* on Page 5

## Letters to the Editor

**Dear Editor,**

I wanted to express my disgust with the way Lorelei Erisis talked back and forth about the trans man Beaty, or the man Beaty. These are the problems that I disagree with in the trans community. You're a trans man if you're not a biological man, period. It sounds like the question struck a nerve. I think that there's too much trans stuff in TRT anyway.

—Jack M. Florence, MA

**Dear Editor,**

My name is Ms. Leslie-Anne Rios. I was the Miss Trans Northampton Pageant 1st runner-up. I want to thank you as Editor and the writer of the article (year 3, Vol.8; page 21) covering the evening. That article was excellent, as were previous mentions in your paper leading up to the Pageant. Thanks also for columns by Deja Greenlaw & Lorelei. We all worked so hard to make that happen, especially the owner, founder and hostess Christa Hilfers. Congrats to the winner Lorelei Erisis; had I been a judge, honestly I would have crowned her as well. As a male to female Transsexual, born in Westfield, I spent most of my life in the closet, in fear and doubt and yet all the while dreaming of a world where I could just be myself and participate in something fun and cool like that pageant. Maybe that "world" was there all the time and I just could not see it. But I see it now, and it is good! I really appreciate all those people who bought tickets, who showed up and cheered us on, who donated time and things, who sat on the judges-panel, who helped backstage with clothes, make-up and lining us

See *Letters to Editor* on Page 9

## The Rainbow Times

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# GLBTQ Online High School: The future e-classroom

By: Grisel M. Ocasio/TRT Publisher

"Until every public and private high school in the United States ensures that every gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender young adult can receive a good education in an environment that is safe for them physically and emotionally, and the diversity they represent, there will be a critical need for an alternative for these young people to get an education" said Brian McNaught, a Massachusetts resident who serves in the GLBTQ Online High School Board of Advisors.

A new alternative for the GLBTQ community, the GLBTQ Online High School's mission is to "provide a safe and welcoming educational community that provides a high quality, comprehensive college-preparatory online high school experience for students who are GLBTQ (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning their sexual orientation or gender) using the best technology and techniques of distance education."

According to the GLBTQ Online High School's Executive Director, David Glick, the idea for the GLBTQ Online High School was first launched in November, 2008.

"It came out of my experience in virtual

schools and my passion for populations that have been neglected and disenfranchised by our current educational system," said Glick, who not only possesses online experience, but has been in K-12 education for over 25 years and has worked extensively with public, private, and charter schools in a variety of roles, including teacher, curriculum coordinator, and staff development coordinator. "In addition to eliminating the negatives of possible harassment and abuse that is all too common in our schools, we will also provide support services and opportunities for positive socializing, in addition to our instructional program."

The GLBTQ Online High School is not your typical online program often associated with higher education programs. These are courses that would leave online computer university programs in awe. Produced by FYI Online, a creator of next-generation courses, the online experience is enhanced to the maximum. FYI's Teacher Space™ program is "one-of-a-kind" tailoring the curriculum, which is especially created for teachers. Its platform allows teachers to personalize their courses creatively and use a series of media

tools that appeal to a broad spectrum of students. The platform includes video, glossary, chart creation, blogging, multimedia, wiki and notes tools, sample document templates, and more. Such a platform promotes a richer experience, both for the teacher and the student alike. To view a sample online classroom, visit: <http://cms.fyio.com/ViewCourse.aspx>

The HS will work with the needs of each student in either a part-time or full-time setting, according to its website's content. Furthermore, the school offers a full high school diploma - not a GED. The school offers a guarantee that its credits and diploma will be accepted by colleges and universities. With on-going enrollment, students can advance at their own pace, based on the individualized learning plan developed with the GLBTQ Online High School advisor and the student's parent or guardian, if applicable.

"Once we open in January, [2010] we will operate on a rolling-enrollment basis," said Glick, whom for six years has been an independent consultant specializing in helping schools develop K-12 online learning programs for students and teachers. "Students

will be able to start classes any day of the year and complete them at their own pace. We will operate all-year round."

This ideal and virtual environment seems to be ideal for today's GLBTQ students. However, a recent poll conducted by TRT revealed that 78 percent of respondents oppose the idea of such an online high school. Alex Morse, Brown University student and founder of the first Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) in Holyoke High School concurs with the poll results.

"While I think it is important to create safe spaces for GLBTQ youth/students, I think we must focus on making mainstream schools safe for all students," said Morse, who works as a Youth Career Counselor for Career Point, and is the President of the Holyoke GLBTQ Task Force. "GLBTQ youth should not have to enroll in an online high school to prevent bullying, discrimination, and harassment. All students deserve the 'high school experience' - and GLBT students should not accept anything less. We deserve to attend schools with our straight counterparts and feel safe and empowered doing so. Therefore, this high

See GLBTQ on Page 19

## umass fine arts center CENTER SERIES 2009-2010

### ORQUESTRA DE SÃO PAULO WITH DAME EVELYN GLENNIE

October 18, 7 PM | Concert Hall  
One of Brazil's most celebrated classical musical ensembles performs with the extraordinary percussionist, Dame Evelyn Glennie under the baton of rising star conductor 29-year-old Kazem Abdullah. The evening's program includes the world premier of Concerto No. 2 for Percussion & Orchestra by Brazilian composer Marlos Nobre plus Alberto Nepomuceno's Villa-Lobos, and Bartok. Pre-performance talk by Mount Holyoke music professor Eric Benjamin from 6:15 - 6:45 PM in the University Gallery. Global Gourmet: Prix Fixe dinner at the University Club & Restaurant. Call 545-2511 for details. Sponsored by El Sol Latino and Fathers & Sons

### DAN ZANES & FRIENDS: Family Dance Party

Friday, October 23, 7 PM, Concert Hall  
The Grammy-Award Winner is joined by his "beautifully scruffy, harmonically precise, spirited, and better-than-ever band" and they'll be singing songs in both English and Spanish with their own homespun style. The Arts Give Back: Please bring a book to donate to Link to Libraries ([www.linktolibraries.org](http://www.linktolibraries.org)). Pre-Show Party: Please come at 6 PM for our annual pre-show party for families. Join the staff of FamilyFun Magazine for hands-on craft activities, Baystate Health's Bandy Bear, and healthy snacks for everyone while they last. Sponsored by Baystate Medical Practices, Disney FamilyFun Magazine, UMass Alumni Association, Whole Foods and The River 93.9FM

### DAFNIS PRIETO SEXTET

October 22, 7:30 PM | Bowker Auditorium  
Within a short period of time Dafnis Prieto's revolutionary drumming technique has had a powerful impact on both the Latin and jazz music scene. Funded in part by the Expeditions program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies.

Sponsored by El Sol Latino and WFCR/WNNZ

### AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE: ROMEO AND JULIET BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Tuesday, November 3, 7:30 PM, Bowker Auditorium  
Dance, athleticism, and swordplay share the stage with sonnets, bawdy wit, and soul-searching speeches in this profoundly human and always surprising masterpiece. \$20; Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$10  
Pre-performance talk by Professor Arthur Kinney from 6:30 - 7:00 PM in Bowker Auditorium. Co-presented with the Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies. Sponsored by The River 93.9FM



To purchase tickets please call 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS or visit [fineartscenter.com](http://fineartscenter.com)

## In 'The Name of God'

### Hatred in Medford from Page 2

to reports from the Cape Cod Times, Sept. 24, Coakley's office filed a "civil rights" injunction against gay basher Eric Patten. The order forbids Patten from violating the civil rights of the two lesbians he beat up this summer in Provincetown and it further prohibits him to act in such or similar manner towards other people in Massachusetts based on actual or perceived sexual orientation. Are people who are thought to have an actual or perceived sexual orientation what the New England Baptist Church is after? Some



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may agree, although based on their new sign, I believe that may not be the case. The pressure the church received in the form of emails and approaches by the city of Medford's HRC Office appears to have hit a nerve. The church's reply almost points to the "we are the victims" type of behavior. The second sign reads: "Your problem is with God and the Bible, NOT this church!" But, the problem was always theirs. What non-sense this is? They would not have received such heat from others, had they not started such defamatory rhetoric.

When TRT approached the Medford

HRC's Director, Diane McLeod, she was clear about the town's welcoming atmosphere.

"The Medford Human Rights Commission along with city officials, individuals, and organizations in the community do not condone public statements that demean or condemn any one or any group of individuals in our community. We strive to welcome all persons to Medford and hope to promote understanding and tolerance to create a positive community spirit. Those who choose to publicly condemn others will have their voices drowned out by the masses who work for tolerance and understanding," said McLeod.

And, although McLeod is right, the hate message was also protected by the right of speech in our own Constitution. Even so, I applaud McLeod's firm stance on the situation (printed on TRT's website, click at the end of this story to be redirected to it). It is about acceptance and understanding, not really about tolerance. For instance, the words "I have no tolerance for hatred" is not the same as asking others to "tolerate" our lives or have tolerance for them. I do not seek tolerance. I seek understanding, true Christian love, equality, fairness, etc. If churches are looking for sinners, they have plenty of fish in the sea to grab on to from all walks of life. But, they are not targeting all of the sinners at this church. And, that is why



we must remain vigilant. We must stay alert and protect ourselves, especially in the places where we feel free to be ourselves. Life as a member of the LGBT community is anything but a utopia, even in New England, especially in New England!

To read a copy of the letter sent by the Medford HRC Office with signatures of the organizations/people who joined against this church's signboard, visit: [www.therainbow-timesmass.com/medford](http://www.therainbow-timesmass.com/medford)

Best in Pride,

*Grisel M. Ocasio*

# TOPS & BOTTOMS WANTED

FENWAY HEALTH IS SEEKING HIV-NEGATIVE MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN TO PARTICIPATE IN A VACCINE TRIAL TO DETERMINE THE SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AN INVESTIGATIONAL HIV VACCINE.

WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: HIV-NEGATIVE MEN, AGES 18-45, WHO HAVE BEEN A TOP OR BOTTOM IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS. VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR THEIR TIME AND TRAVEL EXPENSES, AS WELL AS CONFIDENTIAL HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING.

YOU CANNOT GET HIV FROM THIS INVESTIGATIONAL HIV VACCINE.

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING.

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER GO TO [WWW.FENWAYHEALTH.ORG/HIVVACCINES](http://WWW.FENWAYHEALTH.ORG/HIVVACCINES) OR CALL 617.927.6450

FENWAY  HEALTH



## What A Trip! International LGBT Film Fest offers First Class Films from Around The World

*Out! For Reel*, New England's popular lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender film series, presents the International LGBT Film Fest, on Saturday, October 17, 7:30 p.m., at *Northampton High School Auditorium*, Northampton, MA. An impressive variety of short films will be screened from seven different countries, with talented LGBT filmmakers weaving captivating stories about love, acceptance, politics, and family.

"This festival brings the whole LGBT community together and offers us an expansive feeling of international community," says Jaime Michaels, producer of *Out! For Reel*. "LGBT folks are everywhere - we all know that - but these films remind us of that both in powerful and lighthearted ways."

The award-winning films range from fun-loving Australian queer tango dancers to a South Korean sister befriending her transgendered sister, to an inspiring South African butch lesbian activist, to adorable gay men falling in love in a fairy tale, to women of different classes falling in love unexpectedly in a salsa class in Germany, to an adolescent boy's poignant struggle to come out in Northern Ireland, to older Swiss women delightfully discovering love again in France.

"There's something for everyone," states Michaels. "We worked hard to select films exploring a wide spectrum of LGBT experiences from a variety of cultures and countries using a variety of film techniques and genres."

"What an exciting and fun opportunity we

have to watch so many compelling, funny, and inspiring LGBT films from all over the world," says Char Gentes, an *Out! For Reel* volunteer. "It's going to be an amazing night."

Now in its second season, *Out! For Reel*'s film events have proven wildly popular, drawing over 5,000 attendees from all over New England within the last year.

"Our season kick off event sold out the Academy of Music Theatre with 800 people attending and many more had to be turned away. *Out! For Reel* events are so much more than showing movies - they are happy, high energy surges of connection for our community," says Michaels.

Tickets prices are \$11.50 in advance, \$13.00 at the door, and \$9 for college students with ID and special \$8 tickets for High School Students sold at the door only or through advance group sales through gay-straight alliances.

Because many previous shows have sold out, advance tickets are strongly recommended. For Online Tickets and more information visit [www.OutForReel.org](http://www.OutForReel.org). Ticket Outlets are *Pride & Joy*, Northampton; *Food For Thought Books*, Amherst; *World Eye Bookshop*, Greenfield; *The Odyssey Bookshop*, South Hadley. *Out! For Reel*, based in Northampton, Massachusetts, screens the best in award-winning lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender films from around the world on a monthly basis during a ten month season, beginning each year in September.

## TRT Tell them you saw their ad here!

### Couch from Page 2

And, unbelievably so, here is what an Agence France-Presse story said about the adoption plans, as reported by the Christian Science Monitor:

*"They are going to destroy this child's life," said Oleg, a 29-year-old serviceman from the area of the orphanage who only gave his first name.*

*"They will make him camp, just like they are. He is HIV positive, the best thing they could do is leave him to live out the rest of his life in peace."*

*"He will be seen as a pansy from the start and will become one without doubt."*

Does anyone else feel sick of people like this making the connection that being gay is catchy or contagious? God knows, I tried hard enough to "pass it on" to a few of the college cuties I had a hard-on over, but they never "caught" it from me.

No, I don't think it's because he's too old or too single; I think it's about being too gay.

Ben & Jerry's have come out with a new ice cream flavor to raise money for the Elton John Aids Foundation. This man is truly making a difference in the lives of people with AIDS, and wants to go even one step further by being a dad. No different from Angelina or Madonna, except he's too ... old?

The only way that it would be possible for the singer and his partner to adopt would be if the Ukrainian parliament changed the law. And that has about as much chance of happening as George Bush developing a working brain.

Age and marital status shouldn't be factors that seal the fate of children when someone goes to adopt. Young lives hang in the balance.

*Rocket Man*, we hold a *Candle in the Wind* for your endeavors.

\* *Suzan Ambrose is often seen swimming at the local area pool or dancing like a wild banshee when she's not writing diligently for the Rainbow Times.*

## Out! FOR REEL

LGBT film series

## International LGBT Film Fest

### SAT OCTOBER 17th



7:30 pm Northampton High Auditorium  
380 Elm Street Northampton

LGBT films from around the world:  
USA, Ireland, Australia, South Africa,  
Argentina, Switzerland, South Korea

\$11.50 Advance / \$13 Door / \$9 College Students w/ID  
\$8 High School Students at Door Only

TICKETS: *Pride & Joy*, Northampton / *Food For Thought Books*, Amherst  
*World Eye Bookshop*, Greenfield / *The Odyssey Bookshop*, South Hadley

MORE INFO + TICKETS ONLINE: [www.OutForReel.org](http://www.OutForReel.org)

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## Trans Opinions & More

# Ask a TransWoman: Get answers to all of your trans questions

Hi Lorelei,

*I'm genuinely confused with the trans community vocabulary. Could you explain the differences between transgender, transsexual, gender queer, gender fluid, cisgender and cross dresser?*

—Confused Gay Man, Jamaica Plains, MA

Hi Confused Gay Man,

You catch me in a deliriously good mood my Gay friend!! As I write this, I've got some fine Zydeco music playing in the background. I've been crowned Miss Trans Northampton. I finally overcame the creepingly pervasive anti-trans discrimination to get not just a job, but a Good Job! AND I scored a fabulous apartment with an amazing view in Downtown Holyoke!!!!

Life is good! But, the struggle for LGBT Equality never stops, must never cease! So I've fired up "Sylvia" my aging but trusty old PowerBook and I'm ready to answer your question! It's a really good one this month too! Certainly a big enough one to warrant an entire column of its own!

Don't get me wrong, it's a tough question. Real tough. And, I'm probably going to get myself in some very serious trouble, but here goes...

"Trans community vocabulary."

You could not have asked about a more divisive and hotly contested topic as this one my rightfully confused Gay friend. I myself have participated in some knock-down, drag-out discussions about the meanings and proper usage of these terms. There is often very little agreement even inside the community about the language we use. I personally think it is one of the things that divide us most deeply as a community.

But I'm the petty dictator with a newspaper column so I'm going to give it to you straight (-ish, -esque??) to the best of my own ability and understanding. My advance apologies to those I may offend, but if you were the kind of folks who wanted the clean and sanitized Webster's definitions you wouldn't be reading this column!!

Now strap yourselves in 'cause here we go!!!

"Transgender" is the most all encompassing of the words listed here. Broadly it is often used to refer to the entire spectrum of the Trans community. Kind of a useful catch-all, which I believe is helpful in uniting us, wherever on the spectrum we may lie, as Brothers and Sisters. Although to be fair, I have spoken with folks at either extreme, Transsexuals and Cross Dressers both, who most definitely felt that the term did not apply to them.

Simply it can be defined as a person who has transitioned from one gender to another.

Specifically it is also often applied to Trans people who have transitioned using a method other than GRS (Gender Reassignment Surgery), such as hormones, plastic surgery, simple presentation or any other old thing up to but not necessarily excluding GRS (formerly referred to as SRS or Sexual Reassignment Surgery, in case you were wondering).

Cisgender is a way of referring to non-trans folks without needing to use negative terminology, like "non-trans" or judgmental terminology like "normal" or "natural" which tend to degrade transpeople and paint us as the "other." It's a fairly new term, which comes originally from the terminology of the scientific world. "Cis" meaning, "on this



Lorelei Erisis\*

side of." So, a cisgendered individual is a person who identifies as the same gender they were assigned at birth.

My good friend and fellow adventurer Sky, who identifies as a "biological female" takes particular offense to this term and has come up with a brilliant and entirely new way to describe the particular

nuances of the gender spectrum that I really quite like, but it tends toward the Algebraic, so I'll have to leave that for another column.

It's worth mentioning here though that many cisgender folks I have encountered strongly resent being labeled as such. They dislike the idea that others might presume to define them, to put labels on them without their consent or input.

I'll just let that one sit with you and digest a little.

A Transsexual is a person who has transitioned or feels the need to transition, by means of GRS in addition to all of the other means I listed in relation to Transgender folks. Basically, your more traditional "Christine Jorgensen Model" transperson.

This is the category that mainstream society is probably most familiar with, due to the plethora of Discovery Channel Documentaries and Lifetime Original Movies on the subject that has been surfacing in the last few years.

This one falls apart a little too though, because some folks who fit the Transgender model I listed, who may or may not go for full GRS also consider themselves to be Transsexual. Myself included.

At the other end of the spectrum we have Cross-Dressers. I'm not going to be a fool and say this one is simple, I'd get crucified I'm sure, but put simply these are folks who identify as one gender and like or prefer to present as another. Whether as a fetish, a lifestyle or just because they think Glittering Ballgowns/Stylish Tuxedos are more fabulous than their everyday togs!!

Cross Dressers tend to get looked down upon by the rest of the community because we often have difficulty understanding them. I find this terribly unfortunate as I have known some cross dressers who are absolutely fantastic, well-balanced folks that I am proud to include as an integral part of our community. Plus, if we lose them, we lose Eddie Izzard!! Who I happen to think is one of the smartest comedians I've seen and completely brilliant!!

Although I ID as Transsexual/Transgender, I thought that maybe I was a Cross-Dresser myself for many years. It took a lot of self-reflection and the discovery that I was actually just an exceptionally glamorous and somewhat kinky woman who's never been very good at "the casual look" to figure out that I wasn't. At least not entirely. I have been flirting with some Drag King Performance ideas,

but that's a fun little gender deconstruction that might have to wait...

Feeling even more confused yet? Yes, No? No worries my friends, stay with me, I've got a steady hand on the tiller.

At last we come to Gender Queer, Gender Fluid and all their ilk. This category is probably the newest and I think the most exciting!! But then, I like a good adventure!!

This includes all the Grrrls, Bois, zhes, hers, herms, etc. that you'll run across in the street and at the hipper nightclubs. As a group, they tend to skew a little younger than the other categories. They are people who grew up in a world where the other older trans folks were already becoming more visible. People who were kids watching Sesame Street when Ellen had her "Coming Out" episode. They are kids for whom RuPaul and Rocky Horror are ancient news, who were steeped in Jerry Springer, Emo music, "Hedwig and The Angry Inch," metrosexual as a norm and *RainbowBrite0989@yahoo.com* as a name.

Now they are twentysomethings and almost twentysomethings, who read Kate Bornstein's "Gender Outlaw" as their introduction to all things Trans!! And they could give a flying fig about what you think Gender is! They'll be what they darn well feel like, when they feel like it, whether the rest of us like it or not! They might be a boy in the morning, a girl at night or neither or even other!! Often all of the above!

Frankly, and I'm sure you can tell, I find them wildly exciting!!

And as for their sexuality???? If you refuse to conform to the gender binary, what do terms like Homo, Hetero, or even Bi-Sexual even mean!!!! They're hardly applicable anymore. Everything is up in the air! Ready for re-definition!!!!

Make no mistake, it's a revolution, but I think it's the inevitable extension of the principles that we in the older LGBT Community have been fighting for all along!!

They are simply taking the message we have been preaching, "To be yourself and be proud," to its logical extension.

So there you have it. I hope I've managed to clear things up a little for you all. I realize none of it is simple, but what in life is? I happen to believe that life is wonderful, rich and complex!! Much like the mysterious but tasty stews my Gram used to make. And I trust your intelligence enough to not water it down for you my fine and friendly readers!

So please, keep your questions coming!! I know you might still be afraid to ask, you might think your questions are offensive or just plain dumb. And, maybe they are. But I know you've got them and you have my word that all askers will remain anonymous because I love you.

Although I wouldn't turn down a drink at the bar as thanks if you happen to bump into me out in the world!!! Slainte!!!!

\* To contact Lorelei, please email her at: [loireleieris@therainbowtimesmass.com](mailto:loireleieris@therainbowtimesmass.com)

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# Boston Living Center celebrates life and community service at upcoming annual Thanksgiving event

By: Lisa A. Eramo, TRT's Reporter

Celebrating life and friends is what the *Boston Living Center* (BLC)-New England's largest community center for those living with HIV and AIDS-is all about. And it's also the theme of the organization's annual Celebration of Life Thanksgiving event to be held on Tuesday, November 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston.

The event, which corresponds with the BLC's 20th anniversary, includes a traditional Thanksgiving dinner as well as live entertainment and a look back at 20 years of community service. Boston's Mayor Thomas Menino will speak during the dinner, and Liz Walker, former TV news anchor, will host the event.

Last year, Celebration of Life drew approximately 600 people. This year, it's likely to draw as many as 1,000, says Marc Davino, director of development.

"We would love to have people come from far and wide," he says, adding that anyone living with HIV or AIDS-as well as their loved ones-can attend. Guests must RSVP no later than November 16 to ensure a spot.

And tickets will be going quickly, says Scott Galinsky, BLC member. "People wait for the



Photos courtesy of the Boston Living Center.

event all year long. They talk about it for weeks afterwards. It's really an event not to be missed."

The Celebration of Life event reflects the BLC's longtime history of serving meals to those with HIV and AIDS. Today, the meals

program-a collaborative effort with the Red Cross-serves approximately 40,000 meals annually and continues to be the organization's cornerstone effort, says Davino.

Like all services at the BLC, the Celebration of Life event is free. "It's the largest fundraiser we put on, although it's very unique because we don't charge a ticket and there's no auction," says Davino.

The Hynes Convention Center donates the space for the event, and approximately 300 volunteers donate their time. Nearly half of the volunteers serve food directly to the guests. Each server participates in the TIPS program, which stands for 'Thanksgiving is People Serving.' The program requires each server to raise at least \$200. Last year, the TIPS program generated \$14,000. The BLC hopes it will bring in \$20,000 this year, says Davino.

All of the food is donated as well, says Michael Bacon, director of nutritional services. The BLC typically reaches out to local restaurants, hotels, and catering companies to solicit food donations-and the response is usually overwhelming, he says.

In particular, the Adams Chapman Company

See BLC on Page 11

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## Creep of the Week Winner

### Federation of Gay Games: Cleveland to host the 2014 Gay Games IX, Boston loses

Boston, Cleveland, and Washington, DC were finalists for 2014 Gay Games. And, the announcement came in strong and solid. Cleveland, OH was selected as the host of the 2014 Gay Games. The announcement came at 12:30 EST from Cologne, Germany on Sept. 29. A press conference followed in Cologne, Germany, 1:30 p.m.

"We congratulate Cleveland and wish them success in 2014. We are proud of the bid we put forth and would have been honored to host the Gay Games—an incredible event that boosts the local economy by bringing thousands of tourists to the city. Boston would have been a great fit, but the Gay Games found a wonderful home in Cleveland and they will do very well as hosts," said Boston, MA Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

"We congratulate Cleveland on their win. We had a tremendous team and we stand by the proposal we presented," said Linda De Marco, Co-Chair of the Boston 2014 team. "We want to thank the Mayor and the Governor for their full support and effort, but unfortunately in this economic time, we cannot provide public dollars to go in the table for 2014 where as Cleveland was able to do that. We're proud of the team presentation that we did and how we represented Boston."



The announcement and press conference took place at the Wolkenburg, located at Mauritiussteinweg 59, Cologne, Germany.

The Gay Games is a quadrennial sports and cultural festival founded in 1982 by Olympic decathlete Dr. Tom Waddell. Drawing as many as 12,000 participants, more than the Olympics, Gay Games have been held in San Francisco (1982, 1986), Vancouver (1990), New York (1994), Amsterdam (1998), Sydney (2002), and Chicago (2006).

The 2010 Gay Games will take place in Cologne, Germany, from July 31st to August 7, 2010. For information on the 2010 Gay Games, visit [www.games-cologne.com](http://www.games-cologne.com).

The FGG selected the 2014 Gay Games IX host from three finalists: Boston Massachusetts (USA); Cleveland, Ohio (USA) and Washington, DC (USA).

## Creep of the Week: Michael D. Duvall

By: D'Anne Witkowski

Oh, open microphones, you career ending menaces, you. Why must you insist on amplifying the voices of insolent, disgusting, hypocritical assholes like Michael D. Duvall?

In case you are unfamiliar, Duvall represents Orange County in the California Assembly and last year was a strong opponent of marriage equality for gays and lesbians.

According to OC Weekly, two days after Duvall was put "on the Rules Committee that oversees member ethics - the second-term, conservative, Republican assemblyman sat in a public hearing and vividly described lewd details about his trysts with a female lobbyist whose clients had business before another committee on which Duvall sits."

Duvall is the vice chairman of the Utilities & Commerce committee and the female lobbyist in question works for an energy company.

How vividly?

"She wears little eye-patch underwear," he tells fellow Republican Jeff Miller. "So, the other day she came here with her underwear, Thursday. And so, we had made love Wednesday - a lot! And so she'll, she's all, 'I am going up and down the stairs, and you're dripping out of me! So messy!'"

Now, I am not an underwear expert. But what is "eye-patch underwear" and how does one wear it? Is she wearing underwear on her face? Or does she have an eye in her nether regions? I am confused about this woman's anatomy.

He continues, "So, I am getting into spanking her. Yeah, I like it. I like spanking her. She goes, 'I know you like spanking me.' I said, 'Yeah! Because you're such a bad girl!'"

Duvall also talked about a second ongoing

affair. According to the OC: "Oh, she is hot! I talked to her yesterday. She goes, 'So are we finished?' I go, 'No, we're not finished.' I go, 'You know about the other one, but she doesn't know about you!'"

Uh, now she does. And Duvall's wife and two children do, too.

"Duvall," OC Weekly reports, "apparently had no idea his dais microphone became live beginning about a minute before the start of a cable-televvised committee."

Yes. Apparently.

On Sept. 9, Duvall posted an apology on his Web site, along with news that he was resigning. But he admitted no wrong doing.

"I am deeply saddened that my inappropriate comments have become a major distraction for my colleagues in the assembly," the statement reads. "I have come to the conclusion that it would not be fair to my family, my constituents or to my friends on both sides of the aisle to remain in office."

How noble of him.

"I want to make it clear that my decision to resign is in no way an admission that I had an affair or affairs. My offense was engaging in inappropriate storytelling and I regret my language and choice of words. The resulting media coverage was proving to be an unneeded distraction to my colleagues and I resigned in the hope that my decision would allow them to return to the business of the state."

You see? Duvall was just taking one for the team. A man with class to spare until the end.

\* 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 and roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister and teaches writing at the University of Michigan.

## Speakers, Performers Announced for New England Trans United Pride

Regional March Set to Step Off on October 3

Northampton, MA—The organizers of the New England Trans United (NETU) Pride March and Rally ([www.newenglandtransunited.org](http://www.newenglandtransunited.org)) have announced a preliminary list of speakers and performers for the event. The march, which will step off at noon on October 3 at Lampron Park and proceed down Main Street in Northampton, MA, is being planned around the theme "Live Out Loud" to encourage pride in gender identity as expressed by individuals in the transgender community.

The rally, which will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Armory Street lot, will include a variety of political speakers, transgender activists, and performers. Among those slated to appear are entertainer Tammy Twotone as MC; Northampton Mayor Mary Clare Higgins; City Councilor At Large and mayoral candidate Michael Bardsley; Gunner Scott, director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition; trans activist and minister Louis Mitchell of Recovering the Promise Ministries; and Ethan St. Pierre of TransFM radio.

"This is only the second New England-wide transgender civil rights march and, once again, it will take place in Northampton," said Bet Power,

a NETU organizer. "Last year's event in Northampton drew more than 1,000 participants and educated the public about the lives of transgender people and our need for critical non-discrimination and hate crimes legislation. We are very excited to present an impressive lineup of individuals who are eagerly anticipated by many people in the trans community and our allies."

Other speakers and performers will include Deja Nicole Greenlaw, The Rainbow Times columnist and musician; Lorelei Erisis, Miss Trans Northampton 2009; LezleeAnne Rios, singer/songwriter; and Ryan DiMartino, a transgender youth. The venue is accessible to the disabled, and Cat Dvar and a team of volunteers will interpret the rally in American Sign Language.

The complete rally lineup will be posted on the organization's website later this month. For information about the New England Trans United Pride March and Rally, to donate or to volunteer to help, visit [www.newenglandtransunited.org](http://www.newenglandtransunited.org) or connect at Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/netu.pride](http://www.facebook.com/netu.pride); at MySpace: [www.myspace.com/newenglandtransunited](http://www.myspace.com/newenglandtransunited); or at Twitter: <http://twitter.com/newenglandtrans>

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## Paradise City Arts Festival: Then and Now

Then and Now is a special 15th anniversary for Paradise City Arts Festival that will take place this Columbus Day Weekend. Fifteen years ago, in 1995, the very first Paradise City Arts Festival in Northampton took place. This year's celebration will take a look at the artists of that first event Then and Now. For founders Geoffrey and Linda Post, this anniversary will be different because of the country's own climate. In an exclusive interview with TRT, Linda Posts explains the importance of Then and Now, its evolution and what makes it full of more one-of-a-kind finds than ever.

### What makes this show so different than years previous?

A volatile economic climate, and the forces influencing design and aesthetic trends in the art and craft world these days, are both wide-ranging and powerful ... Some artists are pushed to focus on the core of what makes their work special - to hone their vision, if you will. Others face the challenge by completely reinventing themselves, moving in innovative directions

and producing a radically new body of work.

### How is this show more meaningful to you? Is there a more profound personal meaning for you and/or Geoffrey?

Any arts organization that lasts and succeeds for 15 years surely finds that milestone a reason for celebration. For Geoffrey and I, who started Paradise City as two artists without any event management experience looking to produce an 'arts festival with a difference,' it is especially satisfying. We also feel profound gratitude to the artists and attendees who have supported us these 15 years.

### Has art changed the way we view the world and do you see Paradise City Arts Festival as contributing to that greater good?

Art, by its nature, is a form of communication, and enhancing and expanding the way we view the world. In our own small way, I'd like to think that the Paradise City Arts Festival contributes to that visual dialogue, educates and enlightens those who attend, and brings beauty into people's lives.

See Post on Page 14

### Letters to Editor from Page 2

up, and who took incredible pictures/videos. Finally, thanks to you at The Times for giving us the respectful coverage that you did. See you at TransPride, Oct. 3rd in Northampton!

Sincerely, Ms. L.A. Rios, Monson, MA

Dear Editor,

Loved the story on page 9 of your Sept. edition about Bea Arthur. The wonderful "Golden Girl" is terribly missed and it's good to know someone is honoring her work and dedication to our community! Thanks for the story.

—Melissa F. Pittsfield, MA

Dear Editor,

I read your "Vision Latina" article, but I wish it was also printed in English.

—Jacob R., Jamaica Plain, MA

Dear Jacob,

The story runs in Spanish in the paper and in English online. Please click on the newspaper link and you'll be redirected to the English version. Thank you, —The Editor

Dear Editor,

Loved Sandra Bernhard's interview. I think that I would've liked to see more steamy questions though. She's so damn hot!

—Jessica J., Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,

Your article on the Northampton Gay Men's Social Hour was great. I didn't even know that so many gay men were meeting like that in NoHo. I've joined since, so this was quite interesting.

—John S., Northampton, MA

Dear Editor,

Wow! Love the NightTimez Guide and can't get enough of it. It's just like sex to me. I'm addicted to it!

—Brad G., Boston, MA

Dear Brad,

Glad you like it. A lot of work goes into it and we are proud to offer it to you. Thank you.

—The Editor

Dear Editor,

I find the new section or guide NightTimez disgusting. I think it makes The Times look cheap. Sorry, but that's my take.

—Sam R., Northampton, MA

Dear Sam,

I am sorry to hear your opinion about NightTimez. It is a section you can always pull out of the paper (since it works almost as an insert), if it is not of your liking. Thank you for sharing your comments with us.

—The Editor

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## LGBT Events & Honors

# History of New England Transgender Pride

By: *Bet Power\**

Now that we have organized the second annual New England Trans United Pride March and Rally on October 3, 2009, and as we look forward to many more trans rights marches to come, it seems a good time to record how and why this important event began.

A Transgender Pride Movement started in the New England region as a response to two developments in the late 1990s and early 2000s: (1) the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance and (2) the exclusion of protections for gender identity/expression from the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) proposed by Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank.

Trans woman Rita Hester had been brutally murdered in Boston on November 28, 1998, sadly just one of many trans people killed every year. Publicity surrounding Hester's unsolved murder led to a candlelight vigil for her in San Francisco in 1999. Since then, memorials to remember those killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice (transphobia) are held annually in hundreds of cities around the world. November 20, 2009 will mark the 11th International Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR).

I attended TDORs in Boston, Northampton, Amherst, and Springfield, MA every year since 2000. I experienced the vigil as a solemn wake with all the emotions of loss and

mourning of a mass funeral. Names of the year's murdered were read while gruesome stories of violent killings - stabbings, rapes, shootings, beatings, and mutilations beyond recognition - were recounted. I was often asked to speak at our local TDORs and I did, choking back tears every time. These were people just like me - and the world was losing more of us senselessly every year.

While recognizing the importance of honoring our dead and educating the public about the horrible problem of hate crimes against trans people, I also wondered why TDOR was the only time my international trans community gathered together as one. Where were the occasions to honor our living, to award the accomplishments of our transgender organizations and leaders, to celebrate our everyday lives? How were we supposed to move out of the darkness of a tunnel of intense oppression?

On November 20, 2005, at the TDOR held at the Media Education Foundation in Northampton, MA, I again rose to speak. This time, I not only expressed my sorrow at the recitation of the long list of the names of our dead, but also my frustration and anger. I put out a challenge to the trans community to move beyond victim-hood. We could march forward instead to victory through a new Transgender Pride Movement. I said, I challenged those gathered there to work with me to create a Transgender Pride March in

Northampton. Pride had helped other minority communities make legislative, social, and economic progress—Blacks, Latinos, Lesbians, Gay, and Bisexuals. It could help us trans people too if only we would organize.

I waited and watered the seed of this vision at subsequent TDORs, where I continued to speak out. I wrote and read a poem, "TDOR," about the need for Trans Pride.

By fall of 2007, it became clear that the Human Rights Campaign and Congressman Barney Frank had worked together to remove transgender citizens from the proposed federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Frank argued that there was not enough votes in the House to pass the bill if it included gender identity/expression along with sexual orientation. I believe this was the last straw for the transgender community. The silver lining of this betrayal by the most prominent gay elected official in the nation who operated out of Beacon Hill was that it sparked an anger that turned into the flame of a Transgender Rights Movement in his home state of Massachusetts and beyond.

On October 1, 2007, I received an email from Dru Levasseur, a trans man and attorney, inviting me to the first organizing meeting for New England Transgender Pride (NETP) to be held in Northampton in June 2008. Dru was a friend of mine who had heard me speak at several TDORs and who understood the need for Trans Pride. The community will forever be grateful to him for taking the initial steps to make the first Trans Pride a reality in our region.

In December 2007, I wrote an essay, "It's Time for Trans Pride," in which I said that I had been calling for a new Trans Pride Movement at the past three years of TDORs. The essay was published in The Rainbow Times on March 5, 2008 and you can read it online at a link on the Media page of the NETP site [www.transpridemarch.org](http://www.transpridemarch.org).

The NETP steering committee in 2008 included Dru Levasseur, Danica Marie Ali, Justin Adkins, Alicia, Jackie, and myself - with lots of help from Louis Mitchell, Yohah Ralph, Christa Hilfers, Krysia Villon, Robyn and several others—all of whom deserve recognition for our hard work and dedication in making last year's march and rally on June 7, 2008 a wonderful success. My contribution was to handle media relations and communications and to get speakers and entertainers for the rally. In my view, we were all founders

of the first Trans Pride in New England.

A few months after the first Trans Pride, Dru Levasseur moved to New York City. Then in late 2008 and early 2009, one member of the first Trans Pride steering committee, Justin Adkins, committed to making a second New England Trans Pride happen in August in Montpelier, VT. However, that effort was abandoned and a public announcement was made on March 24, 2009 that there would be no New England Trans Pride this year. The statement was published online at [www.transpridemarch.org](http://www.transpridemarch.org) and in Bay Windows (April 1, 2009) and in The Rainbow Times (April 2, 2009).

Meanwhile, since early 2009, another member of the first Trans Pride steering committee, Christa Hilfers, dreamt of a Trans Pride march and rally that could happen again in Northampton this year. For weeks, I listened to her determination that we would have a second march even if she had to organize it single-handedly.

I had been hospitalized for a week in December 2008. Throughout the early months of 2009 I suffered from, and underwent treatment for, a life-threatening autoimmune disease. As much as I hoped for a second New England Trans Pride, I was too ill to be involved with either effort.

Then, in May 2009, I spent some time talking with Hilfers at Northampton Pride. We agreed that it just was not all right if Trans Pride didn't happen again this year. The sad reality is that the goals we marched for last year - passage of MA H.B.1728 and CT H.B. 6452 and a trans-inclusive ENDA - have still not been met. Our opponents deride our push for civil rights as they fan ignorant fears by calling H.B.1728, "The Bathroom Bill."

I sent Christa the names of two trans women who might be interested in helping her produce a Trans Pride this year in either Northampton or Springfield, MA. My medical treatment continued to progress and I slowly regained some of my health and energy. I decided to commit to helping Christa too, as she had become my friend and I was deeply impressed by her will to continue Trans Pride in our area.

On May 11, 2009, Christa called for the first steering committee meeting, which took place on May 18 with five people in attendance: Christa Hilfers, Brianna Harris, Jane Hamel, Yohah Ralph, and myself. We quickly finalized the name New England Trans United (NETU) Pride March and Rally ([www.newenglandtransunited.org](http://www.newenglandtransunited.org)) and chose this year's motto, "Live Out Loud!" The name is slightly different than last year's title because we wanted to create an event that would unite the broad spectrum of diverse individuals,

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See Trans Pride on  
Page 13



## Boston Pride Committee searches for First Deputy Director

Boston, MA—After almost 40 years of service to the LGBT Community as an all-volunteer 501c(3) non-profit organization, The Boston Pride Committee is setting out to hire its first-ever full time employee to lead the organization into the future. The Board of Directors is seeking resumes to fill their newly instated position of Deputy Director.

"Boston Pride has always been a grassroots organization and will remain so," explained Linda DeMarco, Boston Pride President.

"More than one million people attended Boston Pride activities last year in events organized solely by a group of volunteers in their spare time. As we begin planning now for our 40th anniversary in 2010, hiring a Deputy Director is just the next step in the evolution of the organization."

Operating since 1970, Boston Pride is an independent, non-profit agency that serves the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and allied community by working to enhance

visibility through a week of events each June and year-round activities designed to promote LGBT awareness, dignity, and understanding.

The public can learn more about Boston Pride by visiting [www.bostonpride.org](http://www.bostonpride.org). Interested candidates should send cover letter, resume and salary requirement to [hr@bostonpride.org](mailto:hr@bostonpride.org). The deadline for applying is October 15 with interviews taking place in early November.

### BLC from Page 7

will donate more than 300 pounds of turkey, Community Servings will donate 160 pies, and various restaurants will donate hors d'oeuvres or dinner rolls. One caterer donates 100 loaves of pumpkin bread every year, says Bacon. Other items on the menu include stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, green beans, salad, rolls, and cranberry sauce.

Serving or donating foods aren't the only ways to get involved. Other volunteer opportunities include checking guests into the event, checking coats, and setting up the dining area. These positions don't require fundraising, says Davino. Corporations and individuals can also make monetary donations as well. The BLC hopes the event will raise as much as \$100,000-up from last year's \$97,000, he adds.

Such a coordinated effort makes for an

empowering event, says Galinsky. "It's such a great experience to see people fighting this battle together and living," he adds.

It's about showing appreciation for life and living, says Davino. "We're called the Living Center because we're about living and celebrating. People aren't dying with AIDS, they're living," he says.

The event is also an opportunity to show appreciation for members of the community at large, says Bacon. "We talk about the BLC community, but that community doesn't stop at the doorway. It's all that support outside of our doors that make us able to do what we do. Being thankful for that is really important."

Bacon says the Thanksgiving event is different from other meals at the BLC. "When people come here every day of the week, there's usually something weighing on their minds.

The Thanksgiving dinner is really nice because all of that is really let go," he says.

The BLC currently has more than 1,500 members and offers a variety of educational and recreational services. To learn more about the BLC, RSVP for the Celebration of Life event, or to sign up as a volunteer, visit the BLC Web site at [www.bostonlivingcenter.org](http://www.bostonlivingcenter.org) or call 617-236-1012.

### Free LGBT Bereavement Groups

This Fall there are 3 LGBT Bereavement Groups in three different areas across the state. These six week groups offer a safe and welcoming environment for people to process their loss and move forward with their life. If you have a friend who has lost a partner/spouse, family member or friend, please pass on this information. All ages.

**Boston:** Thursday evenings 6:30 to 8:00pm; Starting Sept. 24; Brookline MA. Contact Beth Prullage, LICSW, (413) 695-2236

**North Shore:** Monday evenings 7:00pm to 8:30pm; Starting Oct. 26; Danvers, MA Call (978) 774-5100

**Cape Cod:** Tuesday evenings 4:00pm to 5:30pm; Starting Oct. 20th; P-Town, MA Call Nancy Higgins, VNA Bereavement Coordinator at 1-800 631-3900 x7715



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# Flying First SASS: Pam Ann Makes Skies Less Friendly, More Trendy

By: George Shapiro/TRT Special

Following sold-out European and Canadian tours earlier this year, the glamorous, Puccin-clad hostess to the stars, Pam Ann, touches down for her first American tour in five years.

Madonna calls Pam "cruelly funny". Even Cher and Elton John are big fans. Pam Ann identifies the quirks and stereotypes of some of the biggest airlines and mixes it up with a generous dose of camp, humour and fabulousness.

Fasten your seat belt, stow your designer luggage and prepare for the flight of your life. Pam Ann lands in Boston at the Boston Colonial Theatre on Saturday October 10th. No women with perms or men with Arsenio Hall fade cuts allowed.

**Did you always know you wanted to be a flight attendant?**

Yes, since I was a little girl. I just loved the glamour of it all ... which has now been sucked out of the industry today like a Qantas 747 losing half its fuselage.

**Are you offended when people label flight attendants as waitresses in the sky?**

Air Hostess, please. A waitress would not know how to disarm a terrorist, put out a fire at 37,000ft while in turbulence over the Pyrenees, and maintain her flawless full face of MAC, now would she?

**Who designed your uniform?**

I wear Emilio Pucci.

**What are some perks that come with being an air hostess?**

I get to traffic babies for Madonna. She has more than little Mercy and David, you know. Madge has at least 20 kids from Malawi thanks to moi.

**Pam Ann Airlines traffics African babies?**

God knows how many American Airlines has bought in for her. JetBlue could only dream of trafficking, the closest thing they get to traffic is a native bird from Nantucket to Burbank.

**Have you ever witnessed any serious drama in the cockpit?**

Yes, both my captains were so intoxicated last week. I had to take over the controls whilst flying from St. Petersburg to New York. It was all that Russian Vodka. It ended fine, though. I had only consumed 5 dirty martinis so naturally I became the designated driver.

**What are some essential items every respectable gay man and woman should include in their carry-on travel bags?**

Xanax, propofol, diprivan and Elizabeth Arden 8-hour cream.

**Is there anyone you will not allow in your**

**cabin?**

Anyone against gay marriage can f@&\$ off.

**What are your thoughts on airline safety?**

It was easier to fly back in the jet set era of time when you could board a Boeing in your Dianne Von Furstenberg wrap dress with a full set of carving knives and a 500ml can of VO5. It was

always glamour over safety and personally, I believe that's how it should be. That's why just this morning, I took my cockpit door off and hung up a gorgeous beaded curtain.

**Has the extra security made the skies less friendly?**

Oh no, it's much, much friendlier today. I love playing games with security and it makes their day more enjoyable as well. Do you think security really cares what you're bringing on the plane? All they are thinking about is finishing their shift and running to the salon to get scenes of Hawaii in glitter painted on their 6inch acrylic nails.

**How does Pam Ann Airlines compare to the other major carriers?**

American Airlines crews are so old most of them started flying in the 17th century and don't even realize they are in the air. On Pam

Ann Airlines, we mean it when we say 'welcome aboard' ... not like British Airways. When they greet their passengers they look at them like they are personally responsible for the death of Princess Diana.

**How do you feel about airlines charging money for two or more bags? Is anything free on board anymore?**

Apparently on Southwest, passengers are required to roll jump onto the plane while it's taxiing to save money on fuel. On Pam Ann Airlines, everything is free. We even offer a good night service with a complimentary happy ending.

**There's one last available pillow and blanket on board. Who do you give it to? The rich single guy? The pregnant woman? Or the gay?**

I'll take it. F@&\$ em!

**Why did you decide to launch your USA tour now?**

The airline industry is a mess. Southwest is falling apart, Jet Blues landing gear never comes down, Mexicana airlines is grounded due to swine flu. Glamour has been sucked out of the industry like a Qantas 747 losing half its fuselage. I need to come to the USA to bring fabulousness back to flying.

Pam Ann performs at Boston's Colonial Theatre (106 Boylston St.) on Saturday, October 10th at 8 p.m. Tickets available at [www.pamann-live.com](http://www.pamann-live.com) and at box office: 617-931-ARTS

## Trans Pride from Page 10

groups, and organizations under the transgender umbrella - thus, the word "United."

Handling press/media and communications, on June 1, I issued NETU's first press release announcing that planning was underway for a Trans Pride march scheduled for October 2009 in Northampton. On June 10, NETU held its first large community-organizing meeting, which has met bi-monthly in Northampton and Springfield ever since.

Over the last few months before the march, NETU lost some steering committee members and gained some new ones. A round of applause goes to the five individuals who met on May 18 plus these more recent steering committee members: Danica Marie Ali, Vickie Boisseau, and Samantha Cornell. Also, Aydin and Leslie-Anne Rios have lent their expertise.

Together, through the New England Trans United Pride March and Rally now in its second year, we are continuing a movement that is fighting back against gender-based discrimination and hate crimes. All aboard the Trans Pride train!

\* Bet Power is the Director and Curator of the

Sexual Minorities Archives, a national collection of LGBTI literature, history, and art located in Northampton, MA. Bet is also the founder of the East Coast FTM Group, monthly peer support for the full spectrum of masculine persons in the trans community. Bet moved to the Valley from Chicago in 1979 and has walked in every Pride March in Northampton, including the first in 1982. He was a lead organizer

of New England Transgender Pride, helping to found it in 2008. Email him at: [betpower@yahoo.com](mailto:betpower@yahoo.com) (no hyphens)



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\* By wolvevideo.com

**Gay Best Sellers\***

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3. Were the World Mine
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5. The New Twenty
6. Mulligans
7. Redwoods
8. Lilies
9. Pedro
10. Hollywood Je taime

\* By wolvevideo.com

## Rhode Island

# Hourahan: New Executive Director for AIDS Project Rhode Island

Providence, RI—In a statement released recently, Margaret Holland McDuff, CEO of *Family Service of Rhode Island*, announced that *AIDS Project RI* has named former board chairman Stephen R. Hourahan as its new executive director.

"I am very pleased to announce that Stephen will join us as executive director of AIDS Project RI on September 30th. He brings experience, talents and passion to the programs of AIDS Project RI, fostering a new level of excellence, particularly in the area of prevention and education."

Hourahan brings more than 20 years of experience working on the front lines of the AIDS movement as an educator, fundraiser and advocate for people with AIDS.

Beginning with his work as the first director of development at the AIDS Action Council in Washington, DC in 1989, he has worked in all aspects of the AIDS crisis. After leaving the staff of AIDS Action, he continued to raise money and awareness as a board member and served in that position until 1993. Additionally, he was an active member of the Nantucket AIDS Network board, helping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for AIDS housing, prevention and care.

Throughout the 1990s he also served as a board member and chair of AIDS Project RI, and was honored by AIDS Project RI last December with the Richard Katzoff Leadership Award.

With a professional background in communications and politics, he has held numerous positions in government and the private sector that will be extremely beneficial in helping APRI achieve its mission. He was the communications director and campaign chairman for former U. S. Senator Lincoln Chafee and before that held several positions with the late U.S. Senator John Chafee. More recently, he has worked as director of public affairs at Duffy & Shanley Public Relations and as senior vice president and director of marketing and corporate communications at Bank Rhode Island.

For more than two decades *AIDS Project RI* has been serving Rhode Islanders living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. It merged with *Family Service of RI* in 2008. Currently it is gearing up for *AIDS Walk 2009* on Sunday, October 25. More information is available at [www.aidsprojectri.org](http://www.aidsprojectri.org).

Post from Page 9

Is there anything that will be part of the show that will be a surprise to the attendees?

If you are new to Paradise City, then EVERYTHING will be a surprise! It's not just the high quality and diversity of the art. They will see objects that they'll never see anywhere else, that they couldn't imagine in their wildest dreams.

What do you hope people will take away from this show?

One of the frequent comments written in our guest book is "Paradise City is like going to a beautiful museum, but you can actually take something home with you!" So obviously, we hope that people will find an irresistible pot, necklace, table, coat or painting to bring home with them. And we hope they go home inspired by everything they have seen, and that they can't wait to come back on Memorial Day Weekend.

Is there anything that you would specifically like to say to the LGBT community that is not covered in the answers above?

In addition to the visual arts, come for the fun! The Festival Dining Tent offers up great food by *Spoleto*, *India House*, *Mama Iguana*, *Eastside Grill*, *Great Wall*, *Amber Waves* and *Paradise City Tavern*. Then there's the jazz... Charles Neville is becoming a Paradise City fixture, drawing a rapt audience every time he

plays the Festival Dining Tent. On Sunday, Jose Gonzalez, acclaimed for his original compositions featuring the Cuatro, Puerto Rico's national instrument, has been featured on NBC, CNN, and the PBS "Visions of Puerto Rico" TV special ... Monday, the Chet Pasek Quartet, in the tradition of Milt Jackson and Gary Burton, lets the vibraphone take center stage. With consummate keyboards, accompanied by bass, sax and percussion, classic jazz takes on a brand-new beat!

All of the proceeds from the Silent Art Auction are going to Hospice, why Hospice?

One hundred percent of it goes the *Fisher Home of Hospice* in Amherst. Paradise City has been raising money for Hospice since the second year of the show. In 1995, shortly after the inaugural *Paradise City Arts Festival*, Geoffrey's mother succumbed to breast cancer after a 17 year battle. Hospice was of invaluable assistance to all of us in her last weeks. That is why this wonderful organization holds a permanent place in our hearts, and has been a Paradise City beneficiary for so many years. I want to thank you and our wonderful community for your continuing support of Paradise City!

For more information about Paradise City Arts Festival's 15th Year Anniversary exhibit, call: 800-511-9725, email: [info@paradisecityarts.com](mailto:info@paradisecityarts.com), or visit: [www.paradisecityarts.com](http://www.paradisecityarts.com)

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& KOHEI ISHIHARA**

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**Best Illuminated  
Girl Spot/Club Gallery**

**Most Original  
Alley Cat/Dark Lady**

**Best Use of Theme  
Providence  
Gay Men's Chorus**

**President's Award  
Boston Pride**



## Rhode Island News

# SÉANCE: An Evening with the Spirits!

A signature RI Pride Spotlight Event celebrates 10 years as a new costume party. Honoring the Imperial Court of RI, Sabrina Blaze and Kohei Ishihara

Providence, RI—Prepare to be transported to a place where the spirits soar to great heights, where your fortune and destiny will be foretold, and the children of the night will make music and dance under the eerie moonlight. RI Pride is please to announce that this special 10th Anniversary celebration of the Spotlight Awards will be held as a new and exciting costume party with the theme: SÉANCE - An Evening with the Spirits! This amazing event will be held on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 at 7:00 pm at the spectacular Peerless Loft's Atrium, 150 Union Street, Providence, RI. Admission is only \$10.00 and this party will once again be one not to be missed with plenty of surprises for all! Prizes will be given to those wearing themed and festive costumes. We are planning variety of culinary delights and libations to excite the senses as we team up with our spirit sponsor, Bacardi. Special thanks to Cornish Associates for sponsoring the space for this event!

This celebration is also a tribute to Rhode Island's GLBT Community. It also provides a special opportunity to recognize those individuals, businesses and organizations that have made contributions to the community and Rhode Island Pride.

PYRAMID OF PRIDE 2009 The Pyramid of Pride is awarded annually to an individual or organization who has made outstanding

contributions to our community. They have demonstrated leadership, dedication and the courage of their convictions to improve the quality of life for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

This year, RI Pride is pleased to award this distinguished honor to an organization that has been doing amazing work in our community since 1992. Their mission has been to raise funds for the GLBTQ community and those in need throughout Rhode Island & Southeastern Massachusetts and as a result have raised hundreds of thousand of dollars for tens of organizations. They have done it with a style all their own, using drag, glitz and glamour to draw attention to worth while issues. Its members both past and present have given of themselves to make this world a better place and deserves our congratulations. To that end, RI Pride is pleased to present its highest honor to the IMPERIAL COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

In addition, RI Pride also wishes to recognize two individuals who tireless commitment and hard work serve an example for all to follow with the 2009 Spirit Award, SABRINA BLAZE burst on to the scene in 2003 to capture the crown as Miss Gay Rhode Island and in the process help re-define the drag community. As one of the beloved members of the "fabulous four divas," Kitty Litter, BB Hayes

and LaDivia Jonz, Sabrina has placed all of us in a trance with her deep talent, quick wit and signature voice. Her generosity and willingness to help raise funds for area organizations is truly a blessing and sets a high standard for others to follow. She lives her life much like the wigs and dresses she adorns, larger than life and unafraid to stand out and make a statement. RI Pride is please to present to her our 2009 Spirit Award.

Our second recipient is has done more in the thirty years of his life than many will do in a lifetime. When you google his name you will see he has been involved in community activism and organizing in all its facets by advocating for those who have no where else to turn and whose voices are often ignored and suppressed. He has served on numerous boards and committees which include the

Providence External Review Authority, Resist, and the Advisory Council for Equity Action. However, KOHEI ISHIHARA is best known as one the co-founders of the Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM) along with Sarah Suong in 2001 and serves as its executive director. PrYSM is a grassroots Southeast Asian youth and family organization committed to anti-racist organizing, youth empowerment, community development and confronting and ending violence in the Southeast Asian community in Rhode Island. Under his leadership PrYSM created a program called Southeast Asian Queers United for Empowerment and Leadership (SeaQue), one of only two

See SEANCE on Page 17

## Annual AIDS Walk RI to raise awareness among youth

By: Lisa A. Eramo, TRT's Reporter

Raising awareness-particularly among youth-is a major goal of this year's 22nd annual AIDS Walk RI hosted by AIDS Project RI, a division of Family Service of RI. The event, which will be held on Sunday, October 25, 9 a.m., will take place rain or shine at

Roger Williams National Memorial, 282 North Main Street, downtown Providence.

"We think it's very important to put the walk in an area where there are a lot of people and a lot of college students," says Stephen Hug, senior vice president of development and communications for Family Service of RI. Most recently, the walk had been held at Providence's Roger Williams Park.

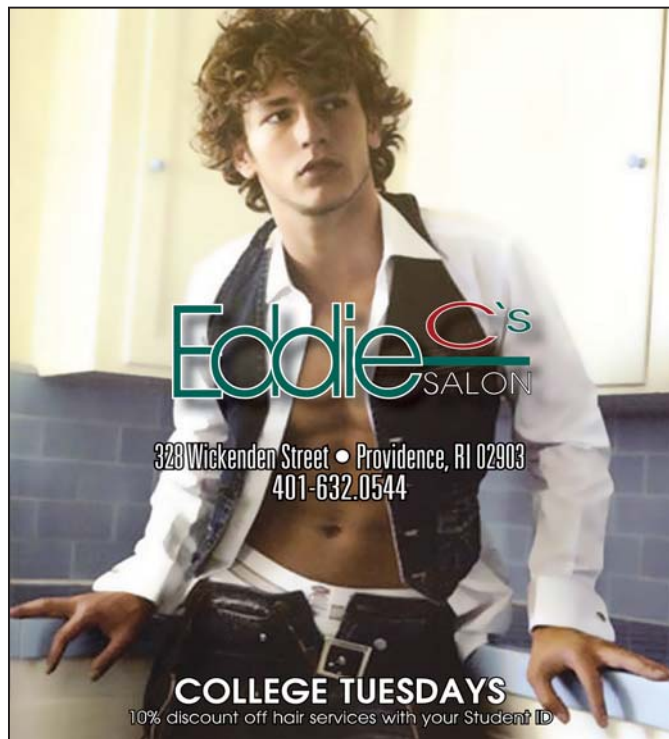
This newer and higher profile location will hopefully draw more students, he says, adding that anyone can participate even if they don't raise money. Participants can walk the 5-kilometer course individually or as part of a team.

"Everyone talks about the fact that younger people aren't getting the message because there have been advances in the care. But it's still a terminal disease. We want to make sure that younger people participate," he adds.

The AIDS Walk RI isn't just about finding a cure-it's also about prevention, says Hug. "It's one thing to provide care to those with HIV and AIDS. The other side is about preventing it from happening altogether. That's done through personal choices and education," he says.

Performing aggressive outreach to schools and universities is part of this process, says Hug. As part of this outreach, AIDS Project RI has contacted several local colleges, including Providence College, Johnson & Wales University, and Bryant University, says Hug. Other schools and universities have contacted AIDS Project RI on their own for more information, he says.

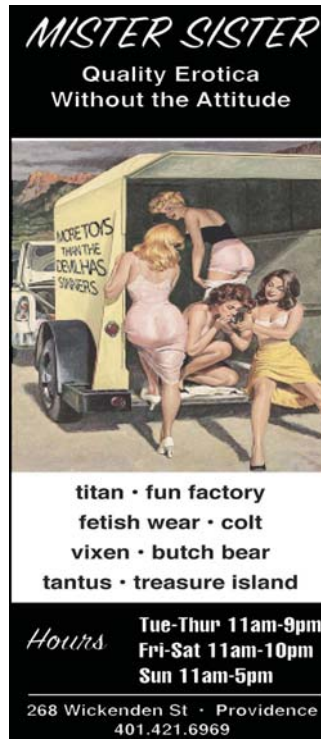
The goal is to include 1,000 walkers this year, which would be a significant improvement from last year, says Hug. For more information about the event, visit [www.aidsprojectri.org](http://www.aidsprojectri.org) or call 401-331-1350 x3364. The Web site also includes a 2009 brochure, poster, and information about how to raise money online.



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# Political IQ: The national pratfall March on Washington may do more harm than good

By: Diane Silver\*

An LGBT march on Washington should be a great idea. It should energize the pro-equality community and rally the nation. It should move the president and push Congress into repealing all those laws that punish us for the "crimes" of living and loving while queer.

The Oct. 11 National Equality March, spearheaded by longtime activist Cleve Jones, should do all those things, but I fear it won't. Even worse, the event could damage the movement at a pivotal time.

That's because the march has a fatal flaw: It asks LGBT Americans and allies to waste time, money and energy traveling to Washington, D.C., when we need to stay home and organize in our own backyards.

This flaw is born from a fundamental misunderstanding of how change comes to the Capitol. D.C.-based lobbying is important, but true change only arrives via events that happen far outside the Beltway.

Here's the hard truth: No one wins a vote in the House of Representatives or the Senate until they've changed attitudes in places that are dozens, hundreds and thousands of miles from Capitol Hill. All the visits to Congress and all the rallies on the National Mall aren't half as important as what happens in Des Moines, Fresno, Baltimore, Dallas, Boston and hundreds of other places in the country.

Take the case of Democrat Nancy Pelosi. Why do you suppose the Speaker of the

House is pro-LGBT? Is it because she is a saint who supports our cause even when her constituents don't? Not exactly.

Since 1987 Pelosi has represented the 8th District of California, which encompasses the Castro. Not only does her district include the highest number of same-sex couples in the nation, but it has also been the site of the most sustained LGBT organizing effort in history.

Beginning in the 1960s, continuing with Harvey Milk's campaigns, moving through AIDS activism and up to today, the 8th provides a model of how LGBT people can organize locally. These days an anti-LGBT politician could neither get elected nor stay in office in the California 8th.

Here's a political pop quiz.

Question: When will the Defense of Marriage Act, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbians and gays in the military and other discriminatory laws be repealed?

Answer: When 219 members of the House and 60 senators realize that their constituents no longer support politicians who work against equality. Those numbers are the votes needed to pass legislation and send it to President Barack Obama for his signature.

Although march leaders say they intend to organize all 435 Congressional districts, pulling people out of their hometowns and sending them on a costly trip won't do that. If only 5,000 people attend the march and each one spends a mere \$500 on travel expenses, this one event will burn through \$2.5 million

that could have been put into local organizing.

The cost is worrisome in the midst of a record-breaking recession. An upcoming vote on marriage equality in Maine and another possible vote in California also need all the financial support we can provide.

March organizers aren't villains, and they're not fools. I've long admired politico David Mixner, who first raised the possibility of a march; organizer Torie Osborn, former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and Cleve Jones.

The California 8th wouldn't be what it is today without Jones. He also helped transform attitudes about AIDS and gave people a way to cope with the epidemic's emotional devastation by founding The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

On this project, though, I respectfully disagree with my three heroes.

Mixner blogged that "having matured into a full-fledged civil rights movement, it is essential that our community move outside its own comfort zone." If I'm reading him correctly, he's talking about the march and bringing straight friends and allies with us to D.C.

Once again, I respectfully disagree. I don't think that joining a anonymous crowd in a gay-friendly city like Washington, D.C., takes much courage, even if we drag our straight family and friends along.

For LGBT people and our allies in Missouri, Maine and other states that control key votes in Congress, moving outside our comfort zones means demonstrating in our own backyards. These often-conservative places are where our voices - and the voices of our straight family and friends - must be heard.

An LGBT march on Washington should be a great idea. Sometime in the future it might be. Just not today.

\* Diane Silver is a former newspaper reporter and magazine editor, whose work has appeared in *The Progressive*, *Salon.com*, *Ms.*, and other national publications. She can be reached care of this publication or at [PoliticalIQ@qsyndicate.com](mailto:PoliticalIQ@qsyndicate.com), and other national publications. She can be reached care of this publication or at [PoliticalIQ@qsyndicate.com](mailto:PoliticalIQ@qsyndicate.com).



## 6th Annual Latino Pride Celebration

Join Somos Latinos September 30th through October 4th for our 6th annual *Latino Pride* celebration. Events include: Candidates night - a discussion with mayoral and city councilor at large candidate held on September 30th from 6-9 at Bunker Hill Community College.

Celebrate Community reception and dinner on October 1st from 6-9 at Club Café, Dance party at Xielo night club in Chelsea on October 2nd 9-1 AM, LGBT Latino film night at the Community Church from 6-9 on October 3rd, and lastly our closing event at Frans Place in Lynn on October 4th from 9-1 AM. On October 1st during the Celebrate Community reception Somos Latinos will be honoring Senator Edward Kennedy with the Legacy award for his lifelong dedication to ending hate crimes in the LGBT community, his most recent work on improving immigration, and celebrating differences in all communities. In

addition *Somos Latinos* is also proud to present community ally awards to Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz and Joel Barrera, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Seminar.

Somos Latinos is also honoring Johnny Diaz, author of *Beantown Cubans* and Boston Globe journalist, Robert Torres, legislative aide to Representative Liz Malia, Alejandra St. Guillen, program manager of Oiste for their work and participation in the LGBT Latino community. For the first time Somos Latinos is presenting a partnership award to The Network/La Red in recognition of the work the organization as a whole has done in the LGBT Latino community. Tickets are \$35 and there are tables available for purchase. For more information, please contact [somoslatinos-ma@gmail.com](mailto:somoslatinos-ma@gmail.com). Also, please visit [www.somoslatinoslgbt.org](http://www.somoslatinoslgbt.org) for more information.

### SEANCE from Page 16

Southeast Asian LGBT youth organizations in the nation. Kohei is best described in his own words from Facebook: "I believe that oppression will always exist, but will always be changing in form and content. But I also believe that individuals, families, and communities can change and make change. I believe that another world, a better world, is possible. And that you can't give up hope, the same way you can't give up hope for yourself." Congratulations Kohei, RI Pride is please to you with the 2009 Spirit Award.

RI PRIDE PARADE WINNERS 2009 Likewise it is the night that we award this year's winners of the 2009 Illuminated Night Parade. The winners include: Best Walking - Youth Pride, Best Illuminated - Girl Spot/Gallery, Most Original - Alley Cat/Dark Lady, Best Use of Theme - Providence Gay Men's Chorus, President's Award: Boston Pride, Committee Award: Providence Performing Arts Center.

All these awards will be presented at the above mentioned Spotlight Costume Party: SEANCE - An Evening with the Spirits on Thursday, October 29th.

### About Rhode Island Pride

Rhode Island Pride is a 501(c)3

nonprofit organization comprised of individuals with a sincere interest in recognizing, promoting and celebrating the diversity and successes of the GLBT community in RI and Southern New England. By creating opportunities for integrating and promoting visibility for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community, RI Pride promotes equal rights and diversity through public education and the arts. The year round programs and services of RI Pride provide safe opportunities and venues for people to come out and express and celebrate their sexual identities. For more information visit [www.PrideRI.com](http://www.PrideRI.com).

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# New England Trans United

## Pride March and Rally

### Live Out Loud



Photo: Glenn Koetzner 2009

**Speakers and Performers:** MC: Tammy Twotone, Gunner Scott, Ethan St. Pierre, Mayor Mary Clare Higgins, Miss Trans Northampton: Lorelei Erisis, LezleeAnne Rios, Deja Nicole Greenlaw, City Councilor Michael Bardsley, Louis Mitchell, and more.... **Vendor tables! Tapestry Health Van!**

## October 3, 2009

**Assemble at Lampron Park, 11:00 AM, Bridge St. School, Route 9, Northampton, MA**

March steps off at noon, 12:30-5:00 Rally in the Armory Street Parking Lot. For more info visit:

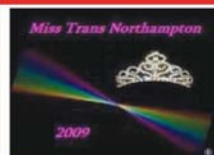
[www.newenglandtransunited.org](http://www.newenglandtransunited.org)



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Your LGBTQ News in MA, RI, North Central CT & Southern VT

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Event & Entertainment Organizers  
for the LGBT Community

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**The Network  
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contra las comunidades de lesbianas,  
de mujeres bisexuales y de gente transgénero



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## Joan Crawford's Casinomania! Bus trip to Mohegan Sun Casino

The Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus is pleased to introduce to you a brand new CGMC Fundraiser Event - Joan Crawford's CASINOMANIA! We're hitting the road on Sunday, October 4, 2009 for a Bus Trip to the Mohegan Sun Casino with all of you!

Tickets are \$45 and when you arrive at the casino, you'll receive \$15 in food vouchers and \$15 in gambling vouchers - a great value! The bus leaves from the IKEA parking lot in New Haven at 10:30 a.m. and will return at 6:30 p.m. Parking is free.

The fun begins on the bus! Joan, along with her daughter Christina and son Christopher, will be entertaining you during the ride with jokes, fun contests and prizes. Then you will



home.

Admissions must be purchased in advance (no later than Friday 10/2/09), and space is filling up quickly. So put your party together and place your order soon at 1-800-644-2462 or [www.ctgmc.org](http://www.ctgmc.org)—don't miss this zany road trip that will keep you laughing for weeks to come! Be sure to follow Joan on Facebook!

spend five hours at the casino where you will be free to roam, and we'll keep you laughing the whole ride

### GLBTQ from Page 2

school is a waste of resources, and is almost taking a giant step back in advancing LGBT equality in schools."

Nevertheless, according to a 2007 groundbreaking research conducted by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, GLSEN, there are factors that influence the safety of LGBT students in America. GLSEN's National School Climate Survey, included a total of 6,209 LGBT K-12 students, from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, between the ages of 13 and 21. The study established four major findings that affect LGBT youth in schools. First, schools in rural communities were the more unsafe than schools in urban or suburban areas. Second, LGBT youth in higher poverty communities reported more victimization in school because of sexual orientation and gender expression than those in more affluent communities. Third, regional differences in tolerance and acceptance levels appear to be related to other community-level factors, such as educational attainment and income. Lastly, LGBT youth in communities with a higher proportion of college graduates were less likely to hear homophobic remarks or experience victimization based on sexual orientation.

"[The] GLBTQ Online High School will provide a safe place for GLBTQ students to get a high quality, college-preparatory education," said Glick. "In addition to eliminating the negatives of possible harassment and abuse that is all too common in our schools, we will also provide support services and opportunities for positive socializing, in addition to our instructional program."

The Online HS website emphasizes the uniqueness of the school. A component of such distinctiveness, it states, is the GLBTQ-friendly curriculum and how it acknowledges the contributions of GLBTQ individuals in all fields of study. The school provides support services and connects students and families to additional community resources to serve a wide range of social, medical and legal needs. Furthermore, the school's website also stated that besides courses, it provides various other means to interact for many other purposes such as numerous clubs and interest groups in which

all full-time and part-time students can participate depending on the students' interests.

A Northampton first-grade educator, Andrea Egitto, first hesitated about the idea of an online High School because of the openness that the surrounding area already provides GLBTQ community members and students.

"I live in an open and welcoming community with many families having LGBTQ members, be it the parents or children," said Egitto. "I think as a teen it would be easier to go to school here because they would have many peers who either are members of the LGBTQ community or have someone in their family who is."

The idea, Egitto further explained, could work for certain students depending on the available resources and attributes of the community they live in.

"As an educator, I have concerns about the overuse of technology, but I do think this could be a good alternative for LGBTQ students who live in areas that are not as open and affirming as our area," said Egitto. "Being LGBTQ can be incredibly isolating if you don't know anyone else who is out, or who would accept you for who you are ... For students living in those areas, having a connection to a school with other LGBTQ people would be a life saver."

However, Morse still feels that the setting is not a healthy one.

"I worry that these students will have limited social interaction with other students, a critical component of high school and social development," said Morse, a 2008 Point Scholar recipient. "We must work towards empowering LGBT students to speak up and lead efforts to make changes in their community, and I can't see how this online high school will do this."

According to GLSEN's website the Key Findings of the 2007 National School Climate Survey indicate that 86.2 percent of LGBT students reported being verbally harassed, 44.1 percent reported being physically harassed and 22.1 percent reported being physically assaulted at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation. The Survey reported that the grade point average of students who were more frequently harassed because of their sexual

## 11th Annual EROS Film Festival

*Out Film CT*, organizer of the CT Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, and EROS (Encouraging Respect Of all Sexualities), the Trinity College student organization, present the 11th EROS Film Festival from Nov. 4-8 (Cinestudio at Trinity College, 300 Summit St., Hartford, CT), including 4 evening and 2 matinee programs. As always this Film Festival will feature an eclectic mix of films and documentaries, old favorites and exciting new works that will appeal to all film lovers.

**Little Ashes**/Dir. Paul Morrison, 2009, UK, 112 min. In the midst of the repression and political unrest of pre-Spanish Civil War, eccentric artist Salvador Dalí and renowned poet and revolutionary Federico García Lorca find their artistic and sexual freedom. The two form a bond challenged by their fierce ambitions, their friends, the struggle between a love for Spain and a love for each other.

**Hannah Free**/Dir. Wendy Jo Carlton, 2009, USA, 88 min. Starring the iconic Sharon Gless (Queen as Folk, Cagney & Lacey) in a tremendous performance, Hannah Free is a feature film about the lifelong love affair between an independent spirit and the woman she calls home. Weaving between past and present, the story reveals how two women maintained their love affair despite a marriage, a world war, infidelity, and family denial.

**And Then Came Lola**/Drs. Ellen Seidler & Megan Siler, 2009, USA, 70 min. In this sexy, lesbian romp and festival favorite, a talented, but distracted photographer, Lola, on the verge

of success in both love and work, could lose it all if she doesn't make it to a crucial meeting on time.

**Patrik, Age 1.5**/Dir. Ella Lemhagen, 2008, Sweden, 98 min. Swedish with English subtitles. Goran and Sven are the perfect gay couple; they have a beautiful house in the suburbs, a solid relationship, a home full of love and warmth. Newly approved for adoption, they believe that baby Patrik, age 1.5, is on his way. One tiny decimal mistake later, they find themselves saddled with a 15-year-old homophobe ... who may have a criminal past.

For additional information, please visit the Out Film CT website: [www.OutFilmCT.org](http://www.OutFilmCT.org).

*EROS, which stands for Encouraging Respect of all Sexualities, is the gay/straight alliance at Trinity College. Members of EROS are committed to fostering awareness about issues of differing sexualities on campus, with the ultimate goal of creating a more tolerant environment for gays, lesbians, and bisexual students.*

*Out Film CT is a nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to presenting outstanding LGBT cinema and other theatrical events throughout the year, culminating in the 10-day Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival held each May/June in Hartford. As Connecticut's longest-running film festival, it has become a distinctive fixture in our state's cultural landscape, bringing the community together to introduce, celebrate and rediscover the ideas and values that make the LGBT community unique.*

orientation or gender expression was almost half a grade lower than for students who were less often harassed (2.8 versus 2.4).

McNaught, an educator on GLBT issues for 35 years, has been a strong supporter of the GLBTQ Online High School due to the psychological and external consequences that ostracizing, taunting and bullying can have on the young members of the GLBTQ community.

"I do so because I know from personal experience and from the hundreds of calls, letters, and e-mail messages I've received over the years the impact of psychological homelessness on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth," said McNaught. "The new online high school provides them the opportunity for safety and support as they secure their high school degree and prepare themselves for college and/or the work world. Every person who has ever felt frightened, lonely, and depressed in high school because they were different should make a personal commitment and contribution to this noble effort."

The Online GLBTQ High School's tuition is \$5,900. The school hires only highly qualified teachers who genuinely want to work with GLBTQ students. Scholarships and other types of assistance are also available to students and their parents and will assist the school by keeping the costs low.

"We hope to be able to offer multiple scholarship opportunities. We will also work with families to create payment plans that work within their budgets as much as possible," explained Glick. "In some cases, we

expect to be able to partner with a student's local school district so that the school can pay the tuition for the student. We are currently working on establishing this type of partnership with several large school districts nationwide."

Scholarships are available for students. In addition, donations from community members will help support the curriculum costs and will assist students and parents with the costs.

"We are relying on the LGBT community to provide donations for scholarships for students who otherwise would not be able to afford this school. We are a private, non-profit school that relies on donations and tuition dollars" said Glick. "We appreciate all donations of any size. We are very interested in endowed scholarships from individuals or corporations. To donate, visit our website at [www.glbtqonlinehighschool.com](http://www.glbtqonlinehighschool.com) or our "cause" page on Facebook."

The GLBTQ Online High School is a member of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), and the National Youth Advocacy Coalition Network. The organization is currently seeking donations for start-up costs and student scholarships. GLBTQ Online High School is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation functioning under the laws of the State of Minnesota. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. To donate or to learn more about the GLBTQ Online High School online please visit: [www.glbtqonlinehighschool.com/](http://www.glbtqonlinehighschool.com/)

## NoHo Politics

# Northampton: Incumbent (Lesbian) Mayor v. Challenger (Gay Man)

By: J.M. Sorrell/Special Report for TRT

I have lived in or around Northampton most of the last 28 years, and I have known both Mayor Clare Higgins and Councilman Michael Bardsley as acquaintances during much of that time. It occurred to me that readers of TRT may be interested in the November 2009 election for Northampton mayor because it is the first time an out gay man has run against an out lesbian for this office here.

The local and regional media are covering this race with great interest because of what appear to be discrepancies of accountability from our sitting mayor (Higgins) and the possibility that a new mayor (Bardsley) is due simply because Higgins has been mayor for nearly 10 years, and it is "time for change."

When I think about some of the people who have challenged Mayor Higgins in previous elections, "change" would not have been a good thing for us; however, Bardsley is a credible challenger, and this election promises to be close. I confess to admiring each of them for the good and difficult work they have performed. Both Bardsley and Higgins are intelligent, passionate, and dedicated public servants.

To be fair, I asked each candidate the same questions during the interviews. Below you will see their answers (MB and CH).

**Please describe your abilities to serve as mayor of Northampton.**

MB: First and foremost, my ability to listen is important. I have a 33 year career as a guidance counselor, and I have been very successful in it. I know how to be a public servant and how to address individual needs. I can communicate and set priorities well. Group decision making is important to me and I know how to run a meeting.

CH: January 2010 marks my 10th year as Mayor of Northampton. In that role, I have demonstrated a number of abilities. I have a grasp of the financial issues—the choices, budget structures, and stresses involved. I have re-structured capital improvements by re-financing so we have more money for projects. Next, I know how to put together teams. Public safety is a good example. The fire department now handles all 911 ambulance calls. On my initiative, there is more accountability for audits and reviews.

Forty percent of all land owned by the City has been preserved under my leadership. On a state level, I have worked to procure grants for this. Affordable housing is a passion of

mine. I continue to work tirelessly, as home ownership is too out of reach for many.

Citizens can trust in my leadership abilities. Besides being the mayor for nearly 10 years, I served as the first female president of the Massachusetts Mayors Association.

I have served on the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Committee. **If your opponent wins, do you think s/he will serve the position well?**

MB: I think she will serve as she has been serving. Her style and apparent priorities are less than successful. She started off as being very good for the City.

CH: This is a judgment for the voters.

**I am writing this for The Rainbow Times. Ten or twenty years ago, it seems there would be emphasis on a gay man and a lesbian competing for the same office. I have noticed that the local/regional media makes no mention of this. How does this make you feel? Is your sexual orientation relevant to the job?**

MB: No, my sexual orientation is not relevant to the job. For myself, my working/lower middle class roots in the early 1960's helped me to develop a set of traits and outlooks that have helped me. I can understand others' points of views without judgment.

CH: My sexual orientation informs me, given my age and how things were a number of years ago. Both of us [Higgins and Bardsley] bring this understanding and extra sensitivity. As a practical matter today, my sexual orientation is irrelevant to the job.

**I have lived in the area most of my adult life, so I seem to remember that you two have been allies in the past. You respected each other professionally. Can you describe the development of your working relationship and how it led to where you are today?**

MB: My decision to run isn't a personal decision. It is not because I am against the mayor. There are various differences with the City Council and the Mayor. City government is



CLARE HIGGINS

not listening to or representing the concerns of a number of citizens. This came most notably to me regarding the Smith College overlay district issues. At a meeting regarding Smith's plans, I made a remark that it was the first time I heard the emphasis on the interests of the "city" rather than of the citizens. This turning point continued, and there were other things brewing behind the scenes that caused me to see things differently.

CH: Michael is a long-time elected leader in Northampton. He has served ably as a City Councilman. There are not too many issues we disagree on.

**Name three qualities you are most proud of in yourself as you have served the public. Can you name three for your opponent?**

MB: First, my ability to see things from the other person's point of view. Second, my ability to work with a wide range of people, conservative and liberal. Third, I am thoughtful in that I take issues and work to balance things out.

The Mayor is experienced, she is intelligent, and she can focus in on and retain policy information well.

CH: First, I have a broad grasp of issues and the experience to work them through. Second, I bring patience to the job. Third, I bring creativity to find ways to accomplish things that have not been done in the past.

It is up to Councilman Bardsley to demonstrate his qualities to the voters.

**Enough about your opponent. Is Northampton where you thought it would be 10 years ago? What are the main challenges for maintaining the City and for moving forward?**

MB: Ten years ago, I cannot remember. One thing evident then (and stronger now) is that Northampton is becoming more gentrified/upscale. It is such a desirable place to live for people with means. I am concerned the balance will tip and we will lose middle and working families.

CH: I would have liked to be in a better place for funding now. We receive less in state aid than we did eight years ago! It makes it difficult to invest in education; however, our education is in good shape considering this. I would like more investing in our schools. We have had two recessions—first, post 9/11, and then again, the current recession now in its second year.

**I am very excited about the state hospital grounds re-development. It is creating jobs. But I am concerned about housing costs in Northampton. I wish it was overall more affordable. It seems to be a market issue. Ten years ago, I did not know we would get the number of state and national recognitions we have received. Northampton is a "good place to live," according to many lists. Behind those lists, artists, business owners and others who have worked hard here have made this happen. Do you think it is important to balance the integrity of downtown with progress?**

MB: The City could have played a more influential leadership role to develop the identity of downtown. We can work with businesses.

The BID (Business Improvement District) should have been unnecessary. I voted for it because shop owners were desperate for relief. They want to keep downtown clean, keep it safe, and promote it.

A [new] hotel

concept is not bad, but the current one [being built] will not add value for a draw to the downtown.

CH: No one is investing in new buildings, so the balance issue is not a struggle. A more interesting thing is holding onto the unique flavor of independent businesses. Can we hold onto locally-owned unique goods and services? The BID is one way. It keeps downtown clean and looking nice. I am thrilled to see what they are doing.

How do new, young business people come in? I liked seeing them at meetings about the BID.

**Why do so many people come to Northampton to stay, shop and eat? This was not the case in the 1980's. Who is responsible for the surge in tourism?**

MB: Pieces of the community are responsible. The artists, first and foremost, are responsible. I was drawn to Northampton when I first moved here in 1970. Also, the restaurants and shops draw people here.

CH: Real estate values rose. Businesses such as Foster Farrar moved from downtown, and clothing and jewelry retail stores stayed. The higher end stores and the restaurant boom have helped. There are so many great places to eat. Also, the hotel in the center of town and the entertainment venues are appealing.

**If the growth in Northampton moved in a direction that made it difficult for LGBT community members to stay here, what would you do as mayor?**

MB: Keeping it affordable is a priority, which means addressing it for a cross section of people—the LGBT community, people of all races, and young people. It could become an "exclusive" community if we do not continue to work on affordability.

I would always address civil rights/human rights issues. I have been active in our annual pride march, and I worked to set up the City's human rights commission. I was the first openly gay elected official in Northampton 20 years ago.

CH: The concerns here are primarily economic. Northampton will not turn into a bible belt city. It's not just the LGBT community, but also people of color and of less means. This has been a 25-30 year trend here. Downtown used to comprise of mixed income residents. Because of the reputation here, there are also lots of LGBT families with money moving



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# Schoefield's Becoming a Man in 127 Easy Steps: Truly brilliant!

For the first time in US history, gender is being discussed at the dining room table, at the water cooler, and even on the Senate floor. Now that the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) includes gender identity and expression, gender non-conforming Americans may become first class citizens. At least that's the hope of award-winning theater artist Scott Turner Schofield whose new solo play, *Becoming a Man in 127 EASY Steps*, reminds us that this conversation is about people, and every person has stories about their journey to become the person they are today.

Irreverent and dynamic, graceful and playful, *Becoming a Man...* engages the deep questions and the locker room jokes about what it means to become a man. This show invites the audience to come along on a surprising journey of finding oneself. The Rainbow Times sent part of its staff to attend

the show. The following Q&A emerged from questions that arose after attending Scott's brilliant performance.

**How did you get started performing the 127 ways ... and how has the community received it?**

The show was commissioned by three companies in the U.S. through the National Performance Network. I expressed to The Pat Graney Company in Seattle, DiverseWorks in Houston, and 7 Stages in Atlanta that I wanted to write a final piece of my artistic trilogy about my gender identity (Underground Transit and Debutante Balls were my first two), and they generously supported me in creating the work.

Every audience I've encountered has praised the work for its universality and comedy, its perspective on gender, and its artistic voice and ingenuity. I couldn't be more honored by such feedback. I guess the biggest honor to

me as an artist is that my little show about my weird life could reach so many different kinds of people. That's exactly what I've always wanted to do.

**Some people would say that it take a lot of guts to do a full frontal as part of the show. How do you feel in that exact moment?**

[Laughs] To be honest, I go to this place inside myself that makes me feel completely strong and in control. I feel very powerful when I'm totally naked. After all, for once, the transperson gets to be in charge of the conversation about what surgeries are available or possible, so in this instance, I am the powerful one for sure.

**What is the purpose of "127"?**

Great question! My purpose in creating "Becoming a Man in 127 EASY Steps" was to reach out as far as I possibly could—to as many different kinds of people—with stories that are personally powerful and artistically moving.

**What long term expectations do you have pertaining to your performance career?**

Oh, I wish I could have expectations! How about deeply-held dreams? Yes. I hope to become a positive image for mainstream culture's perception of what it can mean to be a transgender person. That is, I hope that my work will earn me good success as an artist that will make people think twice before imagining anything negative about transfolks. I hope to be able to write a lot of different plays and movies—related to gender and not—that will push those art forms to great heights. I hope to become known as a TV and film actor, playing trans and non-trans roles. Not that I'm already practicing my Oscar speech, or anything ...

Las month Schofield's show sold out at *Real Art Ways* in Hartford, but so did Peterson

See 127 on Page 23

## NoHo Mayor from Page 20

here. They want good schools for their children.

So, this is a class issue. Can we make sure there's a range of options? When Smith College expanded, we made sure to make affordable housing there. It must remain so for at least 99 years. Meadowbrook has 200+ homes that are preserved as affordable housing.

**Hampshire County was ranked #2 in the country for percentage of same-gender households in the 2000 census. Why then, did the Chamber of Commerce drag its heels about promoting Northampton as a destination for same-sex couples when the marriage laws changed in 2004? Why, today, is their language so mainstream in promoting LGBT tourism? Are they catering to homophobic forces?**

MB: The Chamber has a cautious approach. Several strengths of Northampton could be used more effectively—including its diversity. It would attract people. The Chamber has done a poor job in promoting Northampton at all.

CH: I have not looked at this and have not found the Chamber to be homophobic. LGBT business people should get involved. We have a very active Chamber, and they are looking at re-organizing in lots of different ways.

**How does who you are in your sexual orientation add to your character and abilities?**

MB: I know how to persevere and I have the ability to have a long view through difficult times. For example, in running for mayor [against the incumbent], initially, I got both flak and support. Rather than be discouraged, I told myself that I have gone through worse than this. I am not afraid to stand up for my rights and the rights of others! When a Councilman recused himself from a controversy, as Council at Large, I stepped up to represent his ward.

CH: I have an understanding about being an outsider, and I am sensitive about being discriminated against. Mostly, I know how to use power tools.

**Do you have a Plan B if you do not get elected?**

MB: I will have a life.

CH: I will take time off and think about what's next. It would be something that makes positive change.

**I admire how each of you has largely dedicated your life to public service of one kind or another. How would I know how to vote in November? Convince me. I may reveal to readers in a later column my personal process in deciding.**

MB: Each person has to look at the City. From my point of view, the status quo is not working as well as it could. As an educator, I have given out many grades. I give Northampton a C- now. Considerations in this grade include: the decision-making process of government, concerns for the working and middle class, leadership on the environment, and support of elementary schools.

CH: I have a record of service in this particular job. I have experience in things such as working to bring change in housing, financial management, supporting the schools. There will be a rough two years ahead. People can trust that I can carry us through and manage in difficult times.

**Is there anything else you would like to share with our readers?**

MB: This is a difficult challenge for the LGBT community. People are torn, and I have been accused of fanning the flames of division in the community for political purposes. My response is that this is not for personal gain. I am not a politician, but rather a public servant. What does Northampton need? Who can provide it? The status quo has got to go. CH: There has been a fair amount of discussion about transparency. I kicked off a "sustainable" group with many people involved to work hard to get information to our citizens. I use a web site to post the budget. We are online with city ordinances and minutes from meetings. I hope to continue to do more for an open government.

Photos in NoHo's Mayoral Race (page 20) of the candidates are courtesy of J.M. Sorrell

## C'mon Out from Page 2

*satisfaction, maybe even a status thing so they can think they're cool. But for me being with women is a serious thing. Personally I don't think that there are really bisexuals. They are people who just are afraid of truly being themselves or playing some game. I have been really hurt in the past and I'm afraid of being hurt again. I wonder what you think about bisexuality. Do you think it is real? Do you think I should stay in this relationship or get out while I can? Please help! Frightened and confused, Cheryl*

Dear Cheryl:

I understand your concern. Having two lovers back with men can be very disturbing and confusing. I don't know that I can fully answer your questions since I do not know the people involved or much about you, but I can give some things to consider.

*The Kinsey Reports*, researched then written in 1948 and 1953 at a time when attitudes about sex and sexual orientation were much more closeted, showed that adults show an extremely high rate of sexual "reaction" to both the same and opposite sex. Dr. Kinsey and his colleagues determined that at least 50% of people had sexual feelings towards both genders. This information has not been refuted since that time.

Cheryl, this means that bisexuality is real. Also, from my own life experience of being part of the LGBTQ community since the '70s, I have seen "heterosexual" people of many different age groups come out as well as gay and lesbian people reengage in heterosexuality.

I do believe that there are lesbian and gay people too afraid to confront homophobia and never manage that transition. Additionally, as it is argued, there is probably some truth that some people choose "heterosexual privilege," who otherwise may be gay or lesbian. But the biggest thing I've learned both as a human being and as a therapist is that the world and its possibilities are huge. There is such a wide spectrum of interests, attitudes and beliefs. So

much of life is not black or white, one clear way or the other. Diversity, so often talked about is real. Also, we human being are not static. We change and do so constantly. Likes, dislikes, needs, wishes and so much more change through the course of our lifetimes, sometimes again and again.

So you see Cheryl, it is impossible to say what the truth is for your past girlfriends and your current on.

With that said, let me suggest that you get to know your girlfriend well before going deeper with her. This, by the way is always a good thing, regardless of any questions of sexual orientation. Find out how well she knows herself. Is she generally consistent? In other words are her words and actions the same? How much integrity does she have? Is she a good friend, does she show an ability to commit to people and things? If these kinds of things check out and she is clear about her love and commitment to you, her bisexuality may not be a threat to you. Some bisexual people do commit to long term gay and lesbian relationships. It depends on the person. Talk openly and honestly with her and see if she has the kind of substance you're looking for in a partner.

Good luck Cheryl.

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

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

## Visión Latina Boston

# Celebra la Herencia Latina, parte rica de nuestra sociedad



Por: Wilfred Labiosa\*

**D**urante este mes cuando se celebra y reconoce la importancia de la Herencia y Comunidad Latina en los Estados Unidos, es importante tomar orgullo de nuestro pasado, trabajar en nuestro presente y tomar acción de nuestro futuro. Celebra que tenemos a una Juez Latina en la Corte Suprema; celebra que somos la fuerza trabajadora más notada; y que tenemos una rica historia, comida, música, y gente. Aprende, reconoce y toma acción de tu salud. ¿Sabías que en octubre también se conmemora el Día Nacional Latino de concientización sobre la prueba de VIH/SIDA? El 15 de octubre es el Día Nacional Latino del SIDA. Esta enfermedad no ha desaparecido de nuestra sociedad pero me parece que nuestra comunidad Latina GLBT y heterosexual se ha olvidado al respecto. En los últimos cinco años, la comunidad Latina ha sido la más afectada por el VIH/SIDA. Cada hora hay más de dos Latino/as que contraen el VIH/SIDA y no lo saben. La forma de infección más alta en estos momentos es por contacto sexual heterosexual sin protección y/o por el uso de drogas ilegales inyectadas.

El Centro de Prevención y Control de Infecciones de los Estados Unidos (CDC, por sus siglas en inglés) estima que en el 2006 la comunidad Latina representó 15% de toda la población en Estados Unidos, pero también representó el 17% de los casos nuevos del

VIH/SIDA. Las mujeres Latinas son el 15% de los casos de personas viviendo con el VIH/SIDA. La comunidad Latina en muchos estados es la población más afectada por el VIH/SIDA y en otros somos la segunda comunidad más afectada sólo precedida por la comunidad Afro-Americana. A la misma vez nuestra comunidad Latina posee un alto índice de uso de drogas ilegales e inyectadas comparada con cualquier otro segmento de la sociedad.

El VIH/SIDA no es sólo un problema en los Estados Unidos sino a nivel global, especialmente en África, Latino América y naciones del Caribe. En muchos países es una pandemia; el único país del Caribe donde hay un control masivo del VIH/SIDA es Cuba. Aunque el sistema usado en Cuba amerita crítica, por lo menos es el país con menos casos del SIDA y el incremento de infecciones es menos del 1%, cosa que no se ve en ningún otro país de nuestro hemisferio. Durante la semana del 15 de octubre, hay muchas actividades donde te puedes hacer la prueba de detección del VIH/SIDA gratuitamente. El CDC recomienda que si eres una persona activa te hagas la prueba rutinariamente. Hazte la prueba y toma riendas de tu salud.

En este tiempo también se observa el mes de La Recuperación de Drogas. Durante estos días es cuando uno, su familia y comunidad se debe educar sobre el problema de drogas que existe en nuestra sociedad, en especial en nuestra juventud. Los Jóvenes son los más afectados por el problema de drogas; se estipula que si durante la juventud el individuo no usa drogas entonces es menos propenso/a usarlas durante la



adultez. Así que vamos a educar a nuestra juventud sobre los efectos malignos de las drogas para que si alguien le ofrece drogas, entonces quizás no comiencen a usarlas. Si se habla de este problema quizás en un futuro próximo podamos recuperar una sociedad libre de drogas.

En este mes de la Herencia Latina toma conciencia, educate y toma riendas de tu futuro. Celebra tu herencia, baila, come, canta, y goza de tu herencia Latina a la misma vez de aprender y mantenerte saludable. Protégete si tienes sexo, y si usas drogas toma conciencia y protégete intercambiando jeringuillas y pensando de que para tu futuro lo mejor es la recuperación viviendo un día a la vez. Nunca es tarde para detener el uso de drogas. Recuerda que quizás te tome más de una vez pero es importante comen-

zar y pensar en la recuperación. Sólo por hoy.

Vamos a tomar riendas de nuestro futuro y de nuestra comunidad Latina-protegiéndonos y educándonos. La salud es primera y el resto llega. La comunidad Latina GLBT de Boston también decidió mover la Celebración Anual de Orgullo GLBT a Octubre durante el mes de la Herencia Latina ya que somos parte de la Herencia Latina, Somos Latinos. Visita la página electrónica de la Coalición de Somos Latin@s LGBT para más información.

\* Escrito por Wilfred W. Labiosa, psicólogo y activista local, miembro de la mesa directiva de Unid@s: La Organización Nacional Latina GLBT para los Derechos Humanos. Editado por Grisel Martínez Ocasio. To read this article in English: [www.therainbowtimesmass.com/lat-invisionoctober](http://www.therainbowtimesmass.com/lat-invisionoctober) (no hyphens)

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# The Outfield: 'Stronghold' stands up for wrestling



By: Dan Woog\*

Wrestlers get erections.

That straightforward fact is the elephant in the wrestling room. And it's just one of many controversial, often-ignored topics addressed by Victor Rook in his insightful new documentary, "Stronghold: In the Grip of Wrestling."

Here are others: Vast numbers of men are sexually attracted to wrestling. As kids, they cut photos out of library wrestling books; as adults, they believe they must hide their interest.

Now—thanks to Rook's film, an accompanying book and his WrestleMen.com Web site—wrestling fans are coming out of the closet.

Growing up near Buffalo, Rook did not wrestle. "I thought you had to be a short, thick-necked Italian," he laughs. "I was tall and lanky. I played tennis."

He earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan State, then worked as a technical writer for years. But in the late 1990s he realized two ambitions: He made a nature documentary for PBS, and he started wrestling.

After a wrestling cartoon he drew earned attention, he quit his job. Since 1998 WrestleMen.com has been his main source of

income. Through conversations with thousands of men - gay and straight, single and married - he realized his attraction to wrestling was far from unique.

In 2004, he decided to make a film. He wanted to address sensitive subjects like wrestling homoeroticism, but in a way that straight and gay men could both respect. He also wanted to include every form of wrestling: amateur, professional, submission and "horseplay."

He posted a request for interviews on the Web site of USA Wrestling, the umbrella organization for high school and college grappling. It was removed on the grounds of "solicitation." However, a similar request for a fictional film was allowed to remain.

Rook says that USAW did not want to be associated with lightning-rod issues. He notes, "That's unfortunate. Those same issues - boys' shame about their bodies, and homophobia - ultimately prevent more kids from getting into wrestling."

As he traveled the country filming interviews, Rook felt pressure from two sides. "Gays were afraid that this film may set back gay men who take wrestling seriously," he says. "And straight audiences wanted nothing to do with anything that spoke of homoeroticism, even when kids make constant jokes about wrestling looking so 'gay.'"

But clearly, interest was there. Every day for

a man who was a woman, a lesbian turned straight guy who is often mistaken for a gay man, and he has entertained feminists and fratboys, season subscribers and people who "don't like theater," in big cities and small towns across the U.S. and Europe. Scott Turner Schofield teaches us that gender is a story full of gorgeous imagery, mind-blowing physicality, hilarity and poignancy, and that stories must work in conjunction with legislation to bring about real change and sincere inclusion in our culture.

Scott's book, *Two Truths and a Lie*, can be purchased at [homofactuspress.com](http://homofactuspress.com) or [bn.com](http://bn.com). To contact Scott's Manager about interviews or booking a show at your local theater or college, please email [book-performance@gmail.com](mailto:book-performance@gmail.com).



Photo from Victor Rook's documentary.

views were easy; finding archival footage was especially arduous. Rook spent months searching for clips in the public domain, and obtaining rights for others. But the many black-and-white and sepia pictures of boys and men wrestling through the ages provide graphic evidence that such activity has long been part of male life.

Rook spent enormous time organizing his material. "Before you can talk about one thing, you have to cover another," he notes. For example, a section on "Masculinity and Wrestling" served as a lead-in to more sensitive discussions of arousal and eroticism last on.

Current events played a role too. When eBay banished all amateur-made wrestling videos to the "Mature Audiences" section - even those with no sexual content - Rook juxtaposed the decision with female and coed videos, which were not affected.

Cramming all that - while describing the stark distinction between scholastic and professional

four years, Rook wore a wrestling T-shirt. That made people feel comfortable initiating conversations.

"In bars, guys have dumped their girlfriends to talk to me all night about wrestling," Rook says.

Compared with the rest of filmmaking, the inter-

wrestling, the societal taboo against amateur wrestling and the underground world of wrestling for pleasure and gratification - into two hours was extremely difficult. Rook ended up including an hour of material on an "extras" disc.

Reaction has been very positive. Men tell Rook they no longer feel alone or odd because of their attraction to wrestling.

The film has been praised by coaches, too. Among the most compelling interviewees is a high school coach who seems surprised when he realizes he never addresses fears of erections, or the perception that all wrestlers are gay, with his young charges.

Rook hopes the video is seen by many scholastic coaches. "Listening to adult men talk about their fears and shame around wrestling growing up may help coaches become more sensitive to their wrestlers' concerns," he says.

Until then, Rook will be sustained by a conversation he had with a teenager. Advising him to ignore the gibes of those who call wrestling a "gay sport" - and to concentrate on the self-confidence, physical fitness and joy he takes from training and competition - Rook told the boy: "Don't worry. It's not about you. It's about everyone else, and what they're feeling."

For more information on "Stronghold," visit [www.wrestlingfilm.com](http://www.wrestlingfilm.com).

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

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Tosceno's Transfigurations at the Charter Oak Cultural Center, and the first annual Miss Trans Northampton at the Northampton Center For the Arts. Schofield may be onto something with his theory of storytelling as activism. If the box office is any indicator, New England seems more than ready to embrace its trans siblings and defend the rights we have all justly come to expect as humans.

If you missed his performances at Real Art Ways, be sure to check out Schofield's website [www.undergroundtransit.com](http://www.undergroundtransit.com) for upcoming tour dates near you (and to see video clips of his shows).

Schofield brings a sharp wit and unflinching warmth to his work, drawing on his personal experiences while illuminating issues of gender, sex and identity for everyone. He is

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