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HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN  
FOUNDATION

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A Report Card on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Equality in Corporate America

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## Opinions

# The solution to our problems?

By: Nicole Lashomb  
TRT Editor-in-Chief

Recently I read that San Diego's Republican Mayor, Jerry Sanders, had changed his opposition to same-sex marriage once he realized that his daughter was a lesbian.

Although at first sight this seemed as a hypocritical act to me, upon thinking about it I started having second thoughts. Would most people accept their LGBT biological family members just because they love them? Immediately I thought of the many other people that I've known whose lives have been completely changed by letting their parents or family members know that they were gay, trans, etc. I remember having conversations with friends who have been disowned just because they have come out of the closet

to their parents or relatives.

I particularly remember a story about a young man from the south that was disowned, and kicked out of his home by his parents when he told them that he was gay. Years had gone by and one day I asked his sister about him. She said that he had passed. She explained that her parents never accepted him, nor showed any signs of affection towards him. He contracted HIV in the following years after coming out, and when he asked his parents to allow him back at the house, they denied him that request. A few years later his body was found in a dumpster. His sister had to identify his body. She knew it was him only because of his dental records. Was this not the opposite of what Mayor Sanders did? It is, it was and it remained ...

See Love Page 3

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

By: JM Sorrell  
TRT Columnist

What a September to remember. The weather has been fabulous, no? Hopefully, the lack of rain will not lead to a less than spectacular foliage season.

While you are enjoying fall excursions and welcoming the new (academic, Jewish) year, I am asking readers to seriously consider how we support each other as a community. Lest you think I am preaching, let me start by confessing that I buy books at *Barnes and Noble*, get most of my food and wine at *Whole Foods*, and yet I have never purchased anything at *Walmart*.

I still do not buy GE products, nor have I since the boycott from the 1980's. *Shell* gas still reminds me of the anti-Apartheid campaigns, so my association keeps me from pumping gas there unless I am on empty. I suspect that most politicized LGBT community members each have criteria and contradictions just as I do. Cracker Barrel, no. Costco, okay.

Many of you are old enough to remember a time when LGBT people were more marginalized from society—when we had to create our own community and support each other emotionally, spiritually and economically. Some of you were not of age during these times. Let's be clear that our struggles have been numerous, and many of us would have perished in one way or another without LGBT bookstores, clubs, and newspapers.

Simply put, I am asking all of us to continue to treasure and support what we have. This includes *The Rainbow Times*.

The publisher and editor would never encourage me to write this column, but I know they will not censor me either.

They have worked tirelessly and with great sacrifice to create a regional publication to serve every facet of the LGBT community.

Predictably, their work has been met with both praise and criticism. This is good. What is troubling is the resistance or apathy to advertise (the primary means of support) by LGBT business owners and sole practitioners who seem to spend marketing and advertising dollars elsewhere. TRT distributes thousands of papers to Brattleboro, down to Hartford and beyond, and in all four counties of western Massachusetts.

It seems to make good business sense to advertise in TRT. Whether we like all of it, parts of it, or still want to see other types of coverage, I suspect we all want to see its continuation. It is up to us to make this happen. I have experienced much with the editor and publisher through this start-up process. They are skilled and at the same time very open to growth and learning. Thanks for paying attention, all of us.

\* J.M. Sorrell is a regular columnist for TRT. She would be reading it and supporting it even if she was not having so much fun writing and reviewing books and films.



J.M. the JP

# The Controversial Couch

By: Susan Ambrose  
TRT Columnist

(Lay back and listen. Then get up and do something.)



There's an old *Twilight Zone* episode where a racist, bigoted white guy turns into the very thing he hated his whole life: namely, a Jew trying to elude capture from the Nazis, a black man being hunted by dogs and slave owners—and he learns his lesson well by the end of the show. (It was the *Twilight Zone*, after all!)

This came into the forefront of my brain recently when the House of Representatives passed the Matthew Shepard Act, a hate crimes bill being discussed at the national level.

Matthew Shepard was a young man who was murdered nine years ago. Not because he incited a violent argument, not because he attempted armed robbery—no, Matthew's only "crime" was to be gay.

The bill with his name on it is intended to make federal money and people available in solving hate crimes that smaller towns or rural communities may not have the resources for. It is to protect people from being attacked or brutalized for who they are.

Some people (read here: religious extremists) would have you believe that the current laws are enough for everyone and that what the GLBT community is asking for are "extraordinary protections and privileges" with this bill, S.1105, currently in committee on the Senate level.

But I think otherwise.

An anti-gay group ran a full-page ad in *USA Today* recently to scare people into thinking this bill may not allow religious voices to speak out on their views of

See Couch on Page 9

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thank you for publishing such a wonderful newspaper. I live in Hartford, CT and I look forward to reading *The Rainbow Times* every month. The topics addressed in the paper are very diverse and inclusive. Please keep up the excellent work! Vilma I, Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,

I saw that two of your racks had other sheets of papers glued to the front of the display area and inside I found another newspaper and not the *Rainbow Times*. Is it that you're running out of issues? I also miss seeing your newspapers at the Academy, what happened with that rack? Jim F., Northampton

Editor's Response:

We have not run out of issues at all. We do not have, however, a rack in front of The Academy any longer. You're not the first one to let us know about these problems, although you're the first one to write a letter to the editor. We have had callers alert us to the fact that some places do not want TRT in their stores in Northampton, while other places simply show that there seems to be opposition to an LGBT newspaper. We think that this happens because our struggle is still very much alive, even when gay rights have passed in MA. We will continue to monitor our racks in order to continue to provide you, our readers, with the same quality coverage month after month.

Dear Editor,

The other day I went to Cooley Dickinson Hospital and I saw an older couple trashing your papers and saying "look the

##%\$@&s have a newspaper now!!!" I am a trans and I just couldn't take it so I told them that we deserve to have a paper. The man gave me a dirty look and the woman didn't even bother. I moved to this area because I thought it was open but I'm starting to think it's not as open as I thought.

Lauren L., Florence

See More Letters to the Editor on Page 4

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# Local artists exhibit at Paradise City, Columbus Day weekend

By: Nicole Lashomb  
TRT Editor-in-Chief

Paradise City Arts Festival is ready to kick off once again at the Three County Fair Grounds in Northampton on October 6, 2007.

"The October Festival has quite different exhibitors than this past Memorial Day Weekend show," said Linda Post, founding Director, Paradise City Arts Festival.

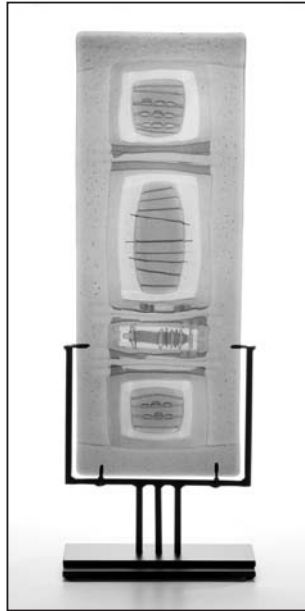
"You'll see some of the same artists, but since we change our jurors each season, and the application pool also changes, the majority of the show is fresh and new each time. And then, of course, your favorite returning artists often come with a new body of work!"

Thousands of artists and master craftsmen and women across the country apply to take part in the arts festival as an exhibitor.

"This fall's Festival was one of the most difficult to jury because of the excellence of the work that was submitted," said Post. "We viewed nearly 5,000 images from 1,000 applicants from all over the country – and the vast majority of them were well qualified for acceptance. Since the show holds only 275 exhibitors, you'll see what is truly the crème de la crème of independent artists and master craftsmen on October 6-8."

Two local artists, also long-time exhibitors, who made the rigorous cut for Paradise City Arts Festival include Lynn Latimer of Easthampton and Sally Dillon of Amherst.

"I have been working in glass for 31 years," said Latimer, Latimer Glass



Glass creation by local artist Lynn Latimer, Latimer Glass Studio, Easthampton, Massachusetts.

Studio, Easthampton, Mass. "It is an endlessly interesting medium and I've been making the standing fused glass panels for about five years now."

Latimer's creations are self-described as contemporary fused glass panels, with an emphasis on color and detail.

"When light passes through a colored glass composition it is compelling, like a

good sunset, and continually shifts throughout the day," said Latimer. "The feel of the design for a number of them [the glass panels] is inspired by a love of hand-loomed textiles and rugs and third the rich luminous palette achieved through layering translucent colors like watercolor."

Dillon, a customized fiber/fabric artist with a design emphasis on nature, geography and geology has participated in Paradise City Arts Festival for the past 11 years.

"Customized work is my mainstay, especially for quilts," said Dillon, Sally Dillon Hand painted Silk, Amherst, Mass. "You can order a quilt with a map of your favorite island or river, enhanced by birds, animals and plants of your selection. I also do custom jackets. My favorite ones are often for weddings when I can add something special to the event by dyeing a design that is meaningful to the couple; perhaps the mountain where they met on the back of a jacket or vest."

According to Post, Paradise City will hold its 11th annual Silent Auction to benefit Hospice.

"Over the years, we have also held ben-

efits for the Breast Form Fund, several hospitals and we often host events that support the arts in education," she said.

Latimer and Dillon express high expectations for the upcoming show.

"The people attending the Paradise show have always been wonderfully enthusiastic and supportive. It's a tremendously enjoyable show to do on many levels," said Latimer.

"The audience [that attend the] Paradise City fairs are very well educated and really know a great deal about art," said Dillon. "That makes them appreciative customers as well as interesting to talk to. I always learn something."

The Paradise City Arts Festival takes place from October 6-8 at the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton, Mass.

For more information, call 800-511-9725 or visit [www.paradisecityarts.com](http://www.paradisecityarts.com).

**Remember,**  
**TRT** you saw it  
first here!

## Love from Page 2

untold because this man was just another statistic swept under the rug of no protections for LGBT people. We need to have the laws, the protections and all of the rights that everyone else does.

I have respect for Mayor Sanders. I, too, have been wrong in the past. We all have. It is more difficult and commendable to accept that you have erred, recognize your limitations and show the world that you are willing to change your position, than to stubbornly hang on to hatred and ignorance just because you do not want to know any better.

In an AP report published at [STLtoday.com](http://STLtoday.com) he was quoted as saying: "In the end, I could not look any of them in the face and tell them that their relationships—their very lives—were any less meaningful than the marriage that I share with my wife Rana," Sanders said.

It takes a bigger person to accept their

misgivings. However, I wish that he had come to this realization before the reality of it had touched his life in such a personal way. Of course, he could have been like the religious parents of my friend's brother who never even went to his funeral.

LGBT people are human beings who love, laugh, cry, share, enjoy life, and want peace and the same rights that we pay for in this country, in this state, in our short lives on earth. Why is this so difficult to understand, to accept? I do not impose my beliefs on anyone. You love who you love, marry who you marry, procreate if you want to, or not if you have chosen not to do so. We just want others to let us live, let us be free, without religion, but with the given rights that any citizen of this country is entitled to. Are you big enough to understand that just because we are different does not make us your enemy?



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## In 'The Name of God'

# Episcopal Church USA votes to suspend ordination of gay bishops

WASHINGTON—The House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church USA voted Tuesday to reaffirm the US church's moratorium on confirming new openly gay or lesbian bishops and blessing of same sex unions. The decision came days before a deadline imposed by leaders of the global Anglican Church that relations would be "damaged at best" if the Episcopal Church USA did not cease consecrating openly gay bishops and blessing same-sex unions.

Speaking for the Human Rights

Campaign, Harry Knox, director of the HRC Religion and Faith Program offered the following reaction to the Episcopal Church's decision:

"This decision is a profound disappointment to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people everywhere," said Harry Knox, director of the HRC Religion and Faith Program. "The bishops are in danger of succumbing to the temptation to bow before an idol called church unity when God demands justice."

"We stand solidly behind the efforts of Integrity to overturn the moratorium at General Convention 2009 and pledge ourselves to redouble our supportive efforts. We will not go away; we will not be silent. Our faith and our lives depend on it."

HRC's Religion and Faith Program gives voice to the fair-minded faithful; opens hearts and minds to new ways of viewing gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people; and effectively works to reclaim the faith-based debate from the

intolerant and radical right.

*The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.*

## Woman says agency discriminated because she's a Christian

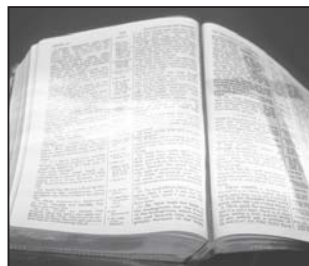
By The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—A former employee has accused a New Hampshire child advocacy agency of harassing and discriminating against her because she shared her Christian beliefs in the office.

In her lawsuit, Penny Nixon of Concord said she was sarcastically referred to as the "good Christian" at Casey Family Services. She says she was forbidden from giving out religious Christmas cards.

Nixon also claims that although the agency promoted tolerance and diversity, it would not allow her to hold voluntary lunch-hour Bible studies but permitted a gay and lesbian group to meet during business hours.

"Penny Nixon is not saying she has any objection to working with gay men or



lesbians," Nixon's attorney, Chuck Douglas, wrote in a lawsuit filed in Merrimack County Superior Court. "She does not object to diversity training that is evenhanded. However, she does assert her right to have her practice and belief in Christianity unmolested in the workplace."

Casey Family Services has not yet responded to the lawsuit in court. Lee Mullane, a spokeswoman at the agency's Connecticut headquarters, said the agency promotes respect and tolerance for all beliefs and believes Casey will be vindicated in court.

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## Church leaders plan to defend marriage

By: Nafesa Syeed/Associated Press Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—A coalition of church leaders said Thursday it will lobby lawmakers to pass an amendment to the state's constitution to define marriage as being between a man and a woman.

About 15 central Iowa clergy gathered at a Baptist church in Des Moines to announce a new statewide initiative defending traditional marriage.

"The church has been far too silent," said the Rev. Keith Ratliff of Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church, where the group unveiled their plans.

Ratliff said the group came together because traditional marriage is under attack after a Polk County judge struck down the state's ban on gay marriage last month.

Judge Robert Hansen stayed his ruling while it's under appeal to the Iowa Supreme Court.

Church leaders said they plan to call on congregations to lobby the Legislature to pass an amendment limiting marriage to a man and a woman.

"We pray other ministers and congregations ... will step up to the plate. This is a call to arms," said Pastor Dan Berry of Cornerstone Family Church in Des Moines.

The group, which cuts across denominations and political parties, plans to hold forums with the gay community and start off their campaign with a prayer rally scheduled for Oct. 28.

The initiative comes amid widespread concern about clergy's freedom to

preach their beliefs against gay marriage, said Chuck Hurley, president of the Iowa Family Policy Center, which is backing the church leaders.

"These pastors are saying, 'We're going to continue preaching the Gospel and we believe the laws should allow a window of freedom of speech to stay open,'" Hurley said.

The coalition has already begun distributing a DVD movie entitled, "Hate Crimes Laws: Censoring the Church and Silencing Christians," which was produced by Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. It showcases how those speaking against gay marriage are under fire.

Carolyn Jenison, executive director of One Iowa, a gay rights advocacy group, said in a statement that her organization has faith leaders "who feel strongly that equality and fairness are important to Iowans."

But ultimately, she said "this is a discussion about civil rights—and these rights are determined by our government. Extending equal rights to all Iowans does not affect the practices of Iowa's faith leaders and their communities."

Church leaders said dozens of pastors throughout Iowa have expressed support for their move. Other groups, including Iowa Christian Alliance and Concerned Women for America of Iowa have also signed on to initiative.

"This is not about hate, but about differences of belief," Ratliff said. "Just because we disagree with same sex marriage doesn't make us homophobic."

Editor from Page 2

Dear Editor,

I don't see many bisexual articles in the Times. Are you leaving us out on purpose or is this just an oversight on your part? Monique S., Hadley

Editor's Response: No, we do not deliberately leave any of the groups that are representative of this community out. We believe in inclusion, and it is definitely a part of our mission. Please check other issues of TRT and you will see that there has been bisexual coverage in the past.

Dear Editor,

I saw a story on Domestic Violence in the gay community. I think it was a great article with lots of good information to our community. As a gay man I appreciated reading about this article and knowing that there are agencies that do something for us in this capacity. I love the Rainbow Times and wanted to let you know I pick up all of your issues and take them to my friends and family all the time. Keep up the good work.

Jamie S., Northampton

**Featured Business**

# Sunrooms Lead Industry in Trend for Outdoor Living

Four Seasons Sunrooms, premier manufacturer and builder of year-round glass sunrooms, solariums and conservatory additions, says sunrooms offer the best of both worlds

Southwick, MA (Grassroots Newswire)—

Living outdoors with a lavishly furnished backyard was the trendy renovation for homes a few years ago. Back then, people designed their open outdoors area with cementation on sections of their backyards, installing swimming pools, and even installing other components like outdoor kitchens. However, between the upkeep of expensive outdoor furnishings, its attraction to animals that damage it, and costly repairs, the trend has quickly moved another direction.

According to Jim Shields of *Shields Enclosures*, open outdoor decks and yards are still common, but there has been an increased attraction towards sunrooms, solariums and conservatory house additions. A recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* has even explained how homeowners have been choosing these types of enclosed outdoor living options, instead of investing in waterproof furniture and other embellishments.

"There are a myriad of pitfalls that

become reasons why people get fed up with open outdoor areas," Shields said. "Between the time spent for its maintenance, expensive repairs, and other factors, homeowners find that it becomes more work than required inside their home and would rather invest in an extended part of their homes that require minimal worry. That is why we at Shields Enclosures have seen an increase in our business, especially when it comes to installing sunrooms."

Enclosed house additions, like sunrooms, offer many benefits and they become integral parts of the home, Shields said. Homeowners enjoy the feeling of being outdoors, without having to deal with neglected outdoor furniture and accessories.

"With sunrooms, you get the best of both worlds. You are able to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors without dealing with the maintenance and wildlife," Shields said. "In addition, a sunroom offers you a higher return investment on

your home."

According to Shields, homeowners are spending more money and time to make better use of their space.

"With the real estate market being the way it is, people want to get more bang for their buck—priced backyard 'rooms' aren't cutting it anymore," Shields said.

Four Seasons Sunrooms backs all of its products and services with expert-factory trained sunroom design consultants, top quality sunroom and solarium installation crews. According to Shields, Four Seasons Sunrooms is "tried and true, highly recommended, utterly dependable, and internationally recognized as the industry leader in both products and customer service."

*Four Seasons Sunrooms* prides itself on the fact that it offers highly trained local franchisees, like Shields, who "live where you live, know what your needs are, and offer personalized attention and unparalleled local service."

For more information, please contact

Jim Shields at (413) 569-0000.

## About Four Seasons Sunrooms

Four Seasons Sunrooms, the premier manufacturer and builder of year-round glass sunrooms, solariums and conservatory additions in North America, has been in business for over 30 years. The company designs, builds and services sunrooms, solariums, conservatories, Florida rooms, and patio enclosures. Offering the "best of both worlds"—industry-leading corporate strength and resources combined with highly trained local businesses—Four Seasons Sunrooms' industry-leading patented glass technology, ConservaGlass Plus, helps to provide all-day, all-night comfort, 365 days a year. For more information, please visit [www.fourseasons-sunrooms.com](http://www.fourseasons-sunrooms.com).

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## Queer News

# Newly married gay college president has few peers

By: Justin Pope/AP Education Writer

When Ralph Hexter assumed the presidency of Hampshire College in western Massachusetts in 2005, his partner of 25 years, Manfred Kollmeir, was officially welcomed with all the trappings of a presidential spouse. Over Labor Day weekend, the couple made it official, exchanging vows in a private ceremony (Massachusetts is the only state allowing gay marriage) and breaking the news last week to the campus community.

Earlier this month, the Chronicle of Higher Education identified 11 openly gay college leaders, a number that is growing but remains tiny. There are more than 4,000 colleges and universities in the United States.

The Associated Press chatted with Hexter earlier this month about some of the issues facing gay college presidents.

His responses are excerpted below.

**AP:** Overall, academia is viewed as a welcoming profession for gays and lesbians. So why do you think so few have become presidents?

**Hexter:** In many parts of academia, whether it's religious-based schools, many community colleges, it isn't as welcoming, but you're right, overall as an 'industry,' higher education is comparatively welcoming. There is a glass ceiling in most places. I think it has to do with the fact that the president is the chief fundraiser. In the older institutions there's a fear that some of the alumni who provide the greatest support and who are more conservative may be put off by this.

**AP:** Is there any legitimacy to those concerns? After all, a president can't lead a college effectively if he or she can't raise money.

**Hexter:** I would say to an institution you have to decide whether you believe in your own values, if they extend to not discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. If you believe this is the best individual to lead your college, it may or may not have that impact, but wouldn't it be a shame if out of your own fears you

shied away from choosing this person? If you appoint the person you may have a chance to discover that your fears were not well-founded.

**AP:** Hampshire is a small school with a reputation of being quite liberal and open. But do you expect anytime soon to see an openly gay president at, say, a Big Ten school or a large, prominent state university in the South?

**Hexter:** It would surprise me if this development occurred first in the South, at least for an out gay president. State universities on the one hand have to be

concerned about their legislatures, so they might be behind. On the other hand, they may rely less on donors. The University of California has appointed an openly gay chancellor. If we could fast forward 10 years, I'm certainly hopeful that the senior executives at leading universities of whatever size will reflect the diversity that exists at lower ranks.

**AP:** Do you believe there are really only a dozen or so gay presidents? Or are there others who remain in the closet?

**Hexter:** There's an intermediate stage,

*See President on Page 14*

## Senate passage of Hate Crimes Bill moves bill closer than ever to becoming law

WASHINGTON—In an historic step toward equality for LGBT Americans, the U.S. Senate voted to pass the Matthew Shepard Act, which updates and expands the federal hate crimes laws to include bias motivated violence based on a victim's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, and disability, and provides new resources and tools to assist local law enforcement in prosecuting vicious crimes.

"For over a decade our community has worked tirelessly to ensure protections to combat violence motivated by hate and today we are the closest we have ever been to seeing that become a reality," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Congress has taken an historic step forward and moved our country closer to the realization that all Americans, including the GLBT community, are part of the fabric of our nation. The new leadership in Congress fully understands that for too long our community has been terrorized by hate violence. And today, the US Senate has sent a clear message to every corner of our country that we will no longer turn a blind eye to anti-gay violence in America."

The Senate in a bipartisan vote of 60 to 39 accepted cloture, which ended debate on the bill and then moved to approve the Matthew Shepard Act by a voice vote—attaching it as an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2008 Department of Defense Authorization bill.

The President has threatened to veto the legislation, calling it "unnecessary." According to the FBI, 25 Americans each day are victims of hate crimes—that

means approximately one hate crime is committed every hour. One in six hate crimes are motivated by the victim's sexual orientation. It's time to update the law to protect everyone, and this year marks our best chance yet to get it done.

"Hate crimes terrorize entire communities and violate America's core democratic principles that all citizens are created equal and are afforded equal protection under the law," continued Solmonese. "On behalf of the millions of Americans who have waited too long for these critical protections, we urge President Bush to sign the bill when it arrives on his desk."

The hate crimes amendment was introduced by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR). It confers authority on the federal government to investigate and prosecute crimes committed against victims solely because of their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and disability when local officials are unwilling or unable to do so. It also expands existing federal hate crimes law to improve prosecution of bias-motivated crimes based on race, religious, national origin and color and provides additional resources to local law enforcement.

*The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.*

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## Continuing Transitioning: Male-to-Female special health concerns

Last month's article discussed some general health concerns for the transgender population. To sum up again, the term transgender applies to a diverse group of individuals including those who strongly identify with the other gender, those who cross-dress, and those who change their bodies to look and feel like the other gender. This month's article focuses on the special needs and concerns of MTF transitions.

### Male-to-Female (MTF) health concerns

The process of transitioning MTF may utilize superficial, surgical, or hormonal changes. Superficial changes include using clothes, prosthetics, and behaviors to affect the female gender. These changes do not permanently alter the physical or chemical make up of the body.

Surgical sexual reassignment changes both the physical appearance of the individual and permanently changes the biochemical make-up of the body due to testes removal. Testes removal permanently terminates sperm production.

Before undergoing surgery MTF, may want to consider sperm banking for future family planning if at all applicable.

Hormone therapy changes the biochemical make-up of the body and affects the physical appearance and personality of the individual. MTF take estrogen hormone and usually an anti-androgen drug, to increase female characteristics and decrease male characteristics.

Hormone therapy takes time to have an effect and the end result may be less than desired. The male body and bone size, including height, jaw shape, size and shape of hands and feet, and narrow pelvis, will not change with hormone use. Voice pitch will remain the same though more feminine vocal patterns can be learned. Most changes are reversible, though breast development remains permanent to some degree.

Hormone therapy may be reduced

## Transgender Pride March 2008

**What:** A local group is organizing the area's first ever Transgender Pride March and Rally for 2008. In an attempt to bring the transgender communities in the western Massachusetts, southern Vermont, and Connecticut areas together, this day of celebration is being organized.

**Why:** Because it's not enough to be "included" in the Gay Pride Parades. Because the Transgender Day of Remembrance should not be the only time we get together and have a community rally. Because we have important trans-inclusive legislation pending in Connecticut and Massachusetts that we need to pass to protect ourselves.

**What needs to be done:** Let other



DR. RENEE LANG

and/or eliminated after surgery because removing the testicles removes the main source of male hormones in the body. However, some may continue to use lower doses for continued effect mainly on hair distribution.

### Effects of estrogen include:

- Breast growth; a B-cup size is the maximum from hormone therapy and will likely take two years to achieve.

**The male body and bone size, including height, jaw shape, size and shape of hands and feet, and narrow pelvis, will not change with hormone use. Voice pitch will remain the same though more feminine vocal patterns can be learned.**

- Some body fat redistribution from abdomen to thighs, hips, and buttocks to approximate a female body shape.
- Decreased upper body strength.
- Softening of the skin.
- Decreased trunk and limb hair over several years. Areola, armpit, and pubic hair change less. Facial hair growth patterns will not change. Electrolysis provides the best solution.
- Slowing or halting of scalp hair loss.
- Decreased fertility and testicular size. Infertility occurs with testicle removal.
- Less frequent and less firm erections and possibly decreased penis size.

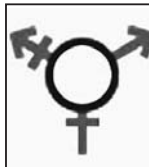
### Other Possible Beneficial Effects of Estrogen Include:

- Decreased heart disease risks
- Improved mood and impulse control
- Decreased benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH)

In addition to the expected beneficial effects, taking an exogenous hormone often has other effects in the body. As

members of the Trans community in the area know about it, including all five colleges queer/trans groups, East Coast Female-to-Male Group, Unity of the Pioneer Valley, TREE, Twenty Club, Sunshine Club, Brattleboro Trans Group, MTPC, and any organizations or groups that are not listed here.

The first organizational meeting is on November 1, 2007, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Media Education Foundation, 60 Masonic Street, Northampton, Massachusetts 01060.



with the administration of any drug, not everyone will experience any or all of the adverse effects. However, individuals with a personal or family history of stroke, heart attack, liver disease or hepatitis, depression, high blood pressure, and/or diabetes should inform their physician. A variety of preventative medicine options exist to minimize risk and optimize health.

### Adverse Effects Associated with Estrogen include:

- Increased blood clots in legs, lungs, and other areas causing heart attack and stroke.
- High blood pressure, diabetes, and

health check-ups to ensure optimal health. Although most biological women receive some form of self-breast exam education, MTF rarely do. Learning and performing self breast exam and getting a yearly clinical breast exam and possibly regular mammograms, becomes vital for MTF.

In addition, HPV prevention through regular pap testing should be done for all post-operative MTF. Finally, regular prostate exams should be done to monitor prostate health for those over 50 or over 40 in African-Americans. Although estrogen therapy may reduce prostate problems, in some it may cause prostate enlargement.

These health maintenance activities involving biologically male organs or newly developed female organs, often cause distress for MTFs. Dissociation from these organs may exist and the exams require the individual to be in touch with them. To make these important health check-ups more tolerable ask your provider to use your preferred pronouns throughout the exam. In addition, think about what would make the exam experience safer and more tolerable to you and bring along a friend to help advocate for your needs.

To send questions to Dr. Lang, go to: [www.therainbowtimesmass.com/health-intro.html](http://www.therainbowtimesmass.com/health-intro.html)

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# October 21, 2007

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**Couch From Page 2**

homosexuality, even though the language of the bill clearly protects free speech. The Human Rights Campaign was on the scene quickly, writing a counter ad to immediately challenge this scare tactic.

Most of us understand what it's like to have to hide our identity at some point in our lives, whether from family, co-workers or our churches. And we've done it out of fear; of ridicule, hatred, being fired, harassed, humiliated or ostracized. Its one thing for churches to have a point of view, or opinion, about what they feel is "right". They are entitled, and protected under the law, to have that opinion in America.

But when the rhetoric is ratcheted up, and hate speech is used to incite violence against any group of people-whether gay, African-Americans, Islamic, disabled- you name it, any group of people- that's not just wrong... that should be a crime.

50 years ago if you were a person of color, or a woman, you had very limited protections under the law. (Forget being out of the closet!) And this is still the case in many parts of the world, where things are not so civilized. But in America, we are guaranteed equal protection under the law--and that is why the Matthew Shepard Act must be passed.

To find out how to contact your senators, visit [www.MatthewShepard.org](http://www.MatthewShepard.org)

Being gay isn't something we should hide. We are worthy of all the rights and protections other Americans receive. 100 years ago we would not have had this choice to stand up and speak out-- and 100 years from now, we may not-- if we don't get active today.

Oh, and that Twilight Zone episode?

In my mind, that guy finally meets his Maker...and instead of it being the standard 'old white man in the clouds', God is a big ol' black Jewish lesbian.

Karma!

\*Update: At the time this article is being sent to press, the Senate is expected to vote this week to send this bill forward as an attachment to the Defense Appropriations Bill. This amendment needs your immediate attention! Make your voices heard!

\*Suzan Ambrose can be heard on "The Naked Truth" every Monday from 8-9 pm on 103.3FM. You can check out more commentary by Suz on her blog: [www.nakedtruthshow.com](http://www.nakedtruthshow.com)

# GCC attends "Gifted Women 2007"

GREENFIELD, MA—Greenfield Community College Director of Development Regina Curtis attended a day long conference on Monday titled "Gifted Women 2007." The event was held in Cambridge at the home of Ambassador Swanee Hunt, founding director of the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and former Ambassador to Austria (1993-1997). The program included panels on the US Economy, Security, Health Care and Advancing Women in the Political System. Staffing the panels were women from education, health care, human services and both the Executive and Legislative branches of government. In attendance from the United States Congress was Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and US Congresswomen Allyson Schwartz (D-Pennsylvania) from the House Ways & Means Committee, and Nita Lowey (D-NY) from the House Appropriations and the Foreign Operations and Export Financing Committees, Louise Slaughter (D-NY) Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to discuss issues that affect women and to provide input on how these issues play

**"I had my family, and they were living with me. ... I nursed a lot actually. And most of the people I met were in the business. They were either married or, they were nice, and I enjoyed dating some of them and all. And some were gay. They weren't out to get married, you know. Some of them wanted to, I guess, because they had asked me. And then find out later, they'd tell me years later that, 'This may shock you, but I'm gay.' And I wouldn't be shocked really. I didn't know whether they were or weren't. But I'm glad I said, 'No, thank you.'"**

— Betty Lynn (via AP Report)

Actress reflects on Hollywood and life



Greenfield Community College Director of Development, Regina Curtis and United States Congress Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) at Gifted Women 2007 Conference in Cambridge, MA.

out on a daily basis in our communities," said Curtis. "I was able to share how the important matters of housing, child care, and financial aid affect GCC students with the people who may be in a position

to effect change in laws or policies to improve current conditions." Curtis added that there was a diverse representation of women participants from across the state, offering a voice from across age, race, socio-economic and fields of interest perspectives.

She noted that the event was brought to her attention and made possible by the sponsorship of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, located in Easthampton. "Executive Director Carla Oleska invited me to attend as part of a group of women representing Western Mass. and, of course, I was happy to accept and, as a former legislative aide to State Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington), I was very, very pleased to have had a chance to meet Speaker Pelosi" said Curtis, noting that, as the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives, Pelosi represents great hope for woman across the country.

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## Queer Cinema Not to Miss!

### Be Real

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

### Nina's Heavenly Delights

Genre: Comedy, Drama, Romance  
Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release  
Content: Lesbian;  
Director: Pratibha Parmar  
Starring: Shelley Conn, Laura Fraser  
Release Date: 10/01/07

Synopsis: Nina Shah (Conn) is a young Indian-Scottish woman who falls for Lisa Mackinlay (Fraser) while teaching her how to cook Indian delicacies. Though Lisa is dating Nina's brother, when Nina comes out to her close friend, the two enter into an intense romance.

### Eleven Men Out

Genre: Comedy, Drama; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release; Content: G  
Director: Robert I. Douglas  
Distributor: here! Films, Regent Releasing  
Starring: Björn Hlynur Haraldsson, Lilija Nott Pórarinsdóttir, Arnaldur Ernst  
Status: Awaiting distribution  
Release Date: 11/01/07  
Synopsis: The star player of Iceland's top football team causes a stir when he admits to being gay to his team and then goes on a journey to discover himself (with the help of the local press.)

### Looking for Cheyenne

Genre: Drama; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release; Content: L B  
Director: Valérie Minetto; Distributor: here! Films  
Starring: Aurélie Petit, Mila Dekker, Malik Zidi  
Release Date: 11/01/07  
Synopsis: Sonia (Petit) and Cheyenne (Dekker) are lovers trying to make sense of their lives. When Cheyenne's welfare checks run out, she leaves Sonia so she won't have to depend on her for money. Sonia tries to forget her by having an affair with Pierre (Zidi).

## This could be your same-sex marriage announcement

Jeffers Healy-Christopher Cook

Jeffers Healy and Christopher Cook were joined in a holy union ceremony at All Saints Parish in Beverly Hills, Calif. The Rev. Ramsey Butts, former Episcopalian minister, officiated. Cook is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Cook of Greenville and Santa Barbara, Calif. He graduated from UCLA and is the director of annual giving for the film in



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## Education

# UMASS Amherst Library Announces Gift: Gay Book Collection

Amherst, MA—The UMass Amherst Libraries' Department of Special Collections and University Archives announces the recent gift of an extraordinary collection of over 1,000 books collected by gay rights pioneers Barbara Gittings and her life partner, Kay Tobin Lahusen.

Both broad and deep, the collection documents the history and culture of homosexuality in America and includes historically important materials ranging from a long run of the early lesbian periodical, *The Ladder*, to works on the psychology of homosexuality, novels by gay authors, and examples of the pulp fiction of the 1950s and 1960s. A reception will be held to celebrate the arrival of the collection in the Department of

Special Collections and University Archives, Floor 25, Du Bois Library, on Thursday, October 11, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served; the event is free and open to the public.

"With its many out-of-print books and long forgotten pioneering works, the Barbara Gittings- Kay Tobin Lahusen Gay Book Collection will be a goldmine for researchers, and will add to the wealth of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and

transgender resources available in Western Massachusetts," said Brett-Genny Janiczek Beemyn, Director of the Stonewall Center at UMass Amherst.

Local author Lesléa Newman commented "What a priceless gift this is!" Barbara Gittings and Kay Lahusen have done the community an immense service by collecting the printed evidence of GLBT history and donating it to UMass Amherst."

In 1958, Gittings established the first East Coast chapter of the first lesbian organization in the U.S., the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), founded in 1955 in San Francisco. From 1963 to 1966 she edited *The Ladder*, DOB's pioneer national magazine. She marched in the first gay rights picket lines in the mid-1960s at the White House and the Pentagon, and at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. She was a charter member of the boards of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (founded in 1973) and the Gay Rights National Lobby (founded in 1976), which was the forerunner of the Human Rights Campaign.

Gittings was active in the campaign that led to the American Psychiatric Association (APA) dropping its categorization of homosexuality as a mental illness in 1973. She produced three exhibits at APA conventions:

"Gay, Proud and Healthy," "Homophobia: Time for A Cure," and "Gay Love: Good Medicine." She appeared in the documentary film "Before Stonewall" (1987) and its sequel "After Stonewall" (1999) as well as the 1998 documentary "Out of the Past" and the PBS documentary "Gay Pioneers" (2001).

Gittings began collecting books on gay topics after coming out during her freshman year at Northwestern University and being unable to find material that helped her understand her gay identity. As part of her lifelong effort to make gay and lesbian materials more available for library use, she produced bibliographies and programs as part of the Task Force on Gay Liberation (later the Gay Task Force and the GLBT Round Table) within the American Library Association. Gittings served as coordinator of the group from 1971 until 1986. In 2003 she was awarded ALA's highest honor, an honorary membership.

Kay Lahusen is considered by some to be the first photojournalist of the gay movement. She has documented lesbian and gay political and cultural events since the 1960s and took many of the photos in the collection of Barbara Gittings as an activist. She was a co-editor with Gittings of the magazine *The Ladder*, one of the twelve founding members of the Gay Activists Alliance in 1969, and is the author of *The Gay Crusaders* (New York: Paperback Library, 1972). Her photographs of homophile protests have been widely published and exhibited.

According to Jay Schafer, Director of Libraries, "We are indeed honored [that] Kay Tobin Lahusen has gifted to the UMass Amherst Libraries this collection she and Barbara Gittings built and loved. It is a treasure and adds depth and richness to the world-class documentation of social justice found in our Special Collections & University Archives Department."

For further information, contact Anne L. Moore at 545-6888, [amoores@library.umass.edu](mailto:amoores@library.umass.edu)

## Cooley Dickinson Hospital: AIDS Care volunteer training planned

Court Cline, Volunteer Coordinator for AIDS CARE/ Hampshire County, will hold a volunteer training on Saturday, October 20th at the AIDS CARE offices, 10 Main St. in Florence. Volunteers are especially needed for the "Bridge" program that helps people living with

HIV/AIDS with transportation to medical appointments. It only takes 2-4 hours a week to make a real difference in the life of someone living with HIV.

Despite much of the good news about AIDS treatment these days, people living with HIV disease continue to need compassion & support in facing this stigmatized & misunderstood illness. Although the treatment options have widened as they have for cancer, the isolation, emotional ups and downs, and an uncertain future all leave many with ongoing needs for support. You can help by driving someone to a doctor's appointment, helping out in our organic garden, or listening to someone talk about the frustrations of living with this chronic illness.

In addition to the personal satisfaction you get from helping someone in your community, studies have shown that volunteering is actually good for you by helping to reduce stress. Anyone interested in being an AIDS CARE volunteer should contact Court Cline at 586-8288, x2 as soon as possible to begin the application process. Pre-screening is required.

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# Southern Decadence 2007, New Orleans' Gay Mardi Gras

By: Shane Engstrom and Dave Kirk  
Special for TRT

If you're ever feeling a bit restless at the end of the summer and want a last blast of heat, you should definitely consider a trip to the Big Easy. Southern Decadence, New Orleans' Gay Mardi Gras, opened its welcoming arms to close to 125,000 gay revelers during its 36th Labor Day weekend party. New Orleans definitely lives up to its party town reputation, with 24-hour bars filled with locals and tourists looking to escape the heat and enjoy a cool summer beverage while taking in the sights of the city - dancing on top of the bars. During the street concert and parade, thousands of voyeuristic guys of all shapes and sizes (and a smattering of party girls too) wander the streets, with plastic drink cups in one hand and shiny party beads in the other.

A wide variety of performers kept the masses entertained, from singers likes of Jeanie Tracy, Pepper Mashay and Deborah Cox, to comedians Lady Bunny and the controversial Shirley Q. Liquor. And on the more decadent side, crowds were entertained by the Badpuppy.com amateur model contest and wild perform-



Photos by Anthony Bennoch

ances by adult entertainment diva Chi Chi LaRue and her troupe of 'dancers.'

If you stayed only in the French Quarter, you wouldn't even know that Hurricane Katrina had devastated the city just two years ago, but it's definitely worth a city tour to see some of the more unfortunate residential neighborhoods that our insurance companies and Federal government seem to have forgotten all about. Just a few blocks outside the

downtown area is a completely different world where nine out of ten houses lay abandoned and rotting. It certainly makes you realize the truly uphill battle the region faces in the years ahead. Perhaps this year's Southern Decadence theme: "Ancient Truths, Lies and Sacrifice" was a nod to this ongoing battle.

So if you want to experience the sights, sounds, smells and flavors of the Big

Easy for yourself, and you'd like to contribute to the economic revitalization of the area, it's definitely worth the trip! The 37th official Southern Decadence will be held August 27 - September 1, 2008 ([www.SouthernDecadence.com](http://www.SouthernDecadence.com)). See you there!



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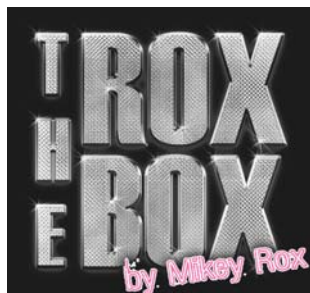
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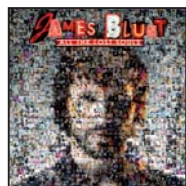


## Queer Reviews

# Reviewing the Stars: Che'nelle, Gauthier



**James Blunt**, whose breakthrough debut *Back to Bedlam* made him a worldwide wonder, returns with *All The Lost Souls*, his sophomore release. The Briton's first full studio album in three years, *Souls* will feature several songs that were road-



tested while touring, including the tracks "I Really Want You," "Same Mistake," "Annie," and the album's first single, "1973," which dropped in July. But Blunt, whose *Billboard* Hot 100 hit "You're Beautiful" peaked at #1 and made him an international star, doesn't expect lightning to strike twice. He says that no matter how his latest work is received, he's pleased at how *Souls* has turned out. "For me, there was absolutely no pressure whatsoever," the singer/songwriter says. "Having sold over 11 million albums, I know the likelihood of doing that again is really mini-

mal. Instead of setting a target, I set out to do and record something that I really enjoy, that I'm really happy with. It was a release, in a way. It's something that I can say shows my growth and a development as a songwriter and as a musician." What does that mean? Simply: His life is still brilliant. His love, still pure.

If "*Brokeback Mountain*" were reinvented as a Broadway musical, producers of the show should call **Mary Gauthier** (pronounced go-shay). Because her latest album, *Between Daylight and Dark*—the follow-up to her 2005 release, *Mercy Now*—sounds like the kind of thing gay cowboys might use to set the mood before they get all country-western on each other's rawhide. A unique, stylish lyricist, Gauthier's artistic evolution is evident throughout the 10 songs that comprise her fifth album, each of which exist as brusque musical interpretations of the place from whence they came. With Gauthier's distinct Louisiana drawl, the record reels you into the coarse yet fragile tracks—such as "Last of the Hobo Kings," "Thanksgiving" and "Can't Find the Way"—taking those open-minded enough on a journey where the roads are made of dirt and the food is unapologetically deep fried. Bare-bones and beautiful—you can almost hear the crickets chirping from the front porch—*Between Daylight and Dark*, with its scarce overdubs and exquisite storytelling, channels Bob Dylan via Willie Nelson with a hint



of Loretta Lynn. Without all the weed, of course.

**Chaka Khan**. Enough said. This time around the indelible ingénue unleashes *Funk This*, a down-and dirty disc that showcases the venerable power, prowess and practicality of a true entertainer. With help from hit-making team Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, the glorious Ms. Khan returns with a variety of songs such as the emotional, elegiac "Angel," based on a poem she wrote while in an "altered" state; "Will You Love Me?" on which she openly and beautifully bears her insecurities; and the Mary J. Blige-penned "Disrespectful," a jumpin' 1970s-inspired track about being two-timed by the one you love. Other notable cuts include "Super Life," about the affirming promise Khan made to herself many years ago, and "You Belong to Me," the classic Carly Simon song, now a duet with Michael McDonald. An eight-time Grammy Award winner, Khan does what she does best on *Funk This*—introducing a new generation to her signature style of sass.

If *Union Jack* could talk, he'd say the American music industry sucks—albeit a bit more eloquently. That's because the only original music seemingly worth listening to is emerging from across the pond. Case in point: *Makeshift Feelgood*, *X-Press 2*'s 10-track ode to house music, an album so full of synthetic life that it almost makes you wish you were British. Uniting in the studio in the early 1990s, *X-Press 2*—comprised of club-rockers Rocky, Diesel and Ashley Beedle—put together a powerhouse of vocal guest talent for this release, which includes names



known the world around. Opening with Lambchop's Kurt Wagner, *Makeshift Feelgood* raises the roof with the gospel-backed epic "Give It," followed by "Witchi Tai To," a rhythmic pop romp featuring The Polyphonic Spree's Tim DeLaughter. On "17," Radio 4's bass-playing vocalist Anthony Roman gives scenesters something to spin to, while the NYC Peech Boys' "Don't Make Me Wait" gets a new-millennium makeover featuring Bernard Fowler. The verdict? Ever the discerning DJs, *X-Press 2* could resurrect the living-dead with *Makeshift Feelgood*. Even if it is eerily similar in title to J. Tim's very much alive *FutureSex/LoveSound*.

Twenty-three-year-old newcomer **Che'nelle** knows all about diversity. Born in Malaysia and raised in Australia, the American transplant relishes country music but breathes R&B. All of which makes her the perfect candidate to release a pop album chock-a-block with varied cultural influences. "Everybody's influenced now," Che'nelle says. "It's about everything being mixed, it's an evolution. And it's exciting and new—that's what the future is about." The young artist's immediate future, however, is uncertain as she prepares to release her debut album, *Things Happen For a Reason*. On the disc are songs such as "I Fell in Love With the DJ," a coquettish track with sun-flecked Caribbean flair; "Right Back," which drags out the drums as if to demand a return to something simpler; and "Pops Up," a funkified feature about, well, a certain member of the male anatomy. "I'm the girl next door and that's why when I write songs it usually connects with a lot of people," says Che'nelle. "I like to write about what people talk about but don't really sing about." Ya know, like hard penises.

Who is Mikey Rox? Who gives a f&%\$#! But you can find him at [www.myspace.com/roxmikey](http://www.myspace.com/roxmikey).

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# Fall Fiesta

A benefit for Northampton Pride 2008

**Date:** November 16, 2007

**Where:** The Log Cabin

**Time:** 7 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Cocktails served from 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Salsa Dance Lessons provided by Dance Northampton  
from 7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Appetizers and Desserts provided  
Great Giveaways!

50/50 Raffle

Special appearances by:  
D'Lish & The King St. Boiz performance troupes

Music by a special guest D.J.

**Advance tickets:** \$15.00 at *Pride & Joy*  
**At the door:** \$20.00

To volunteer, call 413.586.5602 or e-mail [info@northamptonpride.org](mailto:info@northamptonpride.org)

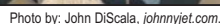
Sponsored by: The Rainbow Times, Pride & Joy, & Dance Northampton

**noho**  
PRIDE



**By: J. Stevenson\***  
*TRT Travel Columnist*

avoid packing a travel iron, or ironing all together, and along with a few solid-colored cotton shirts and pair of jeans, rolled them



I can attest that luggage with a low-annoyance quotient does indeed make for

- We basically have to strip naked at the airport to get through security these days. Skip the belt and put jewelry and watch-

\* J. Stevenson is a travel, culture, and business writer based in Massachusetts. Her left bicep is slowly returning to its normal size; [www.writersjazz.com](http://www.writersjazz.com)

**attydexter@comcast.net**  
**413-214-7626**



\* By wolfevideo.com



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# Parrotfish, a new novel by Ellen Wittlinger

By: JM Sorrell\*  
TRT Reviewer

Ellen Wittlinger is a local author and a Lambda Literary Award winner for her teen novel *Hard Love*; in fact, nine of her teen novels have been published to date, including her latest, *parrotfish*.

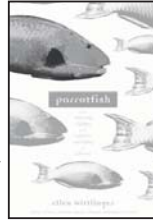
The protagonist of *parrotfish* is a transgendered teen. Grady's birth name was Angela, but he has known he is really a boy since he was a young child. Grady likes his new name because it is gender neutral and contains "gray," meaning not black or white.

This fascinating tale of the extra trials and tribulations of a transgendered teen is recommended for ages 12+. I also recommend it for adults who may be struggling with gender identification issues or who, like many people of my generation, are uneducated about the myriad issues surrounding a transgendered person, including the emotional struggles we all share as members of the human race.

Grady is a highly intelligent and intuitive teen who observes and forgives the transgressions of ignorance with compassion but not without wry commentary. The imagined conversations that serve as Grady's survival mechanism are my favorite passages throughout the book. It is the character's way of explaining (without excusing) his family and friends, and Grady's sense of humor keeps him alive with dignity.

Issues with friends, court peers, a love interest, and adult mentors may resonate with any teen who is struggling to find her/himself as a unique being in the scheme of the world. Feelings of loneliness and the sadness of being misunderstood are universal.

It is uplifting to follow Grady's progression. Self-pity and victim consciousness are not huge factors for Grady, despite his difficulties. He is admirable as he sees the follies and the wisdom of various characters who surround him.



Grady is someone I would very much like to know. He does not glamorize being male, and, in fact, he is very clear about macho behavior and his disdain for power-over female action. He is the best catch in his high school, as far as I can see.

Read the book and be seduced. You will have to find out about the relevance of the title. Thank you, Ellen Wittlinger, for bringing light and love to the world through your writing.

\* J.M. Sorrell is a columnist and sometimes book reviewer for *The Rainbow Times*. She thinks that smaller children should read "Pug Dog" by Andrea U'Ren with parents or friends to learn more about expectations relating to gender.

## '9 Lives' brings human strife to life, has edge

By: Ginger Harris\*  
TRT Reviewer

"9 Lives," the audacious and candid new film from director Dean Howell and writer Michael Kearns—on DVD Oct. 2—follows the connections among nine seemingly unrelated individuals as they search their troubled pasts for the answers they desperately need for the present.

Opening on the somber homeward stride of Ronnie, an aging HIV-positive man with a penchant for alcohol and Jackie-O, "9 Lives" delves directly into details of Ronnie's upbringing and encounters with various partners, including the deaths of his first love in Vietnam

and his greatest love to AIDS years later, while giving a glimpse into the plight of Carlos, the second of the nine lives.

Fatherless since birth, Carlos, a young "mixed breed," spent his childhood caught in a whirlwind of his mother's many volatile relationships and is now in search of the stability and validation a father can give. His wanderings take him to the poolside of TV producer Daniel and his boyfriend Corey, who have a certain amount of conflict of their own. Infidelity and deception are the results of the couple's failure to deal with Daniel's power issues and Corey's growing unrest at his partner's refusal to make their relationship known. A business transaction

between Daniel and Bo, a chiseled hustler, offers a window into the latter's past, that of a self-proclaimed "delicate kid" whose physical transformation began after his HIV-positive diagnosis at 30.

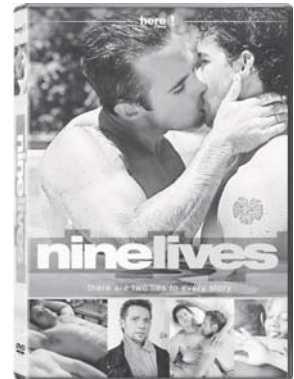
Next comes Mikey, a late-night hook-up of Bo's who labors to balance his drug-dealing profession with both his disease and his responsibilities as a parent to his disabled younger brother. James, a client of Mikey's, heals from the death of his partner only to be devastated by the loss of another in the September 11 attacks. His subsequent sexual ventures bring him to Ralph, a closeted black man expecting his first child with his wife Lisa.

Each of these characters deal with heartache and loss the likes of which know no cultural or sexual boundaries: Carlos searches for a father's love in strangers, Mikey struggles to cater to his disease and the needs of his brother, and Ronnie's true love dies in his arms.

"I try always to bring in stories that people can relate to," says Michael Kearns, who, in addition to writing the screenplay, also stars as Ronnie. "I deliberately brought in other issues like 9/11, and when you bring in other issues, you bring in other people."

As much about demonstrating that brokenness extends beyond sexual bounds, "9 Lives" emphasis on personal pain is equally as important. The good-natured, almost dismissive treatment Ronnie gives the death of his partner is a wrenching reminder of the kind of heartache that hits close to home for so many. Carlos and Ralph's issues with racism are relevant to a host of demographics, as is the struggle with drug addiction and heartbreak over failed relationships. Mikey's concern for the wellbeing of his brother following his own inevitable fate is one with which every parent can identify, gay or straight, HIV-positive or not.

Once a stage play created by Kearns



called "Complications"—which followed the troubled histories of nine people in Los Angeles through a series of monologues—"9 Lives," despite its adaptation, hasn't lost a speck of its former sting.

"Because '9 Lives' is taken from the theater, it maintains its sexual edge, it maintains its bite on film, and that's an amazing accomplishment," Kearns says.

And bite it does. Sexuality is given a frank and honest portrayal in "9 Lives," with most scenes leaving little to the imagination. This contributes to the raw feel of the film, with each line seamlessly executed by the actors to give it the aura of a documentary more so than a scripted movie.

Viewers can expect to be affected by every story that unfolds, every new connection that is made, all nine lives. Kearns and his cast succeed brilliantly in portraying the rough realities of life and the intricacies involved with simply trying to live.

\* Ginger Harris is an intern with Baltimore-based Line/Byline Communications. She can be reached at gpharris@roanoke.edu.

## Lesbian Pulp Fiction Movies?

By: JM Sorrell\*  
TRT Reviewer

Yes, *That Tender Touch* (1969) and *Just the Two of Us* (1975) are films described as "dykesploitation," one the many sub-genres of the exploitation cinema of the 1960's and 1970's. In watching these films, it was interesting to note the leap of character treatment in the six years that separate them. John Sayles' *Lianna* (1983) was the first revolutionary film about lesbians in a more recent era.

What strikes me about both films is that the low budget, quality of acting, and sometimes campy dialogue do not detract from a degree of conveyance, without judgment, that being a lesbian is a viable and sometimes natural choice.

*That Tender Touch* was created and directed by a man at the cusp of our so-called sexual revolution. As such, one of the lesbian characters "sees the light" and becomes straight, while the still-lesbian character ends up (through facial expressions of derangement) stalking her lost love, and, of course, the ending is tragic.

I guess this could happen today in

Northampton, but I suspect the closet straight-girl would not leave a capable and attractive woman for a fey boy named "Ken" to live happily ever after in the suburbs. No, today, the lesbian couple would just move to a new Florence or Easthampton development and raise their kids alongside their heterosexual counterparts. The film is worth seeing if you are a film historian.

If you wanted to choose one, I would buy/rent *Just the Two of Us*. Made in the mid-70's by a female director (who also wrote the screenplay), it is far from today's standards of message and quality, but there are surprising components of the normalcy of lesbianism. It is easier to watch and a bit less melodramatic.

Visit your local independent book or video store or go online to [www.wolfe-video.com](http://www.wolfe-video.com) to learn more about these "vintage" films.

J.M. Sorrell is a columnist for *The Rainbow Times*. She may be the only lesbian around who counts "On a Clear Day I Can See Forever" as one of her all-time favorite films.

## LGBT Announcements

# TRT PRIDE Calendar

**UNITY** is a Transgender support group which meets at 7pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month at the Blue Moon Coffee Roaster located at 715 Summer Avenue, Springfield, MA. For more info call Deja 860-604-6343 or Keri 413-364-1749.

**SENIOR CITIZEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE;** Mondays at 12:30 p.m. - Canal Lanes, Route 5, Southampton.

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

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

**CAFE & CONVERSATION;** Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.; Northampton Council on Aging, NCOA; 240 Main St., Suite 1; 587-1228

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

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

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

**MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP;** Any male 18 or older; an opportunity for men to share their experiences, thoughts, and feelings about life's journey. Support group not a therapy group. Free. Every Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brattleboro, VT. FMI: 802-258-3914.

**LADY TATIANA'S LATIN NIGHT THE HOTTEST LATIN NIGHT;** Every 3rd Saturday of each month at The Chez, 458 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT; 860-525-3243.

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

**DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE U R QUEER?** Call The Rainbow Times, 413-204-8959.

**PARADISE CITY ARTS FESTIVAL;** Oct. 6-8; Sat. & Sun. 10-6, Mon. 10-4; Three County Fairgrounds; exit 19 off Route 91 North, Northampton; FMI: (413) 587-0772 & [www.paradisecityarts.com](http://www.paradisecityarts.com)

**CRUISE ON HARRIMAN WITH QCP AND BENNINGTON PRIDE;** Cruise the Harriman Reservoir (Fall Foliage); October 7th; Wanna go cruising? Join the Bennington Pride Coalition and the Queer Community Project of Windham County for a chartered scenic tour of the Harriman Reservoir aboard the Mount Mills cruise boat, courtesy of Green Mountain Flagship Company. We'll gather at the dock just west of Wilmington on Sunday, October 7

at 4 pm, and be on board until 7pm, enjoying the scenic fall foliage, schmoozing, and sharing a potluck meal. Suggested donation is \$[10]; no one will be turned away for lack of funds or food. For reservations and directions, please call (in Bennington) Ann or Sadele at 442-4921, or (in Brattleboro) Lindsay at 254-3849; Carpooling is recommended!

**TRET FURE LIVE;** Oct. 12; DIVA'S Night Club; 492 Pleasant Street, Northampton, MA; DJ Lori B spinning after show. Free passes and \$2 off coupons are not allowed. (413) 586-8161; [www.divasofnoho.com](http://www.divasofnoho.com)

**AN EVENING WITH HOLLY NEAR;** October 12; 8 p.m.; Holly Near, activist, singer, teacher, and recording artist has spent nearly 40 years working for progressive political and social change. Holly Near and special guest Emma's Revolution will be performing at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Springfield, MA. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For tickets, call: (413) 529-0087 ext 10 or visit [www.womensfund.net](http://www.womensfund.net). Proceeds will benefit The Women's Fund of Western MA.

**BOSTON LATINO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL;** October 12 to 21; this year we will have 2 GLBT Nights during the festival. The first will be during Opening Night of the Festival at the Harvard Film Archives on Friday October 12. The second will be held the weekend after; FMI visit: [www.bliff.org](http://www.bliff.org)

**CLUB LUCY, A PARY FOR WOMEN & FRIENDS;** October 13, 2007 and every second Saturday, 458 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford, CT, The Chez Est.

**LGBTQ DANCE; OCT. 14;** Dance Northampton, 492 Pleasant St.; 3-6 p.m.; \$8 includes lesson; FMI [www.dancenorthampton.com](http://www.dancenorthampton.com)

**CONNECTICUT MARRIAGE EQUALITY;** Where are We Now? Wednesday, October 17th, 6:30-8:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford, Stamford, CT. A provocative panel discussion: Featured speakers: GLAD Attorney Ben Klein, Love Makes a Family Executive Director Anne Stanback, and Yale Professor and author George Chauncey.

**SID VINTAGE FASHION SHOW DANCE PARTY;** Friday, Oct. 19th. \$1.00 Drafts all night, Free food, Doors open at 9:00 p.m., DIVA's

**HOLLY NEAR IN CONCERT;** Saturday, October 20, 7:30pm at the Unitarian Meeting House, Hartford, CT. A portion of proceeds benefit Love Makes a Family. Reserve your tickets now!

**LGBTQ CATHOLIC MASS;** Oct. 21 (Sunday), 4:30 p.m. at the Helen Hills Hills Chapel, Smith College in Northampton MA. Main celebrant will be Fr. Rene Javellana, SJ, from Boston College. A potluck dinner and small group discussion will follow at 6:00 p.m. at the Bodman Lounge. All LGBTQ Catholics, allies, friends, and family are welcome. For questions, comments, and RSVPs, please write to [wuxingq03@yahoo.com](mailto:wuxingq03@yahoo.com).

**GLBTQ HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY!;** October 27 -Quality Inn, Brattleboro. DJ Chris Holman. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. More information in

TRT's October issue.

**TRT'S HOT EVENT PICK! HALLOWEEN NIGHT; ANNUAL COSTUME CONTEST AND DANCE PARTY;** \$1200.00 in cash! 458 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford, CT, The Chez Est

**TRANSGENER PRIDE MARCH MEETING;** November 1; from 7-9 p.m.; at the Media Education Foundation, 60 Masonic Street, Northampton, MA.

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

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

**ONE BIG EVENT;** Saturday, November 10, 6pm to midnight, at the Hilton Hartford Hotel. Tickets are \$100 to \$200 per person.

**FALL FIESTA, A BENEFIT FOR NOHO PRIDE;** November 16, 2007, The log Cabin, 7 p.m. - 12 a.m. Cocktails from 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Salsa dance lessons by Dance Northampton 7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Appetizers and desserts provided, great giveaways, 50/50 raffle. Performances by D'Lish and The King St. Boiz performance troupes, Special Guest DJ. Advanced tickets \$15.00. At the door, \$20.00.

**DISCRIMINATION?** Someone treats you differently because of your sexual orientation? Let us report and do the investigating! Call TRT today: 413-204-8959

## HELP WANTED

### DOMINO'S PIZZA/HADLEY

Pizza makers, phone help needed. Will train, no exp. necessary. If you are a night owl that wants to work in a fun, GLBT enviro, please contact Joy (413) 256-8914 after 4 pm.

*Check out our new personals section in our November edition! Haven't met that special person? Find them now. List your personal in The Rainbow Times!*

## Automotive Q & A

By: Stephen M. Lewis  
TRT Auto Columnist



Stephen M. Lewis  
President, Steve Lewis Subaru

**Q: What is the main difference between buying and leasing a vehicle?**

A: Leasing is basically "No Equity" financing.

Normally when you purchase a vehicle you put down some amount of money or have a trade-in that lowers your monthly payment to what is affordable. This gives you equity!

When leasing, you generally put only the fees and 1st month's payment (basically a security deposit) as a down payment, hence "No Equity."

Many people that are against leasing say "I have nothing at the end of a lease." That is correct, but under the circumstances, you put no money down or no trade-in (in either case, an investment by you—equity) to give you anything at the end. You are essentially renting a car, albeit, at a much lesser rate than a rental car, and, turning it back to the leasing company. Leasing is a method of making the use of a vehicle more affordable on a monthly basis. You pay in, the leasing company gains the equity.

Be aware that if you put money down towards reducing the payment of the lease, this money does reduce the payment, but the equity goes back to the leasing company, not you! It is not a prudent idea to put money into a lease to reduce your monthly payment.

Lastly, most leases are for 10,000, 12,000, or 15,000 miles per year. These mileages are perfect for a lease. If you exceed the mileage, you owe the leasing company \$.15 cents pr mile. Don't get lulled to sleep by an affordable low mileage lease when you know you will exceed the given mileage. If for instance you exceed a 10,000 mile - 3 year lease by 5,000 miles per year, you will be billed \$2250. Now a lease doesn't look that good! Generally if you drive more than 15,000 miles a year, leasing is not the way to go.

Also with a lease you are required to maintain the servicing of the vehicle according to the factory recommended maintenance schedule. If there is a problem due to lack of maintenance, the leasing company will come back to you. Keep all of your maintenance records and receipts.

If you have any further questions pertaining to leasing, please call me at (413) 584-5355 or email me at [stevelewis@subaru-mail.com](mailto:stevelewis@subaru-mail.com)

*\* This column is intended for information purposes only. If you are having an automotive problem, it is best to visit your mechanic.*

Submit your non-profit calendar event\* to [calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com](mailto:calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com)

\*Certain restrictions apply. Small for-profit events/groups, 35 words or less, are considered for a small fee. Large/for-profit events are not considered. All submissions appear online.

## Hartford's Signature Gay Event to be Held on November 10, 2007

The Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective's annual *One Big Event* will be held Saturday, November 10, 6 pm to midnight, at the Hilton Hartford Hotel. Tickets are \$100 to \$200 per person.

Linda Estabrook, Executive Director of the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective (HGLHC) said, "One Big Event has blossomed into the gay community's 'go to' event. This is our 5th year, and we expect upwards of 400 guests."

Estabrook also stressed the importance of the fundraiser by adding, "The event helps to support the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective's ongoing services. Like any business, our organization has seen an increase in operating costs. One Big Event helps defray those

expenses and ensure that we can continue to provide high quality health services to increasing numbers of clients."

President of the HGLHC, E. John McGarvey noted, "This year's event will be a night to remember. It will be a fun filled evening with music, comedy, and a terrific silent auction."

Mayor Eddie Perez is the event's Honorary Co-Chair, and Michael Wilson of the Hartford Stage will serve as Emcee.

Founded in 1983, the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective has provided quality services by professional, highly skilled staff and volunteers within a safe, welcoming environment, free of judgmental attitudes or prejudice. Its health programs include medical services,

including dental, support groups, and mental health programs. The organization serves thousands of clients from all over the state.

"The Dental Clinic changed my life! I can eat and smile for the first time in 15 years. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" said Debra, a client from Berlin.

This year's event will include the multi-ethnic music of Paprika and Comedian Andre Kelly will be the featured entertainment.

"Funny and festive: That's how I would describe this year's entertainment," said E. John McGarvey.

Paprika is Brooklyn, New York's own all-girl international music sensation. To hear a sampling of Paprika's music visit [www.paprikamusic.com](http://www.paprikamusic.com). The comedy

styling of Andre Kelly is sure to have One Big Event guests in stitches. Kelly has been described as "stand-up's best-known gay, comic farm-boy". Kelly has appeared on several national television comedy shows including Comedy Central.

The event's silent auction will include vacation items for Provincetown, Belize and Disney World, a variety of outstanding art, and tickets from area entertainment venues.

Tickets to One Big Event are \$100 to \$200 each. Visit [www.onebigevent.com](http://www.onebigevent.com) for more information, or call Dan Millett at 860-278-4163, ext. 18.

**To feature your organization from Connecticut, call TRT**

## Unitarian Society of Hartford & Love Makes a Family: Holly Near in Concert

The Unitarian Society of Hartford kicks off its 2007-2008 Season with *Holly Near* in concert, co-presented with Love Makes a Family of Connecticut. Holly Near—an outspoken activist, singer, teacher, and recording artist—has spent nearly 40 years working for progressive political and social change. Over the years, Holly's powerful anthems have captured the mood of many movements and now her voice and messages are no less urgent than when she began her work in the social change community. As one Holly Near fan put it, "She is a divine mix of Pete Seeger and Judy Garland!" Her latest recording, *Show Up*, is a pointed and provocative look at where society sits today. War, peace, love, family, corporation, government, addiction—they all come under Ms. Near's scrutiny on *Show Up*.

Love Makes a Family (LMF) is a statewide non-profit advocacy organiza-



HOLLY NEAR

tion working for marriage equality for same-sex couples in Connecticut. LMF carries out its mission through community education, grassroots organizing and legislative advocacy and lobbying.

The Performing Arts Series at the Unitarian Meeting House continues March 1, 2008 with theatrical activist Peterson Toscano's *The Re-education of George W. Bush* and April 26, 2008 with a performance by Sankofa Kumba, Hartford's own drumming and dancing troupe.

The event will take place on Saturday, October 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. It will be

held at the Unitarian Meeting House, 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT (located near the intersection of Rte. 44).

Tickets are \$25 for general admission; \$50 for preferred seating (includes addi-

tional contribution for Love Makes a Family). Tickets can be ordered by calling (860) 233-9897. For more information, visit [ushartford.com](http://ushartford.com), [lmfct.org](http://lmfct.org), or [hollynear.com](http://hollynear.com).

### CT Neighborhood Organizations

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

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

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# Ghost's Note

Hello Rabies and Boogeymen, I'm Ghost and I'm here to haunt the pages of "The Rainbow Times" for this creepy Homo Halloween issue! If you're living in the haunted areas of Western MA, Connecticut and Vermont lock your doors and board up your windows tonight because I got an exclusive interview with Chris & John. These two Spookalicious Homo'ween lovers just got home from Massachusetts where they were filming their newest season!

Stalk me... I mean e-mail me: [ghost@zellepia.com](mailto:ghost@zellepia.com)  
Or come visit my haunted website: [www.zellepia.com](http://www.zellepia.com)  
I'll give you a Trick and a Treat you'll never forget!



## Ghost catches up with gay celebrities Chris & John about their new show "Chris & John to the Rescue: Provincetown"

Ghost: Good evening boys I got some questions and no space so I'm gonna start banging! What's your favorite Homo Horror movie?

John: I really enjoy the film The Brotherhood 2: Young Demons. So many hot men. Pretty much anything by David DeCoteau is gonna be horrific – either by content, or production value!

Chris: Or "I Know What You Did Last Summer", I mean, just look at Sarah Michelle's character, Helen: she's a has-been beauty queen who couldn't make it as an actress, all she has left is her crown and her hair, both of which are heinously taken from her.... her hot boyfriend is slaughtered and she's chased around for upwards of eight minutes in heels... tell me how that's not gay!

Ghost: Ooooh lets talk gay slay my favorite subject! Have you had any Homo Horror experiences? Perhaps a Trans'vest'BITE or attacked by a fire breathing flaming homo dragon!

Chris: Like being chased around? Erotically? Sure!

John: Most of my homo horror experiences have involved hanging around with you, Ghost!

Ghost: Thank you ever so much! Anyways, you have a lot of psychics in your show, do you feel like a Homo Psychic yourself or are you just drawn to the unknown?

John: We definitely feel like we have the psychic ability.

Chris: I knew you were going to say that. See, that's the psychic ability right there in action.

Ghost: Now that's talent! Why haven't Chris and John had a Halloween episode when so many other episodes seem to revolve around the darker elements?

John: We love to incorporate horror elements throughout the entire show. But we definitely plan on having a Halloween episode next season.

Ghost: Well thank God'zilla for that I was starting to have pumpkin withdrawals..... So, what was the scariest episode to film?

Chris: The Vermont Gay Bear Film Festival. Sleeping in the middle of the woods with hundreds of hairy gay men around us was absolutely terrifying.

Ghost: I hear ya sister! I once slept with a werewolf and he kept me up all night howling at the moon! Sheeeesh! Speaking of my favorite subject.... ME! You once had yours cruelly, as a Special celebrity guest on your show, was this the most amazing experience you've ever had including sex and Buffy?

John: Yes. Sex and buffy don't come anywhere near YOU, Ghost!

Chris: Remove Buffy from the equation and you've got yourself a deal.

Ghost: Ewww like you just chose Buffy over the most famous gay ghoul around..... Me not Dracula Sheeeesh! Let's move on! Would you ever consider allowing this here Ghost give you a Homo Horror makeover? Seriously boys those Khakis and Easter colours just have to go!

John: We love khaki! The Easter colours bring out our stunning, exotic good looks and flawless skin.

Chris: I think it would be fun to have you make us over! We love role playing.

Ghost: Ooooh I love role playing too I once had a boy dress as Jaba the Hutt and spank my..... Oh um, nevermind! I think OUT TV & Here TV should send you to my house right away for an intervention, what do you think?

John: If they would we'd be there in a jiffy!

Ghost: Well give me their phone number no one can stalk em like I can! Speaking of stalking Miss Cleo Psychic extraordinaire has made an appearance did you find her predictions accurate or hauntingly disturbing?

Chris: A little of both.

John: I thought Ms Chloe was right on the money! I also thought she was stunningly gorgeous.

Ghost: New question, I get bored if I don't talk about sex! Have you ever done the nasty in a haunted place? If yes please tell us nosy perverts all about it!

John: I think my house could be haunted, so if that counts.

Chris: Not once.

Ghost: Fine don't share, good thing I got it all on camera! When is your new season coming out of the coffin and can we expect to see some Homo Horror outings?

John: Our new season premieres Monday November 19th on OUTtv at 10:00pm. Anyone in the US can also catch our first season premiering soon on HereTV.

Chris: Like babysitting two rambunctious five year olds. If that isn't horrific I don't know what is.

That's all the time we have tonight thanks for joining us beasties! Don't forget to watch Chris and John To The Rescue and stalk em afterwards! They love it!  
HAPPY HOMO'WEEN!



# TRT seeks team members to walk, fund and fight breast cancer

By: Nicole Lashomb  
TRT Editor-in-Chief

Springfield, MA—*The Rainbow Times* is forming a team of friends and allies to gather pledges and walk in the 14th Annual *Rays of Hope* Walk in the Fight Against Breast Cancer. And, we want you on our team!

*Rays of Hope*, the most successful fund raising walk in Western Massachusetts for breast cancer, was founded in 1994 by Springfield native Lucy Giuggio and today has risen over \$5 million. Last year, more than 11,000 walkers, including over 300 teams, participated in the Rays of Hope Walk.

Baystate Medical Center's Comprehensive Breast Center, part of the Baystate Regional Cancer Program, is a unique interdisciplinary program incorporating Baystate Medical Center staff physicians and community physicians. Under the medical direction of Dr. Grace Makari-Judson, the program offers rou-

tine mammography services, as well as diagnostic mammography and core biopsy, diagnostic evaluations, multidisciplinary consultation, high risk screening, education and outreach services, and support services. The Center also supports community education and treatment programs at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield and Baystate Mary Lane Hospital in Ware.

The center and other programs funded

by Rays of Hope focus on:

Offering the community education and outreach about

breast cancer.

Providing coordinated, accessible, and medically advanced breast cancer care at the initial stage of diagnosis and continuing through treatment and recovery.

Supporting patients through the continuum of care that acknowledges the needs of the whole person.

Funding breast cancer research.

The first 10 people to register as a part of Team Rainbow Times will receive a

complimentary Rays of Hope T-shirt with our team name, The Rainbow Times, imprinted on the back.

The *Rays of Hope* Walk will take place on October 28th 2007 in Springfield, MA. Visit our website: [www.therainbowtimesmass.com](http://www.therainbowtimesmass.com), Breaking News to donate to the *Rays of Hope* or to sign up to join Team Rainbow Times. After registering to join our team, you will be e-mailed specific information for this day and the days leading to it.

Walk with TRT in our effort to help treat and find a cure for Breast Cancer, one step at a time.



Register now to walk  
in our fight against  
Breast Cancer.  
Join team TRT.

[therainbowtimesmass.com](http://therainbowtimesmass.com)

TRT



By: Peter Welleman  
[www.funpx.com](http://www.funpx.com)

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\* By wolfevideo.com

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## Featured LGBT Artist

# Funk on Fire: An Interview with Chaka Khan

By: Clay Cane, Special for TRT

Chaka Khan is more than an icon; she is a piece of musical history. If this soul powerhouse, whose name is an African word for fire, would have never become a musician it is quite possible that R&B as we know it, would be a different entity. As the sizzling voice of the funk band Rufus, and one of few female artists who sang funk music in the 1970s, Chaka Khan would give birth to legendary R&B soul anthems like "Tell Me Something Good" and the power ballad "Sweet Thing." Venturing solo would reward Chaka with three Grammys in 1983 and four more to follow over the next twenty-five years. In addition, Chaka has always been a supporter of the gay community and has participated in countless charity benefits dedicated to AIDS and HIV prevention.

On September 25th, Chaka made her official return with the new album *Funk This*. Fans can expect a high-octane dose of funk, soul, R&B and that signature voice, annihilating each song on the thirteen-track album. *Funk This* includes a duet with up and coming legend, Mary J. Blige, on the track "Disrespectful." To make it even more hot, the album is produced by the ferocious-duo Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, who are almost as legendary as Chaka Khan. *Funk This* is a must for every Chaka fan and if you for

some reason you aren't a fan—you surely will be after one listen.

In a candid interview, a light-hearted and excited Chaka chats it up about the new album, current R&B music, her loyal gay fan base and much more.

**Q.** Tell us about the new album *Funk This*.

**A.** It's a great album! It's funky and it's reminiscent of a Rufus album in many ways. Mary J. and I have a duet on it called "Disrespectful." The whole CD is like one of my earlier albums with the same style and production. The vocals that first made people fall in love with my voice—you'll get that.

**Q.** I've been hearing this phrase lately that the soul in current R&B is dead. What's your reaction to the state of R&B right now?

**A.** R&B will come back. Now they just call it neo-soul, but it's still R&B. You know what I mean? I think that you're going to see a major resurgence of the good ole' down home R&B. Like D'Angelo, Anthony Hamilton, you know—that kind of old school R&B.

**Q.** It seems like so many artists today are lip-synching or singing off-key—there doesn't seem to be any Chakas or Luthers in this generation. As a vocalist, how do you feel about these artists who aren't really singers but still selling millions of records?



CHAKA KHAN

Photo Credit: Kwaku Alston

**A.** I think they missed their calling in life. [Laughs] I think they should be doing something else. I'm serious!

**Q.** You have huge fans in the gay community. At what point in your career did you know you had a gay fan base?

**A.** Well, probably after I got my first Grammy. When I was like 17 I opened from the Rolling Stones. That was probably the beginning of me achieving a big fan base, as well. But, it really came together when I got my first Grammy I think.

**Q.** Why do you think so many of these R&B soul singers like you, Patti

*Labelle, Aretha Franklin and others have this big gay following?*

**A.** Maybe the "children" know and respect R&B more so than non-gay people...I don't know! [Laughs] I have a pretty large gay following and I don't know if it's because I sing R&B. I think it's probably for another reason, but I don't know what that is particularly easy either...maybe there's a little butch in me they relate to! [Laughs] I have never really looked at that and thought why—I'm just happy that it is.

**Q.** How are gay fans different than straight fans? [See Chaka Page 22]

...What holds you back from seeking the quality skin care you so deserve?

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## Gay characters decline on network TV, increase on cable

By: Lynn Elber/ AP TV Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The number of gay characters depicted on TV is falling on network television, which Americans receive for free, but rising on cable channels, a study by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation found.

In the 2007-08 TV season, broadcast series will feature seven regularly seen characters who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, down from nine characters in 2006 and 10 the season before, GLAAD said. Most are on one network—ABC.

The new figure represents 1.1 percent of all regular characters on ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and CW, compared to 1.3 percent in 2006, according to a study released recently. By comparison, cable shows will feature 40 gay characters as series regulars, GLAAD said.

"While we acknowledge there have been improvements made in how we are seen on the broadcast networks, most notably on ABC, our declining representation clearly indicates a failure to inclusively reflect the audience watching television," GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano said in a statement.

The seven broadcast characters appear on five shows, including "Brothers &

Sisters," "Desperate Housewives," "Ugly Betty," "The Office" and the new mid-season series "Cashmere Mafia."

ABC shows are home to six of the seven, with one on NBC. There were no lead or supporting gay or transgender characters set to appear on CBS, FOX or CW, GLAAD found.

There will be an additional 13 gay characters seen occasionally on broadcast TV shows this season, compared to five recurring characters last year.

That increase "suggests that producers and writers are showing a guarded interest in being inclusive without making the characters lead or supporting," GLAAD said in a release, noting that gay characters on "Ugly Betty" and "Desperate Housewives" first appeared as recurring before being added to the regular cast.

BC, Fox and CW declined requests for comment, while NBC and CBS did not immediately respond.

The "real advances" in gay depiction on TV are being made on cable channels, GLAAD said.

The 40 regular characters depicted on 21 scripted shows on cable channels including HBO, Showtime and FX represents 15 more characters than last year, the study found.

## HRC releases video in advance of National Coming Out Day 2007

WASHINGTON—In anticipation National Coming Out Day on October 11th, the Human Rights Campaign has released a video asking, "What inspires you about living openly and honestly?" This year is an important hallmark, as National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11, 2007, falls on the 20th anniversary of the 1987 Gay and Lesbian March on Washington, and the unfurling of the AIDS Quilt on the National Mall.

HRC and OutzoneTV.com, a subsidiary of Bravo, are encouraging others to film their answers to the question posed in the video and submit them as part of an online video project in celebration of National Coming Out Day.

To view the video, please go to [www.hrc.org/comingout](http://www.hrc.org/comingout)

OutzoneTV.com will feature stories from Bravo celebrities including Tim Gunn, Daniel Vosovic, Ted Allen, William Sledd, and others. To learn more, visit [www.outzoneTV.com](http://www.outzoneTV.com).

HRC Coming Out Spokesperson, former NBA player John Amaechi, has already filmed a response.

"Twenty years ago, as the AIDS crisis was raging, coming out was literally a

matter of life and death," said Mark Shields, director of HRC's Coming Out Project. "In many ways, we have come a very long way in a relatively short time, and yet that lesson still resonates deeply today. Coming out and living openly is the most important thing that gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and straight-supportive Americans can do to build lasting understanding and equality."

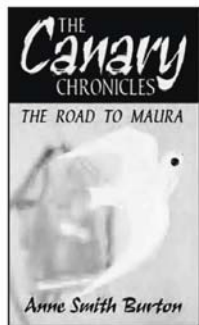
This year's National Coming Out Day, themed "Talk About It," builds on the successes of years past. In 2006, Grammy Award-winning artist P!nk as well as Star Trek star and openly gay actor George Takei participated in HRC's National Coming Out Day festivities.

Information about how to create and submit a video, go to [www.hrc.org/comingout](http://www.hrc.org/comingout).

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

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## More Queer News

# Gay marriage supporters find courtrooms filled with obstacles since MA

By: Jay Lindsay/Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP)—When wedding bells rang in 2004 to celebrate America's first gay marriages in Massachusetts, opponents warned that liberal courts were moving to permit gay marriage around the nation.

Three years later, despite attempts in many states, America's highest courts have not followed Massachusetts' lead. Last week, Maryland's high court became the latest after New York, Washington and New Jersey to refuse to grant marriage rights to gay residents.

"We were very disappointed to lose," said David Buckel of Lambda Legal, which led the court fights in New York, New Jersey and Washington. "But you have to expect it in a civil rights movement because what you're doing is creating enormous change and there are enormous forces lined up against us."

Gay marriage opponents said the losses, coming in the states thought to be most open to gay marriage, show how far advocates overreached after the ruling in Massachusetts. Gay activists point to gains, such as court-ordered civil unions in New Jersey, and say they are prepared for a long fight. Two gay marriage cases

are pending before high courts in Connecticut and California.

One reason for the court struggle could be that an anti-gay marriage decision in a liberal state such as New York creates cover for other high courts who face the issue, said Yale law professor William Eskridge, a constitutional scholar who supports gay rights. For example, the Maryland court cited the New York decision.

"There's a lemming effect," Eskridge said. "The fact that all the other lemmings are doing it makes the other lemmings feel not so bad about it."

Marriages in Massachusetts began six months after the state's Supreme Judicial Court ruled in November 2003 that gays had a constitutional right to marry.

Gay marriage proponents carefully selected where to advance litigation next, weighing factors such as whether the state had anti-discrimination laws protecting gay residents, the strength of the gay community and a state's legislative composition, Buckel said.

At the same time, opponents across the country immediately began to work to put marriage out of judicial reach by passing state constitutional amendments

defining the union as between only a man and a woman. Twenty-seven states now have the amendments, including 14 that approved amendments in 2004.

Even in the legal venues deemed gay-friendly, that swift public backlash against the Massachusetts decision had an impact.

"I think that frankly has scared judges in state courts a bit, even in states where they've tended to be quite liberal," said Dale Carpenter, a University of Minnesota law professor.

First came the loss in New York in July 2006, followed by the decisions in Washington state, New Jersey and Maryland. Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, which opposes gay marriage, said the rulings were about more than political expediency — they're also legally correct.

"There actually are some good judges that do what they're supposed to do," he said.

Gay marriage advocates made a strategic blunder by becoming unwilling to accept modest steps toward marriage, such as same-sex partner registries, said Lynn Wardle, a Brigham Young University law professor and gay mar-

riage opponent. A less provocative approach might have been the difference in the one-vote losses in high courts in Washington and Maryland, Wardle said.

Buckel said gay advocates would continue to bring court cases where appropriate. The process of going before the judiciary helps gay advocates reach lawmakers and the public, and that can clear the path for expanded rights, even if there's a court loss, he said.

High court losses don't mask huge gains for gays in the last decade, Eskridge said. Nine states have approved spousal rights in some form for same-sex couples — Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Maine, California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii.

Every state will eventually have to create some kind of legal structure to deal with the financial and social realities of same-sex relationships, Eskridge said. It may not be gay marriage everywhere, but it will be some form of expanded rights, he said.

"It took generations to make any progress on race," Eskridge said. "This stuff doesn't come overnight."

## Some Companies with a PERFECT CEI Score\*

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\* These companies offer LGBT rights, benefits and protections! To see the accompanying article please read page 23.

## Chaka from Page 20

Q. How are gay fans different than straight fans?

A. I find that my gay fans can be a little more enthusiastic.

Q. Who's the most important gay person in your life—do you have gay people in your inner circle?

A. Actually, I loved Sylvester...I used to listen to him and go see him a lot. I can't think of anyone current...sometimes I'm not sure! [Laughs]

Q. You have such a huge catalogue is there a song that you wish you never had to sing again?

A. [Laughs] I can tell you off the record! People might get a little attitude...I'll probably be singing "Feel For You" for the rest of my life and "Ain't Nobody". It's a little challenging sometimes, but, you know, it depends on how I feel that day.

Q. What would people be shocked to find out about Chaka Khan?

A. That I'm an artist, I paint. I like to design clothes...that's all I could really think of that I would be willing to divulge. You know what I'm saying? [Laughs]

Q. What's been the greatest moment in your career?

A. It was working with Miles Davis. Miles Davis played on my C.K. album in the '80's. Also, this CD, working with Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, really a high point for me.

Q. What's been a more challenging moment in your career?

A. I guess staying sober, but it's working

really well.

Q. I have a vocal question—is it true that you never use your falsetto and your high notes are all in your regular voice?

A. Yeah, I don't have any falsetto. No falsetto—all true, it's pretty weird.

Q. Do you think you would ever record a blues or gospel album?

A. Gospel—definitely. That's in the works.

Q. Will there ever be a Rufus reunion album?

A. Probably not—no, I really don't think so. I've tried to pull all the guys together. About two or three years ago we did a tour that was pretty much it. Everybody's doing their own thing!

Q. Out of all the divas out there, outside of yourself, which one is your favorite?

A. Aretha.

Q. If a Patti LaBelle drag queen had to battle a Chaka Khan drag queen what pointers would you give the Chaka drag queen?

A. Hold back and wait for the opportune moment to do your thing—to practice some restraint! [Laughs]

Q. Well, thank you so much Miss Chaka. I love the album.

A. Thank you! I worked hard and I really wanted everyone to love this album so I thank you for that. I want to thank all my gay following, all my people; for staying with me and supporting me all these years. You all have been my most solid fan base and that's the truth.

Chaka Khan "Funk This" Sony BMG/Burgundy Records—in stores September 25th, [www.chakakhan.com](http://www.chakakhan.com)



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TRT

# Best and worst rated: Are you paying attention?

By: Grisel M. Ocasio\*  
TRT Publisher

Earlier this month, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation released its Corporate Equality Index 2008 (CEI) report. As it happened last year, more companies scored a perfect 100, compared to previous year's reports. It seems that some companies in Corporate America, challenged by and interested in the LGBT community, are now adopting and promoting LGBT-positive policies and practices because it is good for business to attract and retain top talent, regardless of orientation or gender identity.

The CEI, according to a letter found in the report for HRC President Joe Solmonese, was devised with corporate diversity leaders, GLBT workplace advocates and employees to provide employers with a roadmap to creating fair workplace. In 2006, the CEI was implemented to include not only full domestic partner benefits programs, but also transgender inclusion and insurance coverage.

Although the majority of companies in America still do not have a perfect score, the numbers shown by this report depict a pattern of historical precedent. When CEI was first released in 2002 only 13 companies scored 100. More employers than ever before participated in the CEI survey and a total of 195 received perfect ratings—a 41 percent increase from the previous year's report, the letter states.

It is interesting that United Parcel Service (UPS) scored 100, while its main competition, FedEx, only managed a measly 55 and does not provide benefits for domestic partners firm-wide—even to married same-sex couples here in Massachusetts.

The 2008 index surveyed 519 companies. To be rated in the CEI, companies must be either a Fortune 500 company,

one of the largest 200 privately held companies on the Forbes Private 500 list, or a company with at least 500 employees.

Fifty-eight percent of CEI-rated employers provide employment protections on the basis of gender identity, compared to just 29 percent in 2005 and 46 percent in 2006. This year marks the first time that more than half of all rated employers included such protections. Sixty-eight percent of this year's rated businesses have added gender transition guidelines or cover "gender identity" as a topic of diversity training. A total of 90 employers have transition guidelines, up from 65 last year.

To participate in the CEI, companies must receive an invitation from the Human Rights Campaign. The organization invites the largest and most successful U.S. employers found on various lists, such as the Fortune 1000 and AmLaw's top 200 revenue grossing law firms. Any private-sector, for-profit employer with 500 or more full-time employees can request to participate. This year, a total of 1,806 businesses received invitations to take part in the survey. Of that number, 416 submitted surveys and 519 were ultimately rated.

Even when merits go to the companies that scored 100 or a little bit less, there are still plenty of companies that do not support rights, offer benefits, or totally refuse to join in the cause for civil rights for the LGBT community. For a list of some of the companies that scored 100 on the CEI, please turn to page 22. A partial list of the worst company scores is depicted in this article. These companies scored 60 or less, and the benefits, protections and rights that they offer to the LGBT community are limited, or in some cases amount to nothing at all.

To read or download the CEI report online, please go to: [www.hrc.org/documents/HRC\\_Corporate\\_Equality\\_Index\\_2008.pdf](http://www.hrc.org/documents/HRC_Corporate_Equality_Index_2008.pdf)

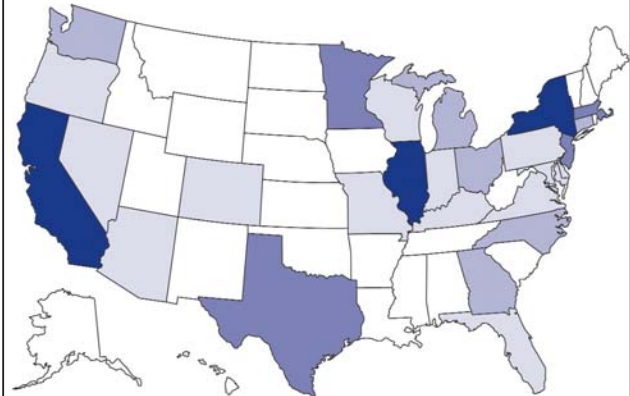
## Companies offering limited rights/benefits or no benefits\*

**Domino's Pizza Inc., 60**  
**Office Depot Inc., 60**  
Colgate-Palmolive Co., 58  
**Sirius Satellite Radio Inc., 58**  
**Circuit City Stores Inc., 55**  
**FedEx Corp., 55**  
**McAfee Inc., 53**  
Nokia, 50  
**Nissan North America Inc., 50**  
**T-Mobile USA Inc., 50**  
H.J. Heinz Co., 48  
Dole Food Co. Inc., 45  
**Toys 'R' Us Inc., 45**  
**Polaroid Corp., 40**  
**Waltham, MA**  
**C&S Wholesale Grocers Inc., 40**  
AEGON Insurance Group, 40  
**United Technologies Corp., 40**  
**Hartford, CT**  
RadioShack Corp., 40  
**Wal-Mart Stores Inc., 40** (down from last year)

**Kellogg Co., 35** (down from last year)  
Vivendi, 35  
Deere & Co., 33  
Dow Jones & Co. Inc., 30  
Ryland Group, 30  
**AutoZone Inc., 25**  
**Praxair Inc., 25**  
**Danbury, CT**  
**Nestle Purina PetCare Co., 15**  
**Bayer Corp., 15**  
Laclede Group Inc., 5  
Meijer, 0  
Perot Systems Corp., 0  
**Exxon Mobil Corp., 0**

\* According to the CEI Report of the Human Rights Campaign these companies offer limited benefits, protections and rights to members of the LGBT community.

Number of Businesses in Each State with CEI Ratings of 100 Percent



1-3 businesses  
4-8 businesses  
9-12 businesses  
13 or more businesses

[www.hrc.org/workplace](http://www.hrc.org/workplace)

CORPORATE EQUALITY INDEX 2008

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